

**OPINION 8**  
THE AFGHAN  
IMBROGLIO

**WORLD 12**  
HOUSE PANEL APPROVES  
TRUMP CHARGES

**SPORT 15**  
UTD YOUTH SHINES  
IN EUROPA LEAGUE

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

\*Late City Vol. 12 Issue 335  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RANCHI, SATURDAY DECEMBER 14, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

EYE-OPENING  
YEAR FOR  
AYUSHMANN  
13 VIVACITY



# Citizenship protests defer Shah's N-E visit

MHA Parl panel Assam tour also put off; anger spreads to Delhi, Bengal

PNS ■ GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has cancelled his scheduled two-day visit to Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh in view of raging protests across the North-East against the Citizenship Amendment Act. Home Ministry's Parliamentary Committee's scheduled visit on December 18-20 to Assam was also cancelled in view of the ongoing unrest in the area.

The protest has now spread from North-East to Delhi and West Bengal where agitators set afire a railway station, RPF kiosks and tracks. Lashing out at the BJP-led Central Government over the amended Citizenship Act, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she would not allow its implementation in the State "under any circumstances". Addressing a Press meet here, Mamata said the saffron party can't bulldoze the States to implement the law.

The indefinite curfew which was in force in Assam's Dibrugarh municipal area in view of the violent protests was relaxed for five hours on Friday even as a large number of protesters joined AASU's call for a 10-hour hunger strike in Chandmari area of Guwahati. AASU chief adviser Samujjal Bhattacharya said that the protests will continue.

Shah was scheduled to attend a passing-out parade in Shillong on Saturday and visit Arunachal Pradesh later to attend cultural functions.

As the situation remains explosive in the region, the Centre has kept on standby around 20 companies of the



A demonstrator burns tyres on NH-17 during a protest rally against Citizenship Act in Kamrup district of Assam on Friday PTI

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) to move into Assam. Shah was supposed to take part in the passing-out parade at the North Eastern Police Academy near Shillong on Sunday and a festival in Tawang the next day.

At least two persons were killed in police firing in Assam following widespread protests against the contentious Act which was passed by Parliament on Wednesday and given the Presidential assent on Thursday night.

Amid the continuing

unrest, curfew has been imposed at several places in Assam, while Army carried out flag marches in many districts to control the situation.

Protesters torched several vehicles and shops in Shillong in the last two days.

According to the amended Citizenship Act, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 due to religious persecution there will not be treated as

illegal immigrants and given Indian citizenship.

While the intensity of the protest in the North-East against the new citizenship law showed marginal signs of abating with relaxation in certain parts for limited hours, areas in neighbouring West Bengal were also engulfed in sporadic violence leading to vandalisation of public property and clashes with the police by the protesters.

On Thursday, no violent incidents were reported from Guwahati, the centre of violent

protests, but peaceful protests were held by AASU and some other outfits.

There were reports of police firing in air to disperse protesters in some places in Assam.

While normal life appeared getting back on track in the North-East, West Bengal singed with protests in Muslim-dominated areas of rural Howrah, Murshidabad, Birbhum, parts of Burdwan and North Bengal.

"Several parts of the station, kiosks of RPF and tracks were set on fire. Train services have

come to a halt here," a senior RPF official said after arson at Beldanga railway station.

Reports suggested protesters ransacked Beldanga police station and set vehicles ablaze in Raghunathgaj police station area of Murshidabad district.

Police contingents were rushed to the affected places and Mamata appealed for calm.

Rail and road traffic was disrupted in several parts of West Bengal due to the protests.

Despite easing of the violent protests in Assam, both pro and anti-talk factions of the once dreaded militant outfit ULFA also opposed the law.

"Students, KMSS and all sections of the society have come out in large numbers to protest peacefully but force was used by the authorities in an attempt to repress them. If this continues, we will not tolerate it and give a befitting reply," Paresw Baruah, the leader of the faction opposed to talks with the Government told some TV channels from a safe haven in Myanmar.

Earlier in the day, pro-talk faction leader Arabinda Rajkhowa had asserted that the law will "destroy Assam and we will not allow it to be implemented at any cost".

In Digha (200 km away from Kolkata) Mamata said, "We will never allow the NRC and the Citizenship Act in Bengal. We will not implement the amended Act, even though it has been passed in Parliament. The BJP can't just bulldoze the States to implement it."

"The Citizenship Act will divide India. As long as we are in power, not a single person in the State will have to leave the country," she added.

## Will not implement Act, vow Opp CMs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Half a dozen Opposition-led States have refused to implement the amended Citizenship Act, setting the stage for an unprecedented Constitutional crisis.

After West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala Chief Ministers refused to implement the law in their respective States, CMs of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh too said that their Governments will toe the line taken by his party's Central leadership on the issue.

While Maharashtra State Minister Nitin Raut asserted that the State Government will not allow implementation of the law, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has also slammed the Act.

At the same time, addressing a protest rally organised by All Assam Students' Union (AASU), Arabinda Rajkhowa, the ULFA pro-talk faction chairman, claimed that under no circumstances they would allow the implementation of the law. The pro-talk faction of the ULFA asserted that the amended Citizenship Act, if implemented, would threaten the identity and existence of the people of Assam.

After the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act (MVA), this is the second decision made during the Modi Government in recent times that has been rejected by State Governments.

The Home Ministry officials said the States can't refuse



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath during an interaction with the media in New Delhi on Friday PTI

to implement the Act. A top Home Ministry official said State Governments have no powers to reject the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 as the legislation was enacted under the Union List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution.

"If the State Government refuse to provide police protection to the settlers, it would be impossible to implement the law," said a political expert.

"The States have no powers to deny implementation of a Central law which is in the Union List," the top official from the Home Ministry said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "In your (BJP) manifesto, instead of development issues, you have put in promise to divide the country. Why will citizenship be on the basis of religion? I will not accept this. We dare you..." Mamata said who has also opposed the implementation of 'National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the State.



The Chief Minister during a road show ahead of fourth phase of State Assembly polls at Nirsra of Dhanbad district on Friday Pioneer photo

## Yogi terms JMM-Cong-RJD as anti-welfare alliance



Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Senior BJP leader Yogi Adityanath campaigns in favour of BJP candidate from Gandeyin Assembly constituency Jai Prakash Verma during an election campaign rally ahead of 4th phase Assembly Election in Giridih on Friday Pioneer photo

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and firebrand BJP leader Yogi Adityanath on Friday slammed Grand Alliance parties (JMM, Congress and RJD) for not initiating schemes meant for welfare of people. Yogi addressing a rally in support of BJP candidate Nagendra Mahto in Left Wing Extremist (LWE) hit area Bagodar of Giridih district said, "The JMM, Congress, RJD and CPI (ML) politics revolves around a particular dynasty. These parties have never initiated any schemes or policies meant for welfare of people when they were in power. Rather these parties have used power to mint money for their family and safeguarding the interest of LWE members."

Yogi claimed that due to faulty policies of these parties (JMM, Congress, RJD and Left) when they were in power, Naxalism was spreading its tentacles in Jharkhand. Sources said that Yogi making a direct attack on Grand Alliance parties and Left parties for safeguarding the interest of Naxalism assume importance as Bagodar is considered as LWE affected area.

Bagodar Assembly seat considered as Left bastion has been represented by CPI (ML) for past two decades. The Assembly segment was



Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath addresses a gathering during an election campaign rally in favour of BJP candidate from Gandey Jai Prakash Verma ahead of 4th phase Assembly Elections in Giridih on Friday Sanjib Kumar Dutta | Pioneer

synonymous with former CPI-ML legislator Mahendra Prasad Singh who had won from the seat thrice—in 1990, 1995 and 2000. Months before 2005 Assembly election he was gunned down by LWE members in 2005.

After his untimely death in 2005, his son Vinod Singh represented the seat twice in 2005 and 2009. In 2014 he lost the seat to BJP MLA Nagendra Mahto.

The firebrand leader and Saffron party's Hindutva face, Yogi Adityanath also talked about the various welfare schemes initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi such as Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Yojana, Housing and toilets for poor among others.

Continued on Page 4

## People seek Hyderabad like 'justice' in Piparwar



Local residents protest over rape and murder of two minor girls at Piparwar in Chatra district of Jharkhand on Friday Pioneer photo

Irate mob ransack police property, gherao Police Station after killing two minor girls

MRITUANJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI

Demanding Hyderabad like 'justice' in Piparwar area of Chatra district on Friday people ransacked police vehicles and gheraoed police station after the arrest of an alleged rapist and killer of two minor girls. Tension prevailed in the area as markets were shut and police had to protect the accused from the masses.

According to locals a large numbers of people including women gathered since morning at Piparwar Police Station and started agitation there after the news spread. People started gathering since early in the morning at Gurudwara Chowk, Dakra on Friday to protest against the rape and murder of two innocent girls. They held a protest march after that they gathered at the spot and sought slogan against the Police.

Two girls, one 10-year-old and another 12-year-old were found murdered after being raped in the area on Thursday. At the same time, the accused had allegedly seriously injured an eight-year-old male child, who was along with the girls.

The child is admitted to Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) in Ranchi. Police have arrested the accused Sonu Ram after the incident was reported. A case of murder and rape has been registered against him. On Thursday, the villagers had gheraoed the Piparwar Police Station and demanded to arrest the accused.

People from all over the adjoining areas reached Piparwar and were demanding that the culprit be handed over to the public. As a precaution, the police are taking the arrested accused out of Piparwar and are interrogating them. People have surrounded the police station. A contingent of paramilitary force has been deployed outside the Police Station.

On the other hand, a crowd gathered at Bachra Sports Ground is demanding the execution of the convict. It was demanding that it be handed over to the public. People are saying that they will punish those who killed girls. The atmosphere is tense. However, the police said that the situation is under control.

Piparwar Police Station Incharge, Sanjay Singh, informed that the accused Ram took all three to the forest on pretext that he will give fruits to the girls. "The three children



A bus set on fire by protesters at Dakra near Piparwar in Chatra of Jharkhand on Friday Pioneer photo

were missing including two girls and one boy, who is eight-year old from Wednesday noon and when they did not return till evening then their family members started searching for them. The police also searched overnight. Hearing the child's voice at four o'clock in the morning, the mother and other people reached there. The child was soaked in blood. The family admitted him to RIMS. Nearly 11 hours later, at three o'clock, the girls were also recovered by the villagers in a critical condition from the forest. They admitted the girls to the hospital. The Doctors after preliminary check up confirmed that one girl was dead and the second girl referred to RIMS, who died on the way," he added.

Continued on page 4

## BJP berates Rahul for 'rape in India' barb, seeks apology

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Led by its vocal women MPs in the Lok Sabha, the BJP on Friday launched a high-decibel attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his "rape in India" remark at an election rally in Jharkhand. The BJP sought Rahul's apology for the remark, but he refused to oblige them and instead sought an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

From the word go, the Treasury Benches erupted and took positions against the former Congress president, condemning Rahul for his alleged anti-women comments.

Outside the House, Rahul described the BJP stance as diversionary tactics of the ruling party wanting to divert attention from the controversial Citizens Amendment Bill (CAB), 2019, that has led to violent protests in the North-East.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses the media at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday PTI

Rahul also clarified his rape statement that triggered protests by the BJP in both Houses of Parliament, saying he has simply made a point that Modi has been talking about "Made in India" but it has now become "rape in India" as incidents of rapes are being reported in newspapers across the country.

"There is no BJP-ruled State where rape incidents are not reported regularly. In Unnao, a BJP MLA committed rape, but Modi did not utter a single word," the Congress leader alleged.

"What has happened is that Narendra Modi makes use of violence and spreads it and today there is violence in the entire country. There is violence against women, there is violence in the North-East and in Kashmir, and there is violence in the entire country," he alleged.

# Party workers camp near strong room post polling



## Members make it a hub of guesswork

**PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR**

With D-Day of Assembly polls approaching, the excitement near strong room at Jamshedpur Co-operative College (JCC) is increasing manifolds. If the camps near strong room are an indication, the focus has zeroed in on Jamshedpur East and West seats. BJP, Congress and rebel leader Saryu Roy and the talks related to all the calculations doing the rounds have centred near the strong room. As of now, several parties have set up camps at the Jamshedpur Co-operative College to keep a vigil on the EVMs at the strong room. All talks are related to fight between CM Raghubar Das and independent leader Saryu Roy from Jamshedpur East. Party workers are talking about the trends in different

areas. Even the fight from Jamshedpur West seat is equally interesting," said a party worker. While the Deputy Commissioner-cum-district returning officer Ravi Shanker Shukla has ensured smooth conduct of the counting exercise, the political parties are all set to hold a 'show of strength' near the strong room on the day of counting on December 23. The counting for six constituencies in the district, Bahragora, Ghatshila, Potka, Jamshedpur East, Jamshedpur West and Jugsalai would take place at Jamshedpur Co-operative College. Separate counting tables would be arranged for each Assembly area. The BJP camp located 100 meters away from the Congress camp near the Jamshedpur Co-operative College has arrangements for indoor games like carrom and ludo. "Yes our camp has now become hub of activities these days even senior leaders love to spend time here meeting with the workers and participating in election talks. We are assured of winning back the seat. In fact we have begun

planning for celebrations after announcement of the result," said Rajesh Pathak, a party worker. The camp also has provision for snacks and water. AJSU camp has made arrangements for drinking water and also cots for supporters to take rest. Party workers are also fully engrossed in the guesswork as to their political fortunes which remain sealed in the EVMs inside strong rooms of Jamshedpur Co-operative College. "On the basis of the reports received so far from the constituency, we are confident that our candidate from Jamshedpur East Abhay will emerge the winner. Almost all the political analysts of the city has expressed confidence over his victory are we all assured," said a JVM functionary. He said that every party worker was involved in the election campaign and worked hard to mobilise the voters. Meanwhile, in every nook and corner of the city the discussions are on full swing over the fate of contestants in fray for Assembly.

# Additional forces to help on counting day, says Meena

**PNS ■ DALTONGANJ**

Additional forces will be sent to districts to assist local police there for the maintenance of law and order on the day of counting and for a few post counting days as well. State nodal police officer for Assembly Elections-cum-ADG (Operations) Murari Lal Meena said, "After polling ends, we will apply our minds for counting. We are clear to send additional forces to districts to assist police therein ensuring effective law and order there." Asked if any SP has asked for additional forces to be sent to their respective districts Meena said "Till date I think I have not seen any such requisition from SPs for additional forces but the State police headquarters are determined to have a peaceful counting too and our SPs out in the district will find more hands armed to the teeth then." Meena said, "Victors have a right to celebrate. They are legitimate to hold celebration rally but at the same time victors are also expected to ensure that the vanquished are not jeered or made to feel too bad." "The winners must respect people's mandate. Votes are respected. Its alternative is no 'cho' (hurting). There is no room for hurting the sentiments of any sector community or group of people," added Meena. He said SPs must keep identified areas, where celebrations after counting have produced convulsions and jerks and such places will be under strict police surveillance. Sources said the Daltonganj Assembly constituency is most ripe here after the first phase of voting on November 30 which now sees



**The winners must respect people's mandate. Votes are respected. Its alternative is no 'cho' (hurting). There is no room for hurting the sentiments of any sector community or group of people**

4 FIRs like 2 FIRs against Congress candidate, 1 FIR against OBC people and 1 FIR against four journalists and this FIR against journalist has been filed by a senior fellow of this fraternity. Sources said apart from the FIRs, the incident of Kusiya booth there still prevails enormous discontent dissension between the upper castes and the OBCs here. Sources said police took more time than needed in such a situation to restore normalcy as voting at this booth remained undisturbed and concluded as per its schedule at 3:00 pm here. The popular perception with the police head quarters Ranchi on Nov 30 was that Palamu police squandered precious time which could have been put to use for a fast enforcement of law and order.

# FIR against Cong candidate for violating poll code

**PNS ■ BOKARO**

An FIR has been lodged against Congress candidate (Bokaro Constituency-36) Shweta Singh (daughter-in-law of ex-minister Samresh Singh) for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The MCMC committee has found her guilty for putting her publicity banner on government property without permission or information. Therefore FIR has been filed

against her, informed Mukesh Kumar District Electoral Office cum Deputy Commissioner Bokaro. Any candidate has to get his promotional material like banner, poster, video, audio, handbills including others approved from MCMC either at district or State level, he said. "If approval is received from the state level then written permission has to be obtained from the agency before placing it on the hoard-

ing board at the district level. A copy of the same has to be given to the MCMC at the district level as well," added the DC. Similarly, before publicising any promotional material, information also has to be given to MCMC at the district level. "The district administration is alert on the model code of conduct violation; earlier all political parties and candidates have also been informed in this regard," added Kumar.

# DPS, Bokaro bags award for Green Earth initiatives

**PNS ■ BOKARO**

DPS Bokaro has bagged the Futuristic School Award in the category of Environ Engage Award by Re-Think India, New Delhi. The award was conferred to the school for showing its social concern towards the degrading environment. The criteria for the award were based on contemporary topics championed by the United National Environment Programmes. The in-depth analysis across 20 parameters included air, bio-safety, chemical and waste, disasters and conflicts, eco-systems, education and environment, energy, environment under review, environmental rights and governance, extractives, forest, gender, green economy, water and more. Two more schools, Tagore International School, New Delhi and Seth M. R. Jaipuria School, UP besides DPS Bokaro received this award for its Green Earth initiatives. Elated AS Gangwar,



Principal of DPS Bokaro said, "Education is about the holistic development of a child which is incomplete without the social commitments. "Understanding the ailing conditions of the earth, to meet the needs of the current generation

without exploiting the resources and to sensitize the young minds towards sustainable development the school undertakes initiatives to instill a sense of belongingness to protect the environment," he added.

# NML promotes scientific temper among students

## Team from JH Tarapore School gets exposures of R&D activities

**PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR**

A group of 49 students from JH Tarapore School, Datkidih accompanied by two teachers, Nimisha Kaushik and Mohua Ghosh visited CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur and interacted with scientists and research scholars this morning under the aegis of Jigyasa-NML School Interactive programme. The students were thrilled to

visit the laboratory and interact with working group. The programme was schedule for three hours. P.N. Mishra, principal scientist, coordinated & delivered welcome address and briefed about the programme and highlighted the major achievement of CSIR and NML and also discussed about the natural resources like minerals, ores, rocks and how NML is helping to make these materials to be useful for the industry and society by the application of basic research, applied research and industrial research. Dr. S.K. Mandal, Chief Scientist and coordinator of the programme discussed about

fundamental fact of science and its application in regular life. The students expressed their feelings, asked numbers of questions and clarify their doubt. Dr. A.K. Sahu, Senior Technical Officer, CSIR-NML proposed the vote of thanks. Further, Dr. P.N. Mishra and S.N. Hembram, Sr. Technical Officer organized laboratory visits for students and teachers to gain practical exposures through interaction with the present working group and observing various samples. Students further visited at creep testing units of Materials Testing & Evaluation Division, Prabir Kumar Roy, Sr. Technical

Officer explained nicely about the fatigue, creep, fractures prevailing in different types of industrial components like boiler, reformer tubes, pressure vessel etc. Students get exposure of different machine like Servo Hydro Testing Machine, Servo Electrical Machine and furnace. Electronic Waste Unit attracted students and teachers, Dr. Pankaj Choubey, Research Associate explained the methodology and the steps involved in the recycling of various electronic appliance for recovery of valuable metals like gold, copper, lithium, cobalt, nickel etc. Students, at the last phase of

the programme also visited to NML museum and they were surprised to have a glance on the 70 years' history of NML, displayed through wall mounted posters, samples and products at the museum and they asked few questions based on sample and poster pertaining to minerals based product and facilities. During the concluding session, teachers and students requested for their next visit to the laboratory for gain deeper knowledge. Teachers expressed their view and was satisfied to know about the consistent effort and research emphasis given in various sectors for the ultimate development of India. They



also extend thanks to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, to

launch "Gigyasa Programme" tie up with council of Scientific & Industrial Research and they

were extremely delighted to visit the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur.

# HINDU WOMEN RIGHTS IN INDIA

**Central Coalfields Limited**  
"A Miniratna Company"  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**Appointment Notice**

"Jharkhand Central Railway Limited (JCRL) is seeking qualified candidates for the post of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** on deputation basis or on contractual employment basis from Railways or its PSUs, either working in **SAG & above or equivalent** or having retired from **SAG & above or equivalent**. The detailed advertisement can be downloaded from CCL's website [www.centralcoalfields.in/tender/addetails1.php](http://www.centralcoalfields.in/tender/addetails1.php) For any further query please contact on following email id : [jcrlproject@gmail.com](mailto:jcrlproject@gmail.com)".

**RICHA SANCHITA**

(2) Any property to which a female Hindu becomes entitled by virtue of sub-section (1) shall be held by her with the incidents of coparcenary ownership and shall be regarded, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force,

as property capable of being disposed of by her by testamentary disposition. (3) Where a Hindu dies after the commencement of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 (39 of 2005), his interest in the property of a Joint Hindu family governed by the Mitakshara law, shall devolve by testa-

mentary or intestate succession, as the case may be, under this Act and not by survivorship, and the coparcenary property shall be deemed to have been divided as if a partition had taken place and, (a) the daughter is allotted the same share as is allotted to a son; (b) the share of the pre-



deceased son or a pre-deceased daughter, as they would have got had they been alive at the time of partition, shall be allotted to the surviving child of such pre-deceased son or of such pre-deceased daughter; and

(4) After the commencement of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 (39 of 2005), no court shall recognise any right to proceed against a son, grandson or great-grandson for the recovery of any debt due from his father, grandfather or great-grandfather solely on the ground of the pious obligation under the Hindu law, of such son, grandson or great-grandson to discharge any such debt. Provided that in the case of any debt contracted before the commencement of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 (39 of 2005), nothing contained in this sub-section shall affect: (a) the right of any creditor to proceed against the son, grandson or great-grandson, as the case may be; or (b) any alienation made in respect of or in satisfaction of, any such debt, and any such right or alienation shall be enforceable under the rule of pious obligation in the same manner and to the same extent as if it had been enforceable as if the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 (39 of 2005) had not been enacted. Explanation — For the purposes of clause (a), the expression "son", "grandson" or "great-grandson" shall be deemed to refer to the son, grandson or great-grandson, as the case may be, who was born

or adopted prior to the commencement of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 (39 of 2005). (5) Nothing contained in this section shall apply to a partition, which has been effected before the 20th day of December, 2004. Explanation — For the purposes of this section "partition" means any partition made by execution of a deed of partition duly registered under the Registration Act, 1908 (16 of 1908) or partition effected by a decree of a court. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provides equal rights to Indian man and woman in respect of marriage in terms of Section 5 of the Act and divorce in terms of Section 13 of the Act. Even Minimum Wages Act, 1948 does not allow discrimination between male and female workers or different minimum wages for them. Pre-Conception and Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 prohibits sex selection before or after conception and prevents the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination leading to female foeticide. The writer is a senior advocate at Jharkhand High Court and the views expressed are her own.

**जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, धनबाद**  
(जिला निर्वाचन शाखा)  
(Phone No.:-0326-2312412, E-mail: electiondhanbad@gmail.com)

**:-:आदेश:-:**

सो लो प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम-1951 की धारा 160(क) के तहत प्राप्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए मैं, अमित कुमार, भा0प्र0से0, जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी- सह-उपायुक्त, धनबाद विधान सभा चुनाव-2019 के निमित्त मतदान केन्द्रों पर मतदान के लिए जिला के सभी मतदान भवनों को उपस्कर सहित दिनांक 14.12.2019 से दिनांक 16.12.2019 तक अधिगृहित करता हूँ। संबंधित मतदान केन्द्रों के भवन के प्रबंधक भवन के कमरों की चाबी के साथ अपने कर्मों को मतदान केन्द्र पर उपस्थित रखेंगे। संबंधित मतदान केन्द्रों के भवन के प्रबंधक इसका अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

हो/-  
जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, धनबाद।

PR 222690 Dhanbad(19-20)D

**JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LTD (JBVNL)**  
(CIN: U40108JH2013SG001702)  
ELECTRIC SUPPLY AREA, RANCHI  
Rtd. Office : KUSAI COLONY, DORANDA, RANCHI  
Telephone :- 0651-2490550/2490670 & Email : gm\_rncjseb@yahoo.in  
<https://www.jbvnl.co.in>

**2<sup>nd</sup> TIME EXTENSION**

2<sup>nd</sup> Time extension for tender floated vide NIT No. 186 /PR/JBVNL/19-20 and 187/PR/JBVNL/19-20 for repairing of transformer under TRW (O&M) Head.

1. Availability of tender document on website	:- From 31.10.2019 to 23.12.2019 up to 17.00 Hrs
2. Last date and time for submitting e-tender	:- 23.12.2019 upto 17.00 Hrs
3. Last date and time of submission of original DD towards Cost of BOQ etc.	:- 24.12.2019 upto 17:00 Hrs
4. Date and time of opening of tender (Techno-Commercial Cover) i.e Cover-1	:- 26.12.2019 at 3:30 PM.

1. Tender time Extension Notice is also available on our website : [www.jbvnl.in](http://www.jbvnl.in)  
2. Tender available of [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in)  
3. For any clarification please contact : 0651-2490550 / 9431917536/ 9431994177  
Note :- Other terms and conditions will remain the same and duly available website.

PR No.221241 Sd/-  
GM-cum-Chief Engineer  
ESA, Ranchi

PR 222685 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)19-20#D

CONSTITUENCY REPORT

# Century old underground fire still a poll issue in Jharia

## Villagers risk life for livelihood

SAURAV ROY ■ RANCHI

In 2004, nearly 54,000 households settled in the localities affected by underground fire in Jharia were promised rehabilitation. The Government rolled out the Jharia Master Plan and assured that members of the affected families will not have to risk their lives by having to live atop land that was being eaten up from the inside every day and wait for a tragedy to happen. The underground fire and affected families emerged as major election issues in 2005 — a year in



Fire at a coal mine at Ghanudih of Jharia in Dhanbad

File photo

which Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Kunti Devi won the elections in Jharia.

Cut to 2019, the situation has turned bad to worse. The latest survey shows that the

number of affected families has almost doubled and reached a figure of 98,000 — a trend that

has been a cause of worry for the State as well as the Centre. Many of the families that were surveyed in 2004 are still waiting to get rehabilitated. Some of the joint families that have more than eight members have been promised a two bedroom house, which they say, would be too cramped to accommodate all the members.

On August 19, 2017, the earth caved in at Jharia's Mohribandh, hollowed out by the underground fire. An old woman died in the cave-in and two others were injured. Mohan Kumar, a daily wage labourer who lives in the affected area, said that expecting a quick fix to the problems of Jharia residents will be like hoping against hope. "We are living in constant fear. My house has developed visible cracks and it may break any moment. Every night, I fear

that the ground underneath my house may cave-in," he said.

By now, about 5,000 families have been rehabilitated, say locals. But the shadow of death looms large over the remaining families — many of which refuse to leave the underground fire affected areas as coal is the only source of income for them. "They (affected families) are unwilling to relocate as their livelihood depends on the fire affected area," said a Dhanbad Municipal Corporation worker who did not wish to be named.

The underground fire is not the only concern for the residents — mostly slum dwellers — in the affected areas of Jharia. The emission of hazardous gases, from coal that has been burning for more than a century, is equally dangerous and life-threatening, say social activists.

"People develop pulmonary disorders. Serious infections in lungs are extremely common in the slums here," said Dheeraj Kumar, a Right to Food activist.

Politically, Jharia has always been a Rajput vs Rajput contest. Jharia is likely to witness the most interesting, and by far the most dramatic contest between relatives this year. BJP candidate Ragini Singh, wife of ex-MLA Sanjeev Singh, is set to take on Congress candidate Purnima Niraj Singh, widow of Sanjeev's cousin and former Dhanbad Mayor Niraj Singh here. The story behind this political battle can give a run for their money to some of the best Bollywood script writers. Sanjeev is in judicial custody on charges of murdering his cousin Niraj. The latter's body

was riddled with bullets in an infamous incident that drew an uncanny resemblance with scenes from popular Bollywood flick 'Gangs of Wasseypur' — based on real life events in parts of Dhanbad and Jharia.

Besides the underground fire and pollution, cleanliness is also a major issue Jharia residents are faced against. The constituency falls under the Dhanbad Municipal Corporation (DMC), which had to face the humiliation of being responsible for maintaining cleanliness in India's dirtiest city in 2016. "Despite all the efforts put in by the Government and the district administration to maintain cleanliness in the city, Jharia still remains one of the dirtiest constituencies in the coal belt," said Subhash Mishra, a freelance journalist.

# Saryu to campaign for Hemant

## Hands over resignation to Governor

PNS ■ RANCHI

Rebel BJP leader and former Minister in Raghuraj Das Cabinet Saryu Roy on Friday said that BJP will win less than 15 seats in the Assembly election. Roy who personally tendered his resignation from Minister post in Raghuraj Das Cabinet to Governor Droupadi Murmu at Raj Bhavan blasted on BJP and Chief Minister Raghuraj Das. He said that Leader of Opposition Hemant Soren supported him in the election and hence he would go to Santhal Pragana in support of Hemant.

He said, "BJP has set mission 65 plus in Assembly election, but the party will not even win 15 seats in Assembly election." The rebel leader said that in BJP he happens to be a member in national executive and as party's constitution only BJP national president (Amit Shah) is authorized to remove him from his post.

Sources said that State BJP president Laxman Gilua taking



action against Roy has removed him from party for six years on disciplinary ground after he decided to contest election

against Chief Minister Raghuraj Das from Jharkhand. On the issue of a woman making charges

against Roy for grabbing land, Roy said, "If the women's commission issues notice, I will drag the woman commission chairperson to court."

Roy, who is confident of his victory in the Jharkhand East seat, which has become a hot seat for the country in a query that how confident he is of his victory, Roy said that I had already said that the public is contesting there and he is sure of winning the election.

Roy claimed that on November 17 he had sent his resignation to Raj Bhavan through fax which the Raj Bhavan didn't receive. He also said that he had resigned from Cabinet post, but it would have been better if the CM would have removed him from his cabinet.

# Muslims protest against CAB, NRC

## Threaten statewide stir after polls

PNS ■ RANCHI

Members of the Muslim community on Friday staged peaceful protests across the State against the implementation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) — a move that many Muslim religious leaders see as an effort to marginalize their community in India.

Members of the community staged protests outside different Mosques in the State capital and threatened to initiate a statewide stir against the alleged step-brotherly treatment met out to their Muslim brethren. "We will launch a mass movement across the State after the Assembly elections to raise our voice against the unjust changes made to the citizenship laws," said Nawab Siddique, a protester outside Doranda Mazhar in Ranchi. Siddique accused the Government of passing rules on beck and call of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and trying to shake the democratic foundation of



Protesters hold placards during a protest against the passing of Citizenship Amendment Bill, at Albert Ekka Chowk in Ranchi on Friday

Ratan Lal I Pioneer

the country.

Maulana Qutubuddin Rizvi, a religious leader from Ranchi, said that the amendments are in contradiction with article 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution of India. "We have handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding withdrawal of CAB and the decision to implement NRC across the country," he said.

Passed by Lok Sabha on December 9 and Rajya Sabha on December 11, CAB debar Muslims refugees from three Islamic countries — Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan — from attaining Indian citizenship. NRC, on the other

hand, is a process that will help the Government identify the citizens of the country and filter out illegal settlers.

In Jharkhand, protests were also staged in Lohardaga, Ramgarh, Chaibasa and parts of other districts neighbouring Ranchi on Friday against the Government's move. Politically, the Congress party, Communist Party of India (CPI) and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) have openly criticized CAB and NRC. However, opposition parties in Jharkhand are yet to issue official statements reacting to the NDA-led Centre's move.

"The Constitution of India gives equal rights to all citizens

irrespective of his caste, creed and religious background. By introducing this rule, the Government is going against the Babasaheb Ambedkar and other likeminded freedom fighters who have fought for the country," said Rizvi, adding that the decision of only debarring Muslims from taking refuge in India shows the dogmatic views of the Government and the efforts to target one particular community.

Assembly elections are underway in Jharkhand from November 30. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has been enforced across the State till December 23 — the day of final counting of votes.

# JMM betraying Cong: Pratul

PNS ■ RANCHI

State BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo on Friday said that now it has become clear that the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has betrayed Congress by breaking the alliance. Pratul said that today it become clear from the statement of former Minister Saryu Roy that the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha has



supported Roy and not the Congress candidate from

Jamshedpur East. Pratul said that the reality of the grand alliance is in front of the public. All its constituents are engaged in scrambling each other. "It is clear from today's developments that all the constituents are cheating their allies according to their own benefits. The public never accepts such a betrayal alliance," added Shahdeo.

# Opp corners Govt over Piparwar case



JMM General Secretary, Supriyo Bhattacharya addresses a press conference at party office in Ranchi on Friday

Ratan Lal I Pioneer

PNS ■ RANCHI

Opposition parties including Indian National Congress (INC) and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Friday strongly condemned the recent incident of rape and murder took place at Piparwar of Chatra District in the State and said that law and order situation is very poor so that such kinds of incident are taking place regularly.

JMM General Secretary and Spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya expressed serious concern over the incident and said that it is heinous crime and against the humanity it should be completely condemnable. "The law and order situation is completely failed in the State so that crimes like rape are taking place one after another in the State. The party condemns it and it demands that a judicial system should be formed to penalise the accused within 90 days of the incident. For such kinds of crime hanging the convict till death is less, he should be punished harsher than this," he added.

The party General Secretary also said that the State Government has completely

failed to prevent such kinds of crime and just some days earlier a similar incident took place with student of prestigious law university of the State Capital but the State Government did not take any step.

Similar sentiment echoed by the Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC). Spokespersons, Kishorenath Shahdeo and Alok Kumar Dubey by issuing a press release said that the party completely condemns the case and criticizes the State Government for its failure to protect people of the State. "Such kinds of incident are displaying the actual law and order situation of the State and the Government has completely failed to prevent such kinds of incident. At every six hour one girl is becoming victim of rape. On the other hand Prime Minister, Home Minister and other Ministers of Central Government are talking different tunes during their election campaign," they said.

Both the Spokespersons demanded that the accused should be punished harshly so that victim of the case should get justice.

# Modi Govt responds to every suggestion: Poddar

## RS MP gets replies on every suggestion he gave to PM Modi

PNS ■ RANCHI

Rajya Sabha MP Mahesh Poddar has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi respects the suggestions of people and the government led by him listens to everyone. Citing his experience Poddar said that after swearing in of Modi as Prime Minister for the second time he had sent some suggestions along with good wishes to the PM. On the directions of the PM Niti Ayog vice chairman Dr Rajeev Kumar has informed Poddar



Rajya Sabha MP Mahesh Poddar

that his suggestions has been raised with the concerned ministries and departments and the information sought has been shared with the MP.

Poddar has been informed that the Ministry of Agriculture is making every effort to bring

all eligible farmers of the country under the ambit of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi at the earliest. However, the transfer of benefits of the scheme depends entirely on the data being uploaded by the governments of the States / UTs. As on September 06, 2019, as many as 8,51,68,984 farmer families have been identified under Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Similarly, States and UTs have been advised to abolish the requirement of registration renewal under the Shop and Establishment Act (Shop and Establishment Act). Under the proposed National Trade Facilitation Policy, all ministries have been advised to identify the license / registra-

tions granted to businesses by themselves and eliminate the need for its renewal.

Poddar had suggested the implementation of an alternative cooking system through renewable energy on a large scale with the help of the State government. In response, he was told that recently, two solar photovoltaic based cooking stoves projects has been started in one village each in Madhya Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar. Depending on the execution of these projects, this can be expanded.

Poddar had requested to instruct the banks to provide loans easily under the Mudra scheme. He has been told that for effective implementation of

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, simplification of application form, facility of online application for Mudra loan at www.udaymimitraportal.com, providing Mudra loan for agriculture related works, loan guarantee coverage for loans etc steps have been taken. To be consumer focused, the Reserve Bank of India and the Government have issued regular instructions to redress consumer grievances including non-lending cases among others.

Poddar had requested to give priority in free Wi-Fi facility to railway stations in rural areas. He has been told that as on September 09, 2019, Wi-Fi facility has been provided at 4962 railway stations, mostly in

rural areas.

On the suggestion of Poddar to ensure the availability of electric vehicles (cars and bikes) at competitive prices, it has been said that to encourage the manufacture of electric vehicles in the country, the government has proposed registration exemption for battery operated / electric vehicles.

Poddar urged the implementation of drinking water supply scheme by refining the accumulated water in open cast mines in Dhanbad. He was told that the State government has the responsibility to decide on such suggestions and if the State government executes such a scheme, then the Government of India has no objection to it.

# From ₹1,500 a month to ₹1.8 crore annually

## Ranchi man scripts rags to riches story

PNS ■ RANCHI

From earning a meager ₹1,500 per month to generating a revenue of ₹1.8 crore in the last fiscal — this Ranchi man has scripted a unique story of rags to riches that sounds too good to be true. Meet 32-year-old Sumit Sinha, a resident of Bariatu Housing Colony, who is nothing less than an inspiration for the thousands of Jharkhandi youths aspiring to become entrepreneurs.

His journey, however, was riddle with challenges, and some of them even broke him emotionally. But he refused to give up. Sinha lost his father when he was 12-year-old. Since then, he took care of his fam-



Popular Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut gives an award to wedding planner Sumit Sinha at a grand event in Thailand

ily and eventually moved to New Delhi in search of a job at the age of 18 years. He started

working at a garment store in the national capital for a salary of ₹1,500 per month. In 2010,



Wedding planner Sumit Sinha

Pioneer photo

he started his own Information Technology (IT) company in New Delhi to meet his ends, but he had to return to Ranchi in 2014 to address family responsibilities. "I realised that there was no scope for IT companies in Ranchi. Since I lived in Delhi for 15 years, I knew a lot about wedding planning. The idea of wedding planners was still alien to Ranchi back then. So, I thought



of giving it a try," Sinha said.

Cut to 2019, Sinha's company, Purple Unicorn, generated revenue worth ₹1.8 crore in the financial year 2018-2019. Not only this, Sinha also went on to win the award for best wedding planner in Ranchi in 2018 and 2019. In 2018, Bollywood actor Soha Ali Khan handed over the award to him at a show in Bangalore. And in 2019, popular Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut conferred the award to Sinha at a grand event in Thailand. "Hard work and perseverance always pays. You have to begin somewhere in

order to reach the place you want to be in," Sinha said.

Sinha had the experience of working in New Delhi-based companies that managed weddings. He incorporated those ideas and improvised with them to deliver the best he could to his clients in Jharkhand and his work soon became popular among the elites in the tribal State. "I was born and brought up in Hazaribag. My family moved to Ranchi after my father's demise. Right now, I plan weddings across the State," said Sinha.

He has added his own Midas touch to the weddings that he organised by performing on the stage during the ceremonies. The specialty of his wedding arrangement is usually his own dance performance, which requires weeks of rehearsal and hard work. "I thought of including my own dance performance in all the weddings that I arrange to provide a sense of uniqueness," Sinha signed off.

# Seminar on Human Rights at NUSRL

**PNS ■ RANCHI**  
On the occasion of International Human Rights Day a National Seminar titled, 'Mob Lynching and Vigilantism: A Human Rights Perspective' was organised by the Centre for Human Rights and Subaltern Studies of National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi on December 10. The event was graced with the presence of ADG, Raj Kumar Mallick, Advocate Lal Arvind Kumar Sahdev and Raswet Shrinkhal, Assistant Professor Central University of Jharkhand as the panelists and was also chaired

by the Vice Chancellor of NUSRL, Ranchi Dr. Kesava Rao Vurrakulla and Dr. Subir Kumar, the Faculty Convenor of the Canter.  
The event began with the inaugural address of the Vice Chancellor and release of the book containing the seminar proceedings edited by Dr. Gunjan and Dr. Subir Kumar. Further the experts began with their expositions and threw light upon the various dimensions of Mob Lynching and Vigilantism prevalent in different parts of the country and expressed their dissatisfaction and concern over the people who are taking law and the judi-

cial system in their own hands and are acting in total abeyance to the rule of law and the provisions inscribed in the Constitution of India.  
RK Mallick though highlighted this fact that there is a want of a legislation specifically dealing in this context and also stated about the difficulties faced by the investigating agencies in getting reliable witnesses in order to get hold of the culprits but still he insisted the people to have faith upon the Police and the justice system.  
Advocate Lal Arvind Kumar Sahdeo acquainted the gathering with his personal experiences of dealing with the

cases of Mob Lynching and even dealt with various provisions of law involved in the adjudication of such crimes. The last panelist Professor Shrinkhal continued the discussion by dealing with the origin of the concept of Mob Lynching and informed the audiences about the root causes that led to these heinous offences. The event further progressed with the presentation of research papers of students and scholars throughout the country under the evaluation of Dr. Rabindra Kumar Pathak and Dr. Biswanath Gupta, both being the faculty members of NUSRL.  
Another seminar and workshop Titled "Non-Violent



Communication in the Judicial System" started with the address of Dr. Manju Agarwal, who enlightened the students in naturopathy, where she demonstrated various asanas to deal with certain everyday issues. She even dealt with five elements of nature. Dr. Ved Vyas Kundu gave a comprehensive lecture about the application of Gandhian Principles in the field of law. He added that these principles are quite significantly applicable in the emerging field of Alternate Dispute Resolution in law. Then DrVed Vyas Kundu address the students on Gandhian principles and various aspects of it. After sharing his precious knowledge with the students, Dipankar Shri Gyan took the charge and enlightened the students on the same.



BJP Ranchi candidate CP Singh holds discussion with party officials after the completing 3rd phase of State Assembly polls at his residence in Ranchi on Friday  
Ratan Lal I, Pioneer photo

## Yogi terms JMM-Cong...

**From Page 1**  
He said, "These welfare schemes could have been launched by earlier Government too, but the earlier Government never took interest in initiating schemes meant for welfare of poor."

The BJP leader also talked about various important decisions taken by Narendra Modi government in his second tenure such as making the Muslim practice of 'instant divorce' also known as Triple Talaq a criminal offence, abrogation of Article 370 and Supreme Court historic decision on Ayodhya issue paving way for construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya.  
Yogi said, "After the abro-

gation of Article 370 which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir any person may be from Bagodar too can construct house or buy a property in Kashmir." The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister on Ayodhya issue said that after the Apex Court decision a huge Ram temple will be constructed in Ayodhya. He urged the people of Bagodar to contribute Rs 11 and a shila (brick) for construction of grand Ram

temple in Ayodhya.  
Yogi also talked about passing of Citizen Amendment Bill which gave citizenship to illegal immigrants (Hindu, Christian, Sikhs, Buddhist) as citizen of country. Targeting JMM, Congress, RJD and Left parties, Yogi said that these parties have no concern for country security and development. Also, Union Surface Transport minister Nitin Gadkari too addressed rally in Godda in support of BJP candidates. Gadkari appreciated the work carried out by Raghubar Das Government in State.

## People seek Hyderabad like 'justice'...

**From Page 1**  
"The injured child, admitted to RIMS, elaborated the whole incident to the Police. Ram first took his sister and her friend to the forest. After some time he also called the child.

identified one of them as Sonu Ram. Then the police started investigation after some time police succeed to arrest him.  
People angry with the death of the girls reached Piparwar police station on Thursday. Seeing the matter getting worse, the ITBP personnel resorted lathi-charge. This incident increased more anger among people. The shops in the market were completely closed and the transportation of coal was also stopped.  
Police-public were countering to each other till late night. Police is saying that during interrogation, the accused told that they went to play in the forest with the girls. "Then there was a dispute after that he beaten the three badly. The accused also said that he did not rape anyone. Police has asked for medical report of the girl child," said Singh.

**कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त उत्पाद, धनबाद (सूचना)**  
एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण से अपील किया जाता है कि विधान सभा आम चुनाव 2019 के निमित्त 38-सिन्द्री, 39-निरसा, 40-धनबाद, 41-झरिया, 42-टुण्डी, 43-बाघमारा, सभी विधान सभा क्षेत्र के लिए मतदान की तिथि 16.12.2019 के मद्देनजर मतदाताओं को प्रभावित करने के उद्देश्य से धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत कहीं पर किसी राजनौतिक पार्टी/व्यक्ति विशेष के द्वारा यदि अवैध रूप से मदिरा को संचित अथवा वितरण किया जा रहा है तो इसकी सूचना सहायक आयुक्त उत्पाद, धनबाद के मोबाईल नं०-9431482787, निरीक्षक उत्पाद, धनबाद के मोबाईल नं०- 9431165762, सभी अंचल अवर निरीक्षक उत्पाद के क्रमशः मोबाईल नं०- 8092445077, 7903995107, 9472704805, 7903876762, 8789200797 एवं सदर उत्पाद कार्यालय, धनबाद के कन्ट्रोल रूम के दूरभाष नं०-0326-2312483 पर तत्काल दी जाए। सूचना देने वाले की पहचान पूर्णतः गोपनीय रखी जायेगी।  
ह०/—  
PR 222692 (Excise)19-20#D सहायक आयुक्त उत्पाद, धनबाद

**जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त का कार्यालय, धनबाद (जिला निर्वाचन शाखा)**  
(Phone No.-0326-2312412, E-mail: electiondhanbad@gmail.com)  
-:आदेश:-  
विधान सभा निर्वाचन-2019 के तहत धनबाद जिला में मतदान की तिथि दिनांक 16.12.2019 निर्धारित है। लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम-1951 की धारा-135(ख) के तहत मतदान दिवस दिनांक 16.12.2019 को सर्वतनिक अवकाश कार्मिक प्रशासनिक सुधार तथा राजभाषा विभाग, रांची की अधिसूचना द्वारा घोषित किया गया है:-  
1. किसी कारोबार, व्यवसाय, औद्योगिक उपक्रम या किसी अन्य स्थापन में नियोजित प्रत्येक व्यक्ति जो लोकसभा या किसी राज्य के विधानसभा के लिए निर्वाचन में मतदान करने का हकदार है, मतदान के दिन अवकाश मंजूर किया जायेगा।  
2. उपधारा(1) के अनुसार अवकाश मंजूर किये जाने के कारण किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति की मजदूरी से कोई कटौती या उसमें कोई कमी नहीं की जायेगी और यदि ऐसा व्यक्ति इस आधार पर नियोजित किया जाता है कि उसे सामान्यतः किसी ऐसे दिन के लिए मजदूरी प्राप्त नहीं होगी के इस बात के होते हुए भी उसे ऐसे दिन के लिए वह मजदूरी संवत् की जायेगी जो उस दिन उसे अवकाश मंजूर ना किये जाने की दशा में दी गयी होती।  
3. यदि कोई नियोजक उपधारा(1) एवं उपधारा(2) के उपबंधों का उल्लंघन करेगा, वह दण्डनीय होगा।  
लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम-1951 की धारा-135(ख) के अंतर्गत धनबाद जिला में दिनांक 16.12.2019 को सर्वतनिक अवकाश घोषित की जाती है। धनबाद जिला के सभी व्यवसाय करनेवालों/औद्योगिक प्रतिष्ठानों/सर्वजनिक उपक्रमों एवं अन्य को निदेश है कि R.P Act-1951 की धारा 135(ख) के तहत सर्वतनिक अवकाश संबंधी अनुदेशों का दृढ़तापूर्वक अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करेंगे। ह०/—  
जिला निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी-सह-उपायुक्त, धनबाद।  
PR 222540 Dhanbad(19-20)D

**पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय, गढ़वा आवश्यक सूचना**  
एतद् द्वारा निलंबित म०आ०/1207 सुजाता कुमारी, पिता-श्री हरिहर राम, ग्रा०-काराकाट, प०-साहपुर, थाना-चैनपुर जिला-पलामू को सूचित किया जाता है कि आप अपने कर्तव्य से बहुत लम्बी अवधि से फरार हैं। आपको अपने कर्तव्य पर उपस्थित होने हेतु इस कार्यालय के ज्ञापांक 2290/र०का० दि० 08.06.18 एवं ज्ञापांक 3059/र०का० दि० 26.07.18 के माध्यम से आपके गृह पते पर पत्राचार किया गया परन्तु आप अपने कर्तव्य पर अनुपस्थित रहे, जिसके कारण आपके विरुद्ध गढ़वा जिला वि०का०सं० 24/18 प्रारम्भ किया गया। संचालन पदाधिकारी द्वारा आपको अपने कर्तव्य पर उपस्थित होने हेतु अपने कार्यालय के विभिन्न ज्ञापांक 417/पु०नि० दि० 16.09.18, ज्ञा० 477/पु०नि० दि० 10.10.18, ज्ञा० 533/पु०नि० दि० 13.11.18, ज्ञा० 35/पु०नि० दि० 03.02.19, ज्ञा० 52/पु०नि० दि० 12.02.19, ज्ञा० 442/पु०नि० दि० 02.08.19, एवं ज्ञा० 3634/र०का० दि० 05.08.19, ज्ञा० 498(बी०)/पु०नि० दि० 23.08.19, एवं ज्ञा० 3972/र०का० दि० 26.08.19, के माध्यम से लागतार पत्राचार किया गया परन्तु आप संचालन की निर्धारित तिथि पर एक बार भी उपस्थित नहीं हुये हैं और न ही किसी प्रकार का अपना बचाव स्पष्टीकरण समर्पित किये हैं, अतः आपको दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में सूचना प्रकाशित करने के उपरांत अंतिम रूप से स्मारित करते हुये निर्देश दिया जाता है कि सूचना प्रकाशित के 07 दिनों के अन्दर आप अपने कर्तव्य पर उपस्थित नहीं हुये तो समझा जायेगा कि आपको इस संबंध में कुछ नही कहना है और आपके विरुद्ध सेवा से बर्खास्तगी की कार्यवाही कर दी जायेगी।  
परिचारी प्रवर गढ़वा  
PR 222683 Police (19-20)\_D

**झारखण्ड सरकार न्यायालय अनुज्ञापन पदाधिकारी -सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, मेदिनीनगर, वन प्रमण्डल उपस्थिति सूचना**  
मेदिनीनगर वन प्रमण्डल, मेदिनीनगर के अंतर्गत विभिन्न प्रक्षेत्रों में अवैध आरा मिल संचालन करने के विरुद्ध अनुज्ञापन पदाधिकारी-सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, मेदिनीनगर वन प्रमण्डल में निम्नवत् अधिहरण वाद दर्ज है:-  
क्र० सं० कम्प्लेन वाद संख्या अधिहरण वाद संख्या जप्त समग्री निर्धारित तिथि  
01. 480/2016 19/2016 आरा मशीन चक्का दो पीस, आरी दो पीस, डीजल इंजन 10 एच०पी०, बैट 1 पीस, प्लेट 1 पीस, शीशम बोटा 6 पीस, आम चिरान 40 पीस, गम्हार बोटा 1 पीस, साल चिरान 2 पीस एवं आरा मशीन बैण्ड सॉ 1 पीस 28.12.2019  
02. 1921/2017 10/2017 बैण्ड सॉ 1 पीस, दो पुली चक्का के साथ 2 पीस, ब्लेड 1 पीस, आरा 1 पीस एवं छालटा 10 कि०ग्रा० 28.12.2019  
03. 1922/2017 11/2017 बैण्ड सॉ 1 पीस 28.12.2019  
04. 481/2018 01/2018 पुली दो पीस, आरा दो पीस, सबल दो पीस, 40 किलो जलावन, पुली छोटा 2 पीस 28.12.2019  
उपर्युक्त वादों की सुनवाई के क्रम में बार-बार नोटिस दिये जाने के बावजूद भी उक्त वाद के प्रतिवादियों द्वारा कारण पृच्छा समर्पित नहीं किया गया और न ही किसी अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत किये हैं।  
समाचार पत्र के माध्यम से उपरोक्त वाद के प्रतिवादियों को सूचित किया जाता है, कि अधिहरण की सुनवाई हेतु अंतिम तिथि 28.12.2019 को 12:00 बजे अपराहन में निर्धारित किया गया है। अनुज्ञापन पदाधिकारी सह वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, मेदिनीनगर वन प्रमण्डल के न्यायालय में स्वयं अथवा अपने अधिवक्ता के माध्यम से उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करेंगे, अन्यथा यह समझा जायेगा कि उक्त वाद के प्रतिवादियों को इस विषय में कुछ नहीं कहना है तथा एकतरफा सुनवाई करते हुए जप्त समग्री को राज्यसात कर दिया जायेगा।  
अनुज्ञापन पदाधिकारी, सह-वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, मेदिनीनगर वन प्रमण्डल  
P.R.222674 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(19-20):D

**जिला निर्वाचन कार्यालय (वाहन कोषांग), धनबाद विधानसभा निर्वाचन 2019**  
38-सिन्द्री, 39-निरसा, 40-धनबाद, 41-झरिया, 42-टुण्डी एवं 43-बाघमारा क्षेत्र रिंग बस रूट चार्ट

1	निरसा प्रखण्ड परिसर से बाजार समिति धनबाद, धनबाद पोलिटिकल वापसी गोलफ ग्राउण्ड	4 बस
2	टुण्डी प्रखण्ड परिसर से निरसा पोलिटिकल वापसी गोलफ ग्राउण्ड भाया बाजार समिति, धनबाद पोलिटिकल	2 बस
3	पूर्वी टुण्डी प्रखण्ड परिसर से निरसा पोलिटिकल वापसी धनबाद गोलफ ग्राउण्ड भाया बाजार समिति, धनबाद पोलिटिकल	2 बस
4	सिन्द्री बस स्टैड से बाजार समिति भाया धनबाद पोलिटिकल वापसी गोलफ ग्राउण्ड धनबाद	4 बस
5	बाघमारा प्रखण्ड परिसर से धनबाद पोलिटिकल बाजार समिति, वापसी गोलफ ग्राउण्ड धनबाद	5 बस
6	बाघमारा प्रखण्ड परिसर से निरसा पोलिटिकल भाया धनबाद वापसी गोलफ ग्राउण्ड धनबाद	
7	तोपचौबी प्रखण्ड परिसर से निरसा पोलिटिकल भाया बाजार समिति, धनबाद पोलिटिकल वापसी धनबाद गोलफ ग्राउण्ड	4 बस
8	बलियापुर प्रखण्ड परिसर से धनबाद पोलिटिकल बाजार समिति, वापसी धनबाद गोलफ ग्राउण्ड	3 बस
9	बलियापुर प्रखण्ड परिसर से निरसा वापसी धनबाद गोलफ ग्राउण्ड भाया बाजार समिति, धनबाद पोलिटिकल	
10	म्यारकुण्ड प्रखण्ड परिसर से निरसा पोलिटिकल भाया बाजार समिति धनबाद पोलिटिकल वापस गोलफ ग्राउण्ड धनबाद	2 बस
11	कलियासोल प्रखण्ड परिसर से निरसा पोलिटिकल होते हुए, भाया बाजार समिति धनबाद, धनबाद पोलिटिकल वापस गोलफ ग्राउण्ड धनबाद	2 बस
12	धनबाद गोलफ ग्राउण्ड से निरसा पोलिटिकल वापसी धनबाद गोलफ ग्राउण्ड भाया बाजार समिति, धनबाद पोलिटिकल	12 बस
13	धनबाद गोलफ ग्राउण्ड से बाजार समिति वापसी, गोलफ ग्राउण्ड धनबाद	40 बस

कुल  
नोट :- सभी बस अपने निर्धारित स्थान से दिनांक- 15.12.2019 प्रातः 07:00 बजे से 09:00 बजे तक डिस्टिच सेन्टर के लिए प्रस्थान करेंगे।  
नोडल पदाधिकारी वाहन कोषांग, धनबाद।  
P.R.222691 Transport(19-20):D

## INBRIEF

**SETH NOMINATED AS NKVIB MEMBER**  
Ranchi MP Sanjay Seth has been nominated as a member of the National Khadi Village Industries Board by Union Minister for Road Transport Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari. Two MPs from across the country have been nominated as members. On being nominated, State President Laxman Gilua congratulated Sanjay Seth claiming that Seth during his tenure as Jharkhand Khadi Board chairperson, established the identity of Jharkhand across the country in Khadi and also worked in taking Khadi door to door home in Jharkhand.

**INTERACTIVE SESSION AT SCS**  
An interactive session to educate the students along with their parents of Class X at Surendranath Centenary School for upcoming CBSE Board Exam 2020 was organised here on Friday. On this occasion, the Principal of the school Mrs. Samita Sinha made the parents aware about the examination of their children. She also said that the children should also pay equal attention to academic as well as life skills. She also added that children should make steady progress towards their goals. During this session she also informed parents about the changes in the exam pattern for upcoming Board Examination in 2020.

**STORY TELLING COMPETITION AT SBPS**  
To stimulate the imagination power and to instill moral values among students, a storytelling competition was organized in the premises of SBPS. The students of KG-I to std-I performed spectacularly. The young storytellers, dressed up as their one of the favourite story characters came forth with wonderful tales. The theme of storytelling was based on moral values. Some of the stories that were narrated are Ant and Grasshopper, Ramayana, Importance of Zero, The Bear and the Two Friends, Puppy goes out, The Golden Apples, Two Best Friends etc. The competition was adjudged on the basis of fluency, delivery, creativity and overall impression of the students. The victorious students in the competition were Khushi Goyal from KG-I Lakshita Agarwal from KG-II Palesha Sanvi Pattanayak from Std-I and Ishfa Nayra and Anushka Raj from Std-II.

**13 DPS STUDENTS EXCEL IN KVPY**  
As many as 13 students of DPS Ranchi have successfully qualified the stage 1 of prestigious Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY 2019-20). The KVPY is a National Scholarship programme of Fellowship in Basic Sciences, initiated and funded by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India that aims to encourage the exceptional students for pursuing courses in Basic Sciences and research drive programmes. Principal Ram Singh congratulated the students and said that it's a matter of great pride for the school to beat its own record with every passing year, the number of students qualifying in various competitive exams is incessantly increasing.

## GUEST LECTURE AT ICFAI

A Guest Lecture was organised at ICFAI University, Jharkhand, by Dr. Ashish Bajpai, Professor from Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi on "How to build a Successful Career". It was attended by the students that will be graduating in 2020. Prof. Arvind Kumar, Registrar of the University said, "We have been arranging guest lecturers from distinguished persons from Academics and Industry to help our students with regard to their career development. Today's lecture by Dr Bajpai is a part of that initiative". Dr. Bajpai emphasized on the need for a "Managerial Mindset" by the students so that they can evaluate their career choices carefully and decide on the career that is of interest and at the same time, leverages the capability of the student.

## DPS STUDENTS SHINE IN SMTE

After a paramount success in RMO, DPS Ranchi once again proved to carry forward the legacy of yearly betterment by taking the number of SMTE qualifiers from 24 (2018-19) to 37 (2019-2020). This turnout is definitely a praiseworthy score among all the schools coming under the aegis of DPS society. As many as seven out of top 100 students are from DPS Ranchi. The names of these seven students are Ali Sajjad Fatmi, Aditya Sharma, Tanmay Raj, Shreya Bhaskar, Ritvij Gopal, Kislaya and Saket Kashyap. SMTE is an Inter - DPS Exam conducted by the DPS Society to trace the best talents in Science and Maths among all the DPS Schools in India. Those students who will qualify the second round, which is proposed to be very soon, will get scholarships by the DPS Society in order to promote their scientific temperament.

## RRD ORGANISES SEMINAR

A seminar was organised on Friday jointly by Ranchi Rail Division (RRD), Hindustan Unilever Limited, IRCTC and Food Safety Standards Authority of India, with special attention to health standards and importance of hygiene in catering services especially serving catering. Catering stalls are available at Ranchi, Hatia and other main stations of RRD and some important trains opening from Ranchi Division are also provided with catering facilities, which should be better, cleaner and quality. This training seminar was done as per the guidelines of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Avnish.

# Secretary-level officers reshuffled

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday effected a major reshuffle of Secretary-level officers in various key departments.

Ravi Mittal is the new Information and Broadcasting Secretary in place of 1985-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre Amit Khare, who has now been made the Higher Education Secretary. Mittal, a 1986-batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre is at present, Special Secretary, at the Department of Financial Services.

TV Somanathan has been appointed Expenditure Secretary. Somanathan, a 1987 batch Tamil Nadu cadre officer, was serving in the PMO since 2015. The appointment of new Expenditure Secretary comes a month and a half ahead of the Budget for 2020-21, to be presented on February 1 by the Modi Government.

Khare replaces R Subrahmanyam, who has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment. Senior bureaucrat Sushil Kumar will be



**Ravi Mittal is the new I&B Secretary in place of 1985-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre Amit Khare, who has now been made the Higher Education Secretary**



Secretary Mines. He is Additional Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, and Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The reshuffle also saw Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra been elevated to Secretary level. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the rank and pay of Secretary to Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Director, Enforcement Directorate. He is a 1984-batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax), the Personnel Ministry said.

Currently, ED Chiefs were in the rank of Additional Secretary level and reporting to Revenue Secretary. This is the first time that an ED Chief has been elevated to the Secretary level.

Culture Secretary Arun Goel has been transferred and appointed as Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry in place of Asha Ram Sihag, who superannuates on December 31. Kshatrapati Shivaji, Executive Director, Asian Development Bank, is now Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public

Grievances. The officer will also hold additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare.

Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, will now be Secretary, Department of Rural Development in place of Amarjeet Sinha, who retires this month-end.

Kerala cadre officer VP Joy, Director General of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been appointed as Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat in place of Bhushan. Subhas Chandra Lal Das will be DG Hydrocarbons in place of Joy. Das is Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Sunil Kumar has been appointed as Secretary, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. He is Special Secretary, Department of Commerce. Barun Mitra will be Officer on Special Duty, the Department of Justice.

Mitra, a 1987-batch IAS officer of Manipur cadre, is at present Special Secretary, Department of Defence

Production.

Senior bureaucrat Praveen Kumar has been appointed as Secretary, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in place of K P Krishnan, who superannuates on December 31. Kumar is Special Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. IAS officer Niten Chandra has been appointed as the Secretary, Central Information Commission. A 1990 batch IAS officer, Chandra is at present serving in his cadre state Odisha. Chandan Sinha has been named as the Director General, National Archives of India, Ministry of Culture in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary. Sinha, a 1989-batch IAS officer, is working in his cadre state West Bengal.

Rajit Punhani, a 1991-batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, will be Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Home Affairs in place of Bhupendra Singh, who superannuates on December 31. Punhani is Chief Vigilance Officer, National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd., Ministry of Power

# Govt extends relaxed fumigation norms for imported onions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to improve domestic supply and check onion prices that are ruling above ₹ 100 per kg in many cities, the Agriculture Ministry on Friday further extended relaxed fumigation norms for the imported bulbs till January 31.

The second extension has been given as most of the onion shipments are expected to arrive by next month. According to the Ministry, average onion prices across major cities have jumped five fold in the last one year to ₹101.35 per kg as domestic production in Kharif and late-kharif seasons (summer-sown) is estimated to have declined by 22 per cent. The prices have risen by 81 per cent in the last one month.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs Danve Raosaheb Dadarao informed that all-India daily average retail price stood at ₹101.35 per kg on Tuesday (December 10) as against ₹ 55.95 per kg a month-ago and ₹19.69 per kg a year-ago.

"The combined Kharif and late-Kharif production for 2019-20 is estimated at 54.73 lakh tonnes as against 69.91 lakh tonnes in 2018-19," he said. Currently, State-run MMTTC is importing onion on the behalf of the Government which has decided to buy 1.2 lakh tonnes from the overseas market to increase domestic supplies. The Government is also facilitating private imports as well.

Onion is a seasonal crop with harvesting period of Rabi (March to June), Kharif (October to December) and late Kharif (January to March). In the intervening period (July to October), the market is fed by stored Rabi onions.

As per Agriculture Ministry estimates, the storage of onion in 2017 and 2018 stood at 48.73 lakh tonnes and 50.05 Lakh tonnes, respectively.

"During 2019-20, there was a three-four weeks delay in sowing as well as decline in sown area of the Kharif onion because of late arrival of monsoon. Further, untimely pro-

longed rains in the major growing States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh during the harvesting period from September to October, caused damage to the standing crops in these regions.

"All this adversely impacted production and quality of the Kharif crop. The rains during September/October also affected transportation of the crop from these regions to consuming areas. This led to limited availability of Kharif onion in the market and put pressure on its prices," Dadarao said.

To boost domestic supply and control prices, the Minister said several steps such as creation of onion buffer of about 57,373 tonnes during Rabi 2019, ban on exports since September 29, facilitation of import, imposition of stock limit on traders, approval for import on onion through MMTTC and domestic procurement of onions from producing/surplus states by NAFED for supplies in deficit States.

# Anand demands all-party meet on N-E

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Rajya Sabha witnessed a major row on Friday by the Opposition over the unrest in Assam and other parts of the North-East following the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB), 2019 by Parliament earlier this week, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma demanded the Prime Minister should immediately convene an all party meeting (with) Chief Ministers on the worsening law and order situation in the North East.

Determined to draw attention to the situation arising after CAB, the TMC raised the issue during the Question Hour but Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu did not allow the party's MPs to do so. The agitated members led by their leader



Derek O'Brien repeatedly interrupted the proceedings and they also trooped into the well of the house. Dola Sen (TMC) even tore a piece of paper while standing in the well.

Unable to pacify the TMC members who were supported by other Opposition parties, the Chair then adjourned the proceedings for half an hour.

Earlier, raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Sharma said an all party meeting was a must in view of the fallout in India's external relations particularly with Bangladesh.

"I will urge the Government and the Prime Minister in particular to immediately convene an all party meeting (with) Chief Ministers of all the States and to reassure that mere statements and blame game is not going to happen. This is also having a fallout in India's external relations particularly with the sensitive state of Bangladesh which cannot be allowed," Sharma said.

Naidu said a country's name cannot be taken, to which Sharma said it has to be as it is part of India's foreign policy. "You cannot export your domestic policies to a neighbour. There have been

reactions in our neighbouring country and the Government therefore has a

responsibility," Sharma said.

He said the situation in the North Eastern States particularly in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and even Manipur was disturbing. These border states are "very sensitive" parts of the country and share borders with China, Bangladesh and Bhutan, he said.

"It is because of the insecurity and uncertainty that has been created following the Citizenship Amendment Bill and fears about the influx of a large number of people which will disturb the culture, language and the composition of society," the Congress leader said.

# Pleas in SC challenging Citizenship Act validity

FROM RAJYA SABHA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Several petitions, including those by Congress MP Jairam Ramesh and Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, were filed in the Supreme Court on Friday challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019.

According to the amended Act, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 and face religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immi-

grants but given Indian citizenship. President Ram Nath Kovind had given assent to the CAB, 2019 on Thursday night, turning it into an Act.

Several other petitioners including All Assam Students Union (AASU), Peace Party, NGOs 'Rihai Manch' and Citizens Against Hate, advocate M L Sharma, law students have also approached the apex court challenging the Act.

Moitra's plea was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde and her counsel urged that the petition be heard during the day or on December 16.

"Today? Nothing today. You go to the mentioning officer," the bench, also comprising justices B R Gavai and Surya

Kant, told Moitra's counsel.

While Ramesh has said that the Act is a "brazen attack" on core fundamental rights envisaged under the Constitution and treats "equals as unequal", Moitra has said that "patent unconstitutionality" of the law "destroys the plural, multi-religious and egalitarian basis of India's secular fabric, and replaces it with a constitutionally unsustainable religion centric substance."

In his petition, Ramesh said that substantial questions of law, including whether religion can be a factor to either acquire or deny citizenship in India, arises for consideration of the court as it is a "patently unconstitutional" amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955.

# FROM SUPREME COURT

## Satisfied with HC Juvenile Justice Committee report saying no detention of minors in J&K

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday said it is satisfied with the report of Juvenile Justice Committee of J&K High Court which said that no minors were detained in jails in the erstwhile State post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370.

The apex court, after perusing the Committee's report, said that four high court judges visited all the jails in J&K and they have clearly stated that no minors have been illegally detained there.

A bench, headed by Justice NV Ramana, said that it would not be proper if the court does not believe its own judges.

The bench made this comment when senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for petitioner Enakshi Ganguly who has alleged that minors were detained there post abrogation of provisions of Article 370, insisted that he should be given time to respond to the committee's report.

The bench granted liberty to the petitioners to approach the appropriate forum if they have any grievance over alleged detention of minors in J&K.

The court on November 5 asked the Committee to examine afresh the allegations of detention of minors by security forces and place its report expeditiously.

It observed that the J&K DGP had filed a report on September 25 in which he categorically refuted the assertions and allegations made in the media and the petition.

The Committee's report also contained the findings of the Additional DGP denying allegations of illegal detention of juveniles in Kashmir.

It had told the Supreme Court that 144 juveniles were detained in the State after the Centre abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, but 142 minors were released. The remaining two were sent to juvenile homes.

## Sabarimala order on safe entry of women declined

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday declined to pass any order on the pleas by two women activists seeking a direction to the Kerala Government to ensure safe entry of women in the Sabarimala temple under police protection.

The top court said the issue was "very emotive" and it did not want the situation to become "explosive". A bench, headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, said the "balance of convenience" required that no orders be passed in the matter today as the issue had already been referred to a 7-judge bench. The apex court said it would endeavour to constitute the larger bench at the earliest to hear the matter.

The bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, said though there was no stay on the September 28, 2018 judgment allowing entry of women of all ages into the shrine, "it is equally true that it is not final".

# India, Maldives vow to deepen maritime ties



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Maldives Parliament speaker Mohamed Nasheed during a meeting in New Delhi on Friday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and the Maldives on Friday vowed to boost anti-terrorism cooperation and expand their maritime security ties to deal with common challenges in the Indian Ocean, a region where China has been rapidly expanding its military presence.

After talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid, both sides inked two pacts providing for cooperation in financial intelligence and election-related issues besides exchanging an instrument of

ratification for a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

"Both sides noted that India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Maldives' 'India First' policy were working in tandem to further strengthen a dynamic, multifaceted and mutually beneficial partnership that rests on the foundation of mutual trust, understanding and sensitivity to each other's concerns," a joint statement issued after the talks said.

A vast range of bilateral and regional issues were discussed at the 6th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM),

## CA Act internal matter of India: Speaker Nasheed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The amended Citizenship Act is an internal matter of India, Maldives' Parliament Speaker Mohamed Nasheed said on Friday, noting that the country has always been a safe haven for persecuted minorities. The former president of Maldives, who is leading a parliamentary delegation to India, raised three key issues plaguing the island nation - the Islamic State, debt trap of China and climate change.

which was co-chaired by Jaishankar and Shahid. The JCM took place after a gap of over four years.

"Both ministers emphasised the nurturing of a strong bilateral partnership in the maritime domain given the shared interests and common challenges in the Indian Ocean Region," the statement said.

## Attendance records goes missing at CGHS centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite installation of biometric machines, the attendance records for 2018-19 at CGHS Centre at Parliament House Annex at Parliament is missing. Intriguingly, this includes records of not only of the staff but also the head of the CGHS Centre, a Chief Medical Officer.

In an RTI reply, CMO Dr Vijender Kumar, who heads CGHS Centre, under Union Health Ministry, said the casual leave record/compensatory causal off record of his and one of his employees for year 2018-19 is misplaced somewhere in office of medical centre, Parliament House Annex and could not be located inspite of best efforts at his level.

Dr Kumar shared this information with the Union Health Ministry and CGHS headquarters after he was asked to provide the biometric attendance of one Kunti Rani, a pharmacist at the Medical Centre at the PHA. However, the RTI reply was silent on whether any police complaint had been made or not with regard to the missing data.

# INSHORT

## PARLIAMENT'S SESSION OF 2022 IN NEW BUILDING

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday expressed confidence that Parliament's session in 2022, when India will celebrate its 75th year of Independence, will be held in a new building. "We are working to have our session in a new Parliament building when we celebrate 75 years of Independence. I am hopeful that it will be completed by 2022," he told reporters following the end of the Winter Session.

## CBI SEARCHES RESIDENCE OF AMAN LOHIA

New Delhi: The CBI has carried out searches at the residence of businessman Aman Lohia who escaped to the UAE with his own toddler daughter in violation of court orders resulting in an Interpol search operation for the girl.

## SC STAYS HC PROCEEDINGS AGAINST RAJIV MODI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the proceedings before the Bombay High Court against Rajiv Modi, Chairman and CEO of Cadila Pharmaceuticals, on a petition filed by his estranged wife seeking custody of their 19-year-old son.

## EC REJECTS AIADMK ANTI-AMMK OBJECTION

New Delhi: The Election Commission, which this week registered the TTV Dhinakaran-led AIADMK as a political party, overruling the AIADMK's objection, said on Friday there's "no similarity in the names of the two parties". It also rejected AIADMK's another objection against AMMK for using the word "Ammma" in its name, saying it did not find any merit in that as it was a commonly used word to refer to mother.

## MAPPING INDIA BOOK RELEASED AT JAMIA

New Delhi: A book, Mapping India: Transitions and Transformations, 18th-19th Century, was released at Jamia Millia Islamia recently. Co-edited by Delhi University academicians Dr Sutapa Dutta and Dr Nilanjana Mukherjee, book traces transformations which occurred in 18th century in the Indian subcontinent through a diverse range of scholarly essays engaging with multidisciplinary perspectives.

# 6,000 cases per month against online retailers

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Consumers lodged nearly 6,000 complaints every month against online retailers and telecom giants between April and September this year. Flipkart topped the chart with over 11,000 complaints registered against it on the National Consumer Helpline, set up to help resolve grievances. Amazon, with over 7,200 complaints against it, followed Flipkart.

With regard to telecom giants, there were 6000, 5700 and 4900 complaints registered against Reliance JIO, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone respectively.

In a reply to Rajya Sabha, the Department of Food and

Consumer Affairs said that Flipkart Internet, Amazon, Reliance JIO, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone are the among the top five companies against the consumer lodged complaints in National Consumer Helpline.

"Together, these five companies have received 34, 991 complaints between April and September this year. Of them, 34,342 were resolved," it said. According to data from the Consumer Affairs Ministry, one in every five complaints filed on the helpline was against e-commerce companies.

"Different Regulatory Bodies look into different products such as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is concerned with food

products, the Central Drug Controller with medicines/cosmetics to check for counterfeit and sub-standard products in the market on regular basis and if any deficiency is found, manufacturers are penalised as per the provisions in the related Acts," the Ministry said.

In case a counterfeit or sub-standard product is received by a consumer, existing Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has provisions for the consumer to file a consumer complaint in the consumer forum established under the Act which are empowered to give relief of a specific nature and to award, wherever appropriate, compensation to consumers.

Rajya Sabha MP Majeed Memon has asked to provide details of the first five companies that topped the list of consumer complaints received on the Government's national helpline set up to resolve the grievances of consumers.

The Government also recently rolled out draft rules to keep a check on e-commerce companies by requiring them to display the details of sellers including the identity of their business, legal name, principal geographic address, name of website, email address and contacts details on the website.

Every e-tailer firm must provide the name of its grievance officer who will respond to complaints within a month.

# Western disturbance in north, north central India

## Western disturbance is a normal weather phenomenon during winter season to bring down temperature

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department on Friday predicted widespread rain and snowfall in north, north central parts of the country in the next 24 hours due to western disturbance (WD) with cyclonic circulation located over the north and north central India. Due to WD, Punjab, Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh witnessed cold wave like situation. The WD will move away in the eastern direction and weaken by Saturday evening.

According to Dr Kuldeep ZSrivastava, a scientist with the IMD, western disturbance is a normal weather phenomenon during winter season to bring down temperature, snowfall and rain several parts of the country.

"Under the influence of Western Disturbance and its induced cyclonic circulation, widespread rain/snow with isolated heavy falls accompanied with thunderstorm/hailstorm is very likely over Western Himalayan region for next 24 hours.

Fairly widespread to widespread rain with isolated heavy falls accompanied with thunderstorm and hailstorm is also very likely over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and East Madhya Pradesh during the same period. Western Himalayan region, which includes Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, is likely to witness the maximum intensity of rain and snow on Friday, as per the IMD forecast.

"Thereafter, due to favourable meteorological conditions, dense fog at a few places with very dense fog at isolated pockets very likely over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, north

Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in morning hours of December 15 and 16.

According to the IMD, most places in Uttar Pradesh received light to moderate rainfall and thundershowers on Friday bringing down the mercury in the State. Nainital and Mussoorie and areas around the two Uttarakhand towns witnessed the season's first snowfall, cheering up the locals and tourists alike. The famous Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills experienced the season's first snowfall as moderate to heavy snow and rains lashed wide parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for the second consecutive day disrupting normal life.

# 15-year-old girl raped & killed; Maha cops search for stepfather

**Pune:** A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped and strangled to death here in Maharashtra and police are on the lookout for her stepfather who is suspected to have committed the crime, an official said on Friday.



police said, quoting from the complaint. "In the evening, the deceased's sister came home and found the door locked from outside. On breaking open the door, the 15-year-old girl was found dead," said an official from the Bhosari police station.

The victim's body was discovered by her sister at their home in Dapodi in Pimpri Chinchwad, an industrial town near here, on Thursday evening, he said.

According to a complaint registered by the victim's mother, she and her husband, the teen's stepfather, had a heated argument over some domestic issue on Thursday morning.

The man allegedly threatened his wife and warned her of dire consequences following which she asked him to stay away from her daughters, the

Based on the complaint by the victim's mother, a case of murder was initially registered against the absconding accused, an autorickshaw driver, he said.

A post-mortem examination revealed the girl was strangled to death and also indicated that she "might" have been sexually assaulted, the official said.

"Upon receiving the report on Friday, we added section 376 (rape) of the IPC and other relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), he said. **PTI**

# Hundreds in Patna protest against gangrape of 20-yr-old

**Patna:** Police here on Friday charged the baton and used water cannons to quell hundreds of young men and women — most of them students of Patna University — who had poured out on the streets of the city braving winter rains to express outrage over the gang-rape of a 20-year-old earlier this week.

The victim has alleged that the four perpetrators were known to her and had exploited her sexually a few months back before raping her again a few days ago following which she lodged a police complaint.

"The girl resides in a locality under Pataliputra police station area. She has alleged in the FIR, given statement to the effect before a magistrate, that she was sexually assaulted by four boys who had formerly been her classmates inside an out-house of an apartment in Gandhi Path area of the city," the Station House Officer (SHO) of Mahila Thana, Arti Kumari Jaiswal, told reporters here.

"She has admitted that the boys



had forced themselves upon her in October and filmed the act and used to blackmail her for sexual favours.

"On December 9, when she abused was once again, she decided to bring the matter before the police," the SHO said.

She has given the names, addresses and mobile numbers of all

the accused who are on the run and the phones are switched off.

Efforts are, however, being made to catch them at the earliest, Jaiswal said. "In the meantime a medical examination has been conducted on the victim and we would be able to say more on the issue after report comes out," Jaiswal added. **PTI**

# UP hangman ready to execute Nirbhaya convicts

**Lucknow:** The hangman at the Meerut prison on Friday indicated that he is ready to carry out the execution in the Tihar Jail of the men convicted of raping and murdering Nirbhaya in 2012.

Pawan Jallad, who is a third-generation hangman, said his grandfather had carried out the hanging of the two men involved in the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi besides notorious criminals Ranga and Billa. "I am ready to carry out the execution if asked by the jail administration," Pawan Jallad told PTI on phone, referring to the authorities at the Meerut jail.

Amid reports about preparations to hang the four men convicted of the rape and murder, the Uttar Pradesh's Additional Director General (Prisons) Anand Kumar confirmed that Delhi's Tihar Jail has sent out a request for hangmen.

"The Tihar Jail had asked Uttar Pradesh to provide two hangmen at short notice but since one of them in Lucknow is unwell, the other one in Meerut has been asked to remain prepared," he said.

Jallad, who is about 55-year-old, however, said he is not aware of the identity of the convicts to be hanged but added that as the Nirbhaya case is in the news right now he might be required for those convicted in that.

Though he has not yet got any instructions from the Meerut jail administration, he said he is ready to go to Tihar Jail on 24 hours' notice.

Pawan said his father and grandfather were also hangmen. "My grandfather Kallu Jallad and father Babu Jallad had done this job. I personally helped my grandfather in five executions," Pawan claimed. **PTI**

# Tamil Nadu back in poll mode

Rural local bodies poll to be held on December 27 and 30

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI/COIMBATORE**

Tamil Nadu is back into election mode. Election to the rural local bodies would be held on December 27 and 30 as the Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed the petition filed by the DMK, the principal opposition party, to stay the poll schedule announced by the State Election Commission.

It was the DMK which has been scuttling the State Election Commission's move to hold elections to the urban and rural local Government bodies since October 2016 when the tenure of the local self-Governments came to an end having completed their five-year term.

The DMK got the poll stayed in 2016 with the contention that the State poll panel

has not completed the delimitation of wards and reservation of seats for SC/ST based on the 2011 census. As the case moved from the High Court to the Supreme Court, the poll schedule got delayed and there are no local self Governments functioning in the State as of now. This has made the Centre denying basic grant and performance grant to the State. The amount running to Rs 4200 crore would be released only to democratically elected panchayat and municipal bodies, said a senior Government secretary in State Secretariat.

"The DMK, which had the ignominy of suffering three consecutive elections (the Assembly election of 2011 and 2016 and the Lok Sabha Polls of 2014) was in a state of shock. As M Karunanidhi, the then party chief had been confined to sick bed, the party was

facing a leadership vacuum. M K Stalin, the then working president did not want to test the waters at that stage because he was not sure about himself," said Govindarajan Satyamurthy, political commentator based in Coimbatore.

The local self-Government, described as school of democracy has been immobilised because of the delay in holding elections, said T Ramakrishnan, author and public policy specialist based in Chennai.

"It is the duty of local bodies to ensure economic development and social justice, apart from a host of services," said Ramakrishnan. He also pointed out that the State is the pioneer in holding democratic elections. "Historical evidences confirm that the State was home to democratic elections as earlier as 1000 CE," said

Ramakrishnan quoting from archaeological inscriptions dug out from the State.

Satyamurthy says that both the AIADMK and the DMK were not willing to face the electorate because of lack of confidence. "Though elections to rural local bodies are held in non-political lines, it is in rural areas we see intense fighting and lobbying," he said. Satyamurthy's fear proved right by Thursday as a big controversy has erupted in Cuddalore district over the "auctioning" of the posts of presidents and vice-presidents in panchayat for prices ranging from ₹ 45 lakh to ₹ 55 lakh. The auctioning process got vitiated by Thursday as Satish Kumar, one of the social activists questioning the illegal process was beaten to death by a group of power-brokers in Cuddalore district.

# Ajit spoke to Sharad before joining BJP: Fadnavis

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In sensational disclosure, former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday that then NCP's breakaway leader Ajit Pawar had spoken to his party president and uncle Sharad Pawar before joining the BJP in forming a Government in the State.

In another disclosure, Fadnavis said that he and his few of his party colleagues had spoken to at least 36 NCP MLAs to ascertain that Ajit Pawar had numbers with him.

In his first detailed interview with a leading Marathi channel after his Government collapsed within 80 hours after he and Ajit Pawar were sworn into office, Fadnavis disclosed that it was the NCP leader (Ajit Pawar) who had come to the BJP to extend his support to form a Government and not the other way around.

"It is true that we (the BJP) went with Ajit Pawar to form a Government that lasted for just three days.

It was Ajit Pawar who had come to us saying that the three parties (Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress) could not form a Government. Ajit Pawar told us that he had spoken to Pawar saheb (NCP president Sharad Pawar). It was more of a guerrilla



tactic that we decided to we swear into office at 8 am. We wanted to take out opponent by surprise," Fadnavis revealed.

"Ajit Pawar told us that he had sounded out Sharad Pawar about decision to go with the BJP. But, he had not told us whether Pawar saheb had agreed with him or not. We at the State BJP level took the decision to go with Ajit Pawar. We informed the Central party leadership about it. Seeing the letter by Ajit Pawar and our letter, the Governor agreed to swear in a Government," Fadnavis said.

Confirming that the BJP had ascertained that Ajit Pawar had adequate number of MLAs within, Fadnavis said: "When we decided to go with Ajit Pawar, we had

spoken to many people ..

In fact we (BJP) had spoken to 36 NCP MLAs. We had met several of them. Ajit Pawar had told us that entire party was with him. Later on, he backed out and told me that he could not go with the BJP because of some personal reasons. Immediately after Ajit Pawar told me this, I tendered my resignation to the Governor."

"We were not happy to go with Ajit Pawar. At a time when our long-time alliance partner (Shiv Sena) decided to align with other parties, someone (Ajit Pawar) was willing to support us to form a government. We decided to go with him," Fadnavis said.

It may be recalled that on November 26, then Chief Minister Fadnavis resigned from his post after the NCP's breakaway group leader Ajit Pawar pulled out of the new dispensation under tremendous pressure from the parent party leaders.

Within hours after the Supreme Court put a break to a possible horse-trading by ordering completion of a floor test in the State Assembly by 5 pm on November 26, Fadnavis' 80-hour-long stint as the chief minister had ended, after Ajit Pawar — the ruling party's Trojan horse — handed him over his resignation as the Deputy Chief Minister citing "personal" reasons.

# Pak intruder shot in Jammu's Hiranagar

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Alert BSF troops late Thursday night foiled an infiltration bid in Hiranagar sector of Jammu frontier by eliminating a Pakistani intruder inside the Indian territory.

According to senior BSF officers of Jammu frontier, "lone intruder attempted to sneak inside the Indian territory near Manguchak border outpost in Hiranagar sector around 9.45 p.m late Thursday night".

Initially, he was challenged and fired upon by BSF troops when he entered in to Indian territory.

Due to inclement weather conditions, the BSF authorities could not retrieve the dead body of the intruder.

Inspector General, BSF frontier along with other senior officers visited the border outpost to take stock of the ground situation.

Local villagers in the area claimed, firing took place late night near Manguchak border outpost in which one of the



intruder from Pakistan was reportedly killed. Local villagers claimed, Pakistani rangers have been regularly violating ceasefire agreement for over last one month by shelling forward villages in a bid to prevent BSF from constructing 'wall of defence'.

Meanwhile, following failed intrusion bid high alert was sounded in the entire border belt to prevent fresh infiltration bid from the Pakistani side in the coming days.

Due to fresh snowfall in the higher reaches of North

Kashmir, militant handlers have shifted focus towards the plain areas and waiting for an opportunity to sneak inside the Indian territory.

On its part, BSF has also activated its Winter Border Management strategy and rushed reinforcements to plug the gaps, if any, to prevent any infiltration bid.

Anti-fog lights and other sophisticated gadgets have been installed along vulnerable patches of the border fence to track down the movement of suspected intruders.

# Pankaja holds rally for political survival: Sanjay Kakade

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

A day after Pankaja Munde and senior BJP leader Eknath Khadse covertly hit out at former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at a public rally at Munde's home town of Parli in Marathwada, party's Rajya Sabha member and Fadnavis' supporter Sanjay Kakade said on Friday that Pankaja had organised the public rally for her "sheer political survival".

Singling out Pankaja for a vicious attack, Kakade said: "Here is a person who could not retain her seat. She is now talking about touring the state and building the party. If she had implemented whatever she said at the rally yesterday, the situation would have been different in her constituency and she would have won the election by a margin of one lakh votes".

"She organised yesterday's rally at Parli for her sheer political survival. There were large crowds at the rally not

because of Pankaja but due to goodwill that late Gopinath Munde continues to enjoy in home constituency," Kakade said.

"No one conspired to defeat Pankaja Munde in the election. She can't blame anyone for her defeat. The Parli people voted against her. No outsiders had been brought to vote in the polls. She lost because of her own shortfalls," Kakade said.

Comparing her defeat with that State BJP President Chandrakant Patil who was from Kolhapur but contested from Pune, Kakade said: "Despite the fact that he was contesting from another constituency than own, Chandrakant Patil could win the polls from Pune. Pankaja could not succeed in winning the polls. Since she could not win from her own constituency, she has not moral right to blame others for her defeat".

At Thursday's Pankaja had said she would not leave the party, but it was for the party



leadership to sack her from the party.

Speaking at a public rally organised t Parli on the occasion of her late father and senior BJP leader Gopinath Munde's 70th birth anniversary, Pankaja had said: "After I wrote a Facebook post, there was a huge speculation that I would rebel against the party and quit the party. Let make it very clear that I would not quit the party. But, if the party chooses to throw me out, it can do so. Working under the auspices of the Gopinath Munde Pratishthan, I will bring together people from castes and reli-



gions of the society."

Among other things, Pankaja had announced her resignation as a member of the party's core committee.

Apart from giving clear indications that she was distancing her from the BJP, she had said that she would set up an office in Mumbai on January 26 and undertake a day-long fast at Aurangabad on January 27.

At the rally, Khadse had reiterated that Pankaja's defeat was engineered by some of the BJP men themselves.

Charging that Fadnavis was "ungrateful" towards late

Munde, Khadse had said: "Gopinathrao did not stab anyone in the back. It was Gopinathrao who made Fadnavis 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, Fadnavis completed one full term as the chief minister and came back briefly as the chief minister. But, still the memorial for late Gopinathrao was not constructed," he said.

Heaping praise on late Munde for building the BJP party to a level it is today, Khadse had also said: "The BJP used to be earlier known as a 'Shetji-Bhatji' party. It was after Munde built the party that it came to be known as the Bahujan Samaj party".

With Friday's remarks by Kakade against Pankaja, the BJP will witness an internal turf war between the Pankaja and Fadnavis camps in the coming days.

# Assembly passes Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill

**PNS ■ AMARAVATI**

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Friday passed the Disha Bill which impose death penalty for rape besides taking stringent action for crimes against women by setting up special courts to deal with such offences.

The Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill—Criminal Law (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill 2019 amending the Penal Code, says that all cases regarding offences against women shall be investigated and tried expeditiously with provisions of death penalty.

The Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill—Criminal Law (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill 2019 amending the Penal Code, says that all cases regarding offences against women shall be investigated and tried expeditiously with provisions of death penalty.

said, as the Disha Bill is in the concurrent list of State and Centre, it will go for Presidential Accord which will attract the national attention through debates and discussions, and the two Bills will stand as an answer to the system which needs to expedite cases where there is conclusive evidence.

The Nirbhaya Case is an example, where the culprits could not be punished yet and as family members of the victims seeks fast and fair justice and the public response and acclaim the recent Disha case has received were considered before drafting the Bills, he said.

The New Bill prescribes death penalty for rape crimes where there is conclusive evidence, and this needs the amendment of Section 376 of IPC.

This apart the Bill reduces the judgement period to 21 working days with investigation being completed in seven days and trial closing in 14 days.



The AP Disha Bill prescribes life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC.

In cases of harassment of women through social or digital media, the Bill states two years imprisonment for the first conviction and four years for second and subsequent convictions. For this a new

Section 354 E will be added in IPC, 1860.

To ensure speedy trial, the State will set up exclusive special courts in all the 13 districts to deal with cases of offences against women and children including rape, acid attacks, stalking, voyeurism, social media harassment of women, sexual harassment and all cases under POCSO Act. The State

will also employ special Public Prosecutors and Special Police force dedicated for such crimes only.

A Women and Children Offenders Registry will be maintained and will be on public domain and available to law enforcement agencies.

Earlier, piloting the Bills Home Minister Mekathoti Sucharitha said, that there is imperative need to amend laws to bring speedy justice for all offences against women and children and the recent Disha case on the outskirts of Hyderabad has shaken the conscience of the nation.

Deputy Chief Minister Pushpa Srivani, T Anitha, Reddy Shanti, N Dhanalakshmi, V Sriodevi, V Rajini, KV Ushasri Charan, Adireddy Bhavani were among those who spoke in support of the Bill.

# No plan to shift AP's Capital Amaravati: Botsa

**PNS ■ AMARAVATI**

Setting doubts over shifting of the Capital Amaravati to another location to rest, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botsa Satyanarayana on Friday made a key announcement in the AP Legislative Council.

When TDP members asked the minister if there was a proposal to shift the Capital, said said, "No". They also sought to know from how much had been spent on the Capital project so far.

The TDP members further asked him how much financial burden would fall on the government if the Capital was shifted, he quipped, "Such a question does not arise."

With this, Botsa seem to have given clarity over the location of the Capital which generated a lot of debate in the absence of any concrete statement being made by Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy ever since he assumed charge six months ago.

YSRCP leaders had made conflicting statements over the project, adding fuel to the fire.

Moreover, the State Government too, on its part, has contributed to the uncertainty over continuance of Amaravati as the Capital, by appointing an expert committee to look into the issue.

A host of YSRCP leaders alleged that the previous TDP Government had resorted to 'insider trading' while pooling land for the Capital and that it was a huge real estate scam committed by former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Ironically, it was Botsa who had stoked controversy over the issue by hinting that the Capital might be shifted to another location in the State. He had said the government was discussing the issue and a decision would be taken soon in this regard.

He had raked up a controversy stating that the Amaravati was located in flood zone and that the construction cost

would be too high due to the nature of the soil in the area.

With this, the Opposition TDP started building pressure on the Government to come out with its decision on the issue. Botsa controversial statements drew widespread criticism from even the BJP whose national spokesman GVL Narasimha Rao said the Centre would take a serious view if the State Government decided to shift the Capital.

Even Jana Sena, Left parties and the Congress had opposed the move to shift the Capital.

Later, the Government constituted to five-member committee with urban planning experts to suggest ways for the overall development of the State including the Capital project.

This has led to widespread speculation that Capital may be shifted. It was surprising that even at this stage, CM Jaganmohan Reddy had failed to utter a word on the issue.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

# Assam-like violence erupts in Bengal

## BJP Govt dividing India in name of NRC, Act: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

All hell broke loose even as Assam-like protests against Citizenship Amendment Act flared up in parts of south Bengal with hundreds of protesters vandalising Railway properties including moving trains — the most visible asset of the Central Government — at Uluberia in Howrah district, Beldanga and Raghunathganj in Murshidabad, parts of rural Birbhum and Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas.

The sudden eruption of violence prompted Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to call an emergency meeting of top Government officials including Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, Director General of Police and Kolkata Commissioner of Police etc.

Railway properties were set afire and trains like Howrah-Coromondal Express, Tamralipta Express, Kandari Express and numerous suburban local trains were stranded at various stations while agitators pelted stones on moving carriages.

“Howrah-bound

Coromondal Express had to be halted at Uluberia after the agitators threw stones at the engine in which the driver got injured,” sources said adding trains were running as per scheduled in remaining parts of the State.

Demonstrators, numbering around 250, obstructed the Up and Down lines at Uluberia station and hurled stones at the stranded trains, injuring a driver, South Eastern Railway CPRO Sanjoy Ghosh said.

At Beldanga in Murshidabad district bordering Bangladesh protesters threw burning tyres on the railway track and torched part of the station premises sources said adding railway properties were looted, ransacked, destroyed and thrown on the railway tracks.

Protesters shouting slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah vandalised the kiosks of the Railway Protection Force at Raghunathganj-Jangipur. In the melee some RPF personnel were injured, sources said adding huge posse of police force had been rushed to the



‘WE WILL NOT ALLOW THIS DRACONIAN LAW TO BE ENFORCED IN INDIA AND PARTICULARLY BENGAL’

such attacks.

Both Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar appealed to the people to maintain calm and communal harmony. “I appeal to the people with my folded hands,” the Governor said asking the people to avoid violence as “I know that Bengal is a peace-loving State.”

The porters blocked National Highways too, demanding immediate withdrawal of the new law. They blocked NH-6, NH-34, NH-31 at various places, police said.

In Kolkata too protesters mostly belonging to the minority groups took out processions at various parts of Kolkata blockading roads. The busy Park Circus seven-point crossing was blockaded for more than hour leading to 3 km-long traffic jam, police said.

In some places of Birbhum local workers of the BJP were attacked, sources said adding the TMC men masterminded

ple to maintain peace and calm and protest through lawful means,” Banerjee who announced a protest march on Monday said. “We will not allow this draconian Bill to be enforced in India and particularly Bengal,” she said.

“They are portioning India and dividing the people of the country in the name of a communally oriented Citizenship Amendment Bill. We will organize two peaceful protest marches in Kolkata on Monday... Such rallies will also be organised in the districts on Sunday... they may send us to jails but we will continue our march,” she said adding the “foolish policies of the Government has let India down internationally.”

Reminding how the visit of Japanese Prime Minister had to be postponed and how the Bangladesh Ministers had cancelled their visit to India Banerjee said “India enjoyed great prestige as a tolerant and peaceful nation. That prestige is today gone because of this arrogant Government.”

Meanwhile, BJP MP Mahua Moitra on Friday filed a petition against the Bill in the Supreme Court.

# No place for it in Maha: Cong Min

Mumbai: The Congress will not let the amended Citizenship Act get implemented in Maharashtra, state minister Nitin Raut asserted on Friday and said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will cooperate with the national party on the sensitive issue.

Thackeray’s party Shiv Sena is heading the coalition Government in Maharashtra, where the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP are the other ruling alliance constituents.

The contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (CAB) was approved by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha this week, and became an Act after President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to it on Thursday night.

The Act paves the way for granting Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who have migrated after facing religious persecution in their respective country. “The Congress is opposed to the CAB and we will not let it be implemented in Maharashtra... I think Uddhav ji will completely cooperate with us in this,” Raut, a Congress leader, told PTI over the phone.

The Shiv Sena had supported the bill in the Lok Sabha, but had staged a walk-out before it was put for voting in the Rajya Sabha.

Raut said the Congress had discussed the stand taken by the Shiv Sena on the controversial legislation in the Lok Sabha with its president Thackeray.

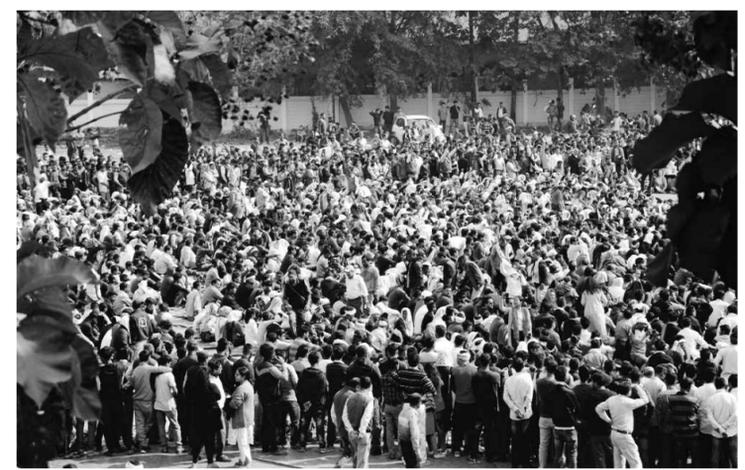
“They have kept forth their view on this in no uncertain terms in the Rajya Sabha... I am sure Uddhav ji is firm on the position his party took on the issue in the Rajya Sabha,” Raut added.

The Sena had posed certain queries to the government over the bill and demanded their answers before supporting the legislation in the Upper House of Parliament.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra minister and MPCC president Balasaheb Thorat said the state Congress will follow the central leadership’s line on the Citizenship Act. **PTI**



Army personnel conduct a flag march in a curfew-bound part of Guwahati on Friday. Authorities imposed indefinite curfew in various parts of Assam in the view of several violent protests over the Citizenship Amendment Bill **PTI**



People assemble for a peaceful protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill despite curfew, in Guwahati on Friday **PTI**

# Exempt entire N-E from purview of amended Act, Agatha urges PM

Shillong: National Peoples Party (NPP) leader Agatha K Sangma has asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to exempt the entire North East from the purview of the Amended Citizenship Act to ensure that peace returns to the region.

The Tura MP had written a letter to the Prime Minister on Thursday night demanding that the entire North East be exempted from the purview of the Act.

According to the Act, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 and facing religious persecution there will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

“The North East is a complex region that needs a holistic protection, the government must revisit the CAB and exempt the entire region from its purview. This is the only way peace and confidence can be built among our people,” Agatha said in a letter to Modi.

She said the CAB has been vehemently opposed by the people of the North East because they fear demographic

# Have suffered a thousand wounds, still capable of taking on foes: Lalu

Patna: The Citizenship Act and National Register for Citizens, ailing and incarcerated RJD chief Lalu Prasad on Friday declared that he was “capable of taking on enemies, despite having suffered a thousand wounds”.

Better known for his earthy sense of humour, Prasad who is at Ranchi serving sentences in fodder scam cases, expressed the sentiment with a political flourish posting an Urdu couplet on his official twitter handle understandably operated by his close aides.

“Abhi aankhon ki shamaen jal raheen hain, usool zinda hai, aap log maayus mat hona bimar abhi zinda hai. Hazaron zakham khakar bhi main dushman ke muqabil hoon, Khuda ka shukr ab tak dil e khuddar zinda hai”, read the tweet by Prasad.

Roughly translated the verse said “the flames of my eyes are still burning bright and my principles are still alive, you people must not feel dejected as the sick man is still alive. I am still capable of taking on enemies despite having suffered a thousand wounds, thank God, my self-respect is intact”.

The tweet also carried an old video footage of Prasad at a public meeting where he had come down heavily on the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre for its failure to fulfil the promise of bringing back black money and pursuing “communal agenda of the RSS”. Notably, Prasad has owed much of his political formidability to his unmatched popularity among the states Muslims, attributed mainly to the rumour he had shown in halting LK Advanis Ram Rath Yatra by getting him arrested and ensuring that no major communal riots took place in the state during the 15 years of the RJD rule.

Prasad and subsequently Minister Nitish Kumar in the wake of the JD(U) voting in favor of the CAB in Parliament.

The party has also been seeking to defend itself against the numerous corruption allegations that surround Prasad and his family insisting that these were “fabricated because of stout refusal to strike a compromise” with the hegemonic BJP.

In the wake of Prasad’s latest outbursts, the JD(U) mortified by allegations of capitulating before the BJP took the bait and quoted an old speech by the RJD supremo in which he had attacked the Congress for having engineered the 1989 Bhagalpur riots “to defame the BJP and the RSS”. **PTI**

# Maya questions Centre’s haste in getting CAB passed in Parliament

Lucknow: BSP supremo Mayawati on Friday questioned the Centre’s haste in getting the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill passed in Parliament and said it would have been better had the same promptness been shown in introducing strict laws to check crimes against women.

In a tweet in Hindi, she said, “It is well known that the BSP strongly opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in both the Houses of Parliament and also voted against it.”

“It would have been better had the Centre shown the same haste — it showed in getting the legislation passed — in framing strict laws for checking women harassment and rape and murder,” Mayawati said.

She added, “Merely writing letters to states in this connection is not going to serve any meaningful purpose.”

The **Citizenship**

# 8 columns of Army, AR deployed in Assam

Guwahati: Eight columns of the Army and Assam Rifles have been deployed in Assam, including capital Guwahati to control the ongoing violent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill and the amended Citizenship Act.

Defence Public Relation Officer Lt Col P Khongsai said the Army and Assam Rifles were requisitioned by the civil administration in Morigaon, Sonitpur and Dibrugarh districts besides Guwahati to arrest the deteriorating law and order situation.

All Army and Assam Rifles

The Army was called out on Wednesday as the protestors turned violent over the Bill.

President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the bill on Friday which made it an act.

“Till now, a total of eight columns have been requisitioned which include one in Bongaigaon, one in Morigaon, four columns in Guwahati and two in Sonitpur,” he said.

Each column of the force comprise of around 70 personnel.

Assam is witnessing one of the most violent protests by the people in its history with three railway stations, post office, bank, bus terminus and many other public properties being set ablaze or totally damaged.

After the Rajya Sabha



columns have managed to restore normalcy in the areas they were deployed and have been continuously working to aid the civil administration, Khongsai added. **PTI**

**नालको NALCO**  
National Aluminium Company Limited  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Smelter Plant, Nalco Nagar, Angul-759145, Odisha, India  
CIN : L27203OR1981GQI000920  
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
Online tenders are being invited from experienced bidders on OPEN / Two-part (E-tender) mode for the following jobs at NALCO, Smelter Plant at Angul, Odisha:

1- NIT No. OMC-5137  
Name of the work: Packaging of Wire Rod Coils (9.5mm/12 mm wire rods)

2- NIT No. OMC-5142  
Name of the work: Maintenance Jobs for Instruments Installed at various location of Cast House - A & B. **DGM (Mech.)-T&C**

3- NIT No. OMC-5144  
Name of the work: A.T Welding of 52 KG Rail at Budhapank Exchange Yard & Smelter in Plant Yard. **AGM (Mech.)-T&C**

For details of NITs like contract period, EMD, Date and time of E-submission, Part-I Bid Opening, Modification/Amendments (if any) please log in to [www.nalcoindia.com](http://www.nalcoindia.com) & <http://eprocure.gov.in>

# Worried that Assam stir may hit supplies, people in Nagaland rush to hoard essential items

Kohima: With protests against the amended Citizenship Act raging across the northeast, people of Nagaland, who had been busy all of last week celebrating Hornbill Festival, were seen rushing to goods stores on Friday to hoard essential items, amid tension that curfew in neighbouring Assam might hit supplies.

As Assam happened to be the lifeline of Nagaland when it came to supply of essential commodities, people were skeptical they might have to face food and medicine shortage in the days to come, official sources said.

Long queues were also witnessed at fuel outlets in state capital Kohima and commercial hub Dimapur, with most of the pumps drying up by noon. Allaying fears, Principal Secretary (home) Abhijit Sinha told **PTI** that the Indian Oil Corporation depot in Dimapur has been stocked up to last a few days.

“Petrol pumps may have dried up in several places due to the rise in demand, but the deposit in IOC Dimapur wouldn’t run out of stock in the next few days,” he said, adding that fresh supply would reach the state soon through rail route.

On essential commodities, Sinha claimed that the State had enough in store for now, and there was no reason for people to panic. **PTI**

# DMK protests against Act, Udhayanidhi Stalin detained

Chennai: DMK youth wing leader Udhayanidhi Stalin and scores of party workers were detained on Friday when they tried to stage a road blockade here while holding a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, police said.

Udhayanidhi, son of DMK president M K Stalin, led the protest at Saidapet.

Many activists were seen tearing copies of the Bill, which proposes citizenship to persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The agitation affected vehicular movement in the

He warned that the protests will continue till the Bill was withdrawn.

According to the CAB, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, till December 31, 2014 facing religious persecution there, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

Both Houses of Parliament had passed the bill. **PTI**



area. Later, speaking to reporters, Udhayanidhi, the DMK’s youth wing secretary, said the CAB was “against minorities and Sri Lankan Tamils.” **PTI**

**DELHI JAL BOARD**  
OFFICE OF THE EE(SDW)-VI  
W.S.T.P. KESHOPUR: NEW DELHI-110018  
Short Tress N.I.T. No. 19/EE(SDW)-VI/(2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimate cost	E/Money	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-Procurement Solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1.	Renovation / Repairing / Desilting of various E&M equipment / Units at Nilotri STP, Phase-I	29,41,669/-	58900/-	500/-	2019_DJB_185535_1 Dt. 12.12.2019	21.12.2019 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) **Sd/-**  
Advt. NO. J.S.V. 652/2019-20 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-VI**

**EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Office of the Ex. Engineer (M-II) Shah-North

LIG Flats, East of Loni Road, Shahdara-Delhi  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

NIT No. : EE (M)-III-SH (N)/TC/2019-20/23 Dated : 12.12.2019  
Executive Engineer M-II/Shah (N) invites tender on behalf of Commissioner, EDMC from registered contractor of MCD.

S. No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Tender Amount (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender No.
1.	Improvement Dev. of Welcome Seelampur by pdg. Interlocking tiles from gall behind Gyanand Cinema and its link in Welcome Colony Shah (N) Zone, Ward No. 39-E.	UDF	25,69,820/-	51,400/-	317876
2.	Remodeling and construction of Rubber Factory road Nallah-Right side in North Ghonda by pdg. RMC from in Ward No. 48-E, Shah (N) Zone.	XL-VIII-S(v)	42,00,502/-	84,050/-	317877

**Time of Completion : 3 Months** for SI. No. 1, **5 Months** for SI. No. 2; **Validity of Rates : 05 Months** each for both the above works; **Tender Cost : Rs. 500/-** each, for both the above works.  
**Last date & time of download of tender document :** 24.12.2019 upto 15.00 P.M. The detailed documents can be seen & downloaded by the registered contractor from website <http://mcdetenders.com>. The tender will be opened in the office of E.E.-(M Shah(N))-III on 26.12.2019.  
**R.O. No. 113/DP/East/2019-20** **EE-M-II-Shah(N) Zone**  
**EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. : 155303**

## Web of lies

As internet shutdowns become the new tool of suffocation, the Northeast protests show why they are counter-productive



It's official. India, which would like everybody to believe it is a vibrant democracy, tops the list of internet shutdowns in a supposedly free world, 158 between 2016 and 2018. If the *New York Times* is to be believed then we were responsible for 67 per cent of the world's Internet shutdowns last year. With 134 incidents this year, India has had 89 Internet black-outs, four months in Kashmir alone. This is, of course, separate from mobile network shutdowns, which would make us look like the most hypocritical nation of the world and a

poser of democracy. At least autocratic nations do not hide under pretence. Unofficially, we have been branded the "internet shutdown capital" of the world. Holding up the information highway has become the latest tool for authoritarian governments everywhere to control the political narrative on their terms and carpet-bomb any opinion or emotion against themselves. The internet, by virtue of its unpoliced nature and access, is the first casualty in such times simply because it disrupts all known forms of government control. Besides, the easy interactivity of the worldwide web has brought politics closer to the people and helped them become stakeholders in decisions. The Modi Government may claim that this is being done in the interest of national security and for curbing fake news but this is self-destructive rather than being self-protective. Such propagandist oppression disregards the volcanic fury that becomes visible in the real world when people are not free to express themselves on established communication platforms. The first manifestation is physical violence, the easiest way to challenge the establishment, examples of which are rampant across the North-east, particularly Assam. Shutting down news about Army clampdowns and local anxieties about a new law, which allows religion-based citizenship to refugees and asylum seekers, has left the North-east burning. Having dealt with waves of immigrants as residents of border States, changes in demographic profile and settlers swamping indigenous people, jobs and the local economy, locals are against any kind of influx regardless of religion. The Assamese do not want any more settlers and want their practical fears addressed in a reasonable manner rather than being cloaked by the halo of a larger Hindu nationalism. The heartland plank does not work in the diverse extremities of India. Instead, it is this Central assumption that it can manage the North-east that has stoked latent insecurities and led locals out on the streets. In fact, in the absence of the right information, rumour-mongering is at its highest, like the one about five crore Hindu immigrants being regularised. Besides, technology comes with its solutions, and as the Kashmir experience has shown, many are circumventing shutdowns through virtual private networks (VPNs). The trouble with subterranean traffic in other countries is that the global perception about India can be hopelessly skewed.

While the Government perceives the internet as a threat, it ignores its social consequences. Four months of shutdown have meant that Kashmiris have been automatically disqualified from using Whatsapp, a chat platform that allows not only personal conversations and information storage but lets groups devoted to various non-political causes to organise themselves. It has affected students the most as they have great difficulty filling up online forms for competitive exams like the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET), professional courses and jobs. Aggregator businesses in the Valley are on the verge of closure as they can hardly process service requests. Local businesses are suffering because no online transaction can go through smoothly, be it about filing tenders, tax compliances or net banking. If reports are anything to go by, over 16,000 traders were blocked on the GSTN portal for failure to pay taxes on time. Nobody even thinks of the cascading impact on telemedicine or distance learning. When you are marooned, higher pursuits seem like a luxury and basics your ticket to freedom. Denial becomes a process of adjustment and rewiring life as you knew it than making demands on good governance or even insisting on a modicum of performance. Promises of a digital India or cashless economy seem like a pipedream. Such restrictions on human rights in a modern society are nothing but counter-productive. In July 2016, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution condemning internet shutdowns. Yet such is the brazen trampling of dissent that PM Modi took to the internet to reassure the very people who didn't have access to it that their rights would be protected. Clearly, it was meant for his own loyalist audience than a real concern for the North-east. Right to Information no longer qualifies as a marker of Indian democracy.

## A Brexit mandate

Boris Johnson has won a stunning verdict and should now lead the United Kingdom out of the European Union



The complete and utter shock at the headquarters of the Labour Party as their quasi-Communist leaders led them to a defeat unprecedented in recent times was broadcast to the entire world by the British media. This reconfirms the notion that Left-wing, liberal politicians have got so caught up in their own hyperbole that they forget their core constituencies. Conservative Party leader Boris Johnson, the Oxford-educated member of British aristocracy who will remain as Prime Minister, had a simple message: That he would get Brexit done. Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, who would rather spend time with hate-spewing anti-India and anti-Israel activists and had a long-winded manifesto promising the moon and more, lost. But it was the scale of Labour's loss in safe seats in England's north, all of which had held their own even during Margaret Thatcher's landslide victories, that became the headline act. There's a lesson for Left-leaning leaders here. They must get out of the television studios and stop meaningless talk, else their slide to irrelevance will continue.

First things first. There needs to be that basic understanding that most voters are naturally slightly conservative. Denying that voters in North England wanted to leave the European Union (EU), just because a group of urbane Londoners felt otherwise, has led to the complete annihilation of the Labour Party's Red Wall. Remember how US Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's arrogance towards the "deplorables" led to her defeat, too? Do not ignore or belittle the voter who does not subscribe to your views, engage them instead. However, with the UK now leaving the EU almost a done deal, what sort of Brexit will be delivered? Will the provinces of Scotland and Northern Ireland leave? Already the pro-EU Scottish Nationalist Party, which has done well recently, may accelerate its campaign for independence. What the vote also means is that nations are increasingly becoming protectionist and insular. If indeed Britons, as the massive results show, have given in to hyper nationalism, so will the Scots and Irish, who want to be with Europe. Johnson now has to strike new international trade deals and keep London valuable and relevant as a financial market. The polls might have been emphatic and ruled out the need for a second referendum but Johnson's big challenge will be in keeping the UK together.

# The Afghan imbroglio

The Taliban attack on a US base in Afghanistan has raised many questions. Kabul, which will be profoundly affected by any peace agreement, must be prepared for the worst



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

On December 7, the US and the Taliban resumed peace talks, which President Donald Trump had pronounced on September 9, 2019, to be "dead." His statement had followed a Taliban attack that had killed 12 people, including an American soldier. On Wednesday, December 11, at least two civilians were killed and 73 others wounded in a car bombing and subsequent assault at Bagram Air Base by the Taliban. Two questions arise here. Why did the Taliban launch Wednesday's attack? What would happen now?

As to the first, two pat answers are likely. First, the Taliban want to spike the talks. Second, they want to test the resolve of the Americans to hold their ground. Third, they are divided and one of the sections opposed to the resumption of the talks has mounted Wednesday's attack in the hope that Washington, DC, will walk out of the talks.

Those opposed to the first assumption would argue that the Taliban could not have wanted to sabotage the talks they were participating in. One can also say that their desire for a settlement is further underlined by the prisoner swap on November 19, under which the Taliban released an American and an Australian scholar as well as 10 members of the Afghan security forces held by them, while the Afghan Government released three Taliban leaders.

All this, however, would overlook the possibility that the Taliban believed that this time the Americans would not abandon the talks despite provocations. Their reasoning may well have been that the very fact that the Trump administration had resumed the talks shows its keenness, bordering on desperation, to work out a peace agreement enabling most, if not all, American troops to be brought home. The desperation, they may have further felt, should be all the greater when Trump is facing impeachment proceedings and the 2020 US presidential elections are drawing closer. A peace agreement, which he can stick to his hat as a feather, and the return of American troops would give a significant thrust to his bid for a second term. It is, thus, quite logical for the Taliban to feel that if they continue to go through the motions of talks, the Trump administration would give them the agreement they want if not soon then as the presidential elections draw near.

The question springs up: What kind of an agreement would they want? First, they have made clear that they would not accept the present Afghan Constitution adopted by a Loya Jirga (a grand tribal council with legislative functions) in 2004. On their part, they issued, in 2005, their Order of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, a document closest to a Constitution they have produced. It is fundamentally different from the Constitution in terms of the political systems they stand for. This will be clear from a brief look at them, which is what one can do here given the paucity of space.



The Afghan Constitution has set up a democratic system of Government in which a popularly-elected President is the head of State and Government. The Taliban order, by contrast, proclaims Afghanistan as an Islamic Emirate under Mullah Mohammad's leadership. The legislative and judicial branches of the two systems differ significantly. The Afghan Constitution has established a bicameral National Assembly in which the lower house is directly elected and the upper house consists of a mix of indirectly elected and presidentially appointed senators. The Taliban order, by contrast, establishes a single chamber Islamic Council as the highest legislative organ, whose members are appointed by the Amir ul-Momineen (Commander of the Faithful) based on their familiarity with the principles of *jihad* and *Shariah*. The order does not mention how the Amir ul-Momineen is to be selected or how long an individual may serve in this role. It does, however, specify that he must be a male Muslim follower of the Hanafi school of Islamic jurisprudence. It is difficult to imagine how the basic contradictions between the Afghan Constitution and the Order of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which clearly seeks to establish a fundamentalist Islamist theocracy, can be

“IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW THE BASIC CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE AFGHAN CONSTITUTION AND THE ORDER OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF AFGHANISTAN, WHICH CLEARLY SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMIST THEOCRACY, CAN BE RESOLVED”

resolved. This, in turn, gives a sharp edge to the question whether the Trump administration would accept an agreement that makes for the replacement of the Constitution by the Order. One cannot rule out the possibility that it may. It had, in July 2018, started seeking direct talks with the Taliban, abandoning its insistence that the Afghan Government should be a participant in the talks while the Taliban had long been insisting that they would first discuss peace with the Americans. And now it has resumed talking to them even though they had continued being aggressive on the ground. Wednesday's attacks have to be seen in this context. At one level they might have been aimed at observing the American response for an indication as to whether the US desperation could be pushed to a point where it accepts a peace settlement that enables the Taliban to march into Kabul and take over Afghanistan with the support of Pakistani Army and the Air Force. At another, it might have been a part of their continued effort to undermine the morale of the Afghan Government and security forces and progressively reduce their ability to resist the offensive mentioned above. And, of course, it could have been both. One cannot, of course, rule out the third possibility — that the Taliban are divided and one

of the sections opposed to the resumption of the talks had mounted Wednesday's attack in the hope that Washington, DC, will walk out of the talks. Whether this is so will be clear in a few days when the circumstances of the attacks become better known. Of course, the Afghan Government, which will be profoundly affected by any peace agreement, has to prepare for the worst — an American withdrawal that leaves it fending for itself. For this, it must first get over the deep fissures that divide it — a fact that is strikingly underlined by the fact the results of the presidential election in the country, held in September, 2019, remain stalled in the midst of a bitter dispute between the incumbent President, Osman Ghani, and the principal challenger, Abdullah Abdullah. Both leaders must remember that a Taliban takeover would mean a return to medieval savagery, which besides reducing women to domestic slavery, would rob life of all gaiety and entertainment. Meanwhile, India, which has serious stakes in Afghanistan, needs to assess its options. It must be prepared to render any assistance it needs to, including the supply of military hardware, to the Afghan Government to hold its own. (The writer is Consultant Editor, *The Pioneer*, and an author)

## SOUNDBITE

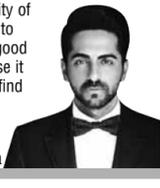
The footprint of every major act of international terrorism passes through Pakistan where terrorists are trained in safe havens to take innocent lives.

**Indian diplomat**  
—Paulomi Tripathi



I do feel the responsibility of delivering good cinema to the audience and it's a good pressure to have because it will keep my hunger to find the best content going.

**Actor**  
—Ayushmann Khurrana



The US has seriously damaged the hard-won foundation of mutual trust by criticising Beijing over issues such as Hong Kong and the treatment of Muslim Uighurs.

**Senior Chinese diplomat**  
—Wang Yi



My Ministry is working (on economic issues) whenever it is needed. I will continue to address the problem of the industry as and when it is required.

**Finance Minister**  
—Nirmala Sitharaman



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Religious divide

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Spent force" (December 13). The Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) may seem benevolent but the effects it will have on the very idea of Indian citizenship, with especial emphasis on "religion", cannot be brushed aside. People of all religions and communities have lived in India since years. Then why this differentiation now? Why are our political representatives hell bent on dividing the country on the basis of religion? Our Constitution does not discriminate people on religious grounds. Ours is a secular country and one should not bring religion into the picture for granting citizenship. Civil society should oppose the Bill.

**Jubel D'Cruz**  
Mumbai

### A tale of two citizens

This refers to the editorial, "Spent force" (December 13). The Citizens (Amendment) Bill (CAB), 2019, which guarantees Indian citizenship to "persecuted" non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan before 2014, is anchored to an ideological mooring. It is a firm step towards ushering in a controlled democracy with the Hindu religion as its centrifuge. Obviously, the inclusion of Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Parsis and Sikhs is a pretence to nullify remonstrance that CAB is a law that will fundamentally benefit Hindu migrants. The Bill reasserts the sectarian view that Hindus have a divine right on the land and Muslims here are just occupants. Without the National Register of Citizenship (NRC), this Bill could remain a non-starter. Except if the ruling dispensation devises an extraneous mechanism to identify and label. The Bill, therefore, has to be read with the passionate advocacy of a nationwide exercise for a pan-India NRC. With the enactment of CAB, the character of Indian citizenship has undergone a sea change. Hindus, who have inhabited this land since time immemorial or since independence or migrated to this land before 1971/2014, are straightaway deemed as citizens. On the contrary, Muslims



across the country, despite living here for centuries, will have to establish their citizenship afresh with adequate proof. Any Muslim, who fails to produce evidence of his/her citizenship, will face the prospect of being declared an illegal immigrant and be forced into a deportation camp. India has pushed itself into a turbulent future where one could witness blatant Hindutva majoritarianism, unconcealed partisanship and geographical instability.

**Haridasan Rajan**  
Kozhikode

to say, the wider society does not oppose the law passionately but leaves it to those who would be directly affected to protest.

**G David Milton**  
Maruthancode

### Government's failure

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Spent force" (December 13). It is the very nature of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) that has sent the North-east on the boil. The Bill does not specify what proof the fleeing immigrants from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan will have to furnish to support their claims and prove themselves. Suspicion was all the more heightened after the non-inclusion of many Bengali Hindus in Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC). Perhaps instead of protecting the immigrants, the BJP wants to develop its vote bank. Some communities other than the Hindus have been included in the CAB only to avoid making it look like too arbitrary a move.

**Shashi**  
Via email

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

FIRST COLUMN

## The CAB is unconstitutional

Ahmadiyya and Shia Muslims are also persecuted in Pakistan and may come to India to avoid oppression. The Bill should allow that



MARKANDEY KATJU

The Citizens Amendment Bill (CAB) has been passed by both Houses of Parliament and has got the assent of the President. Since a lot of controversy has been raised over it, the Bill needs a dispassionate analysis. Assam has seen an influx of a large number of Bangladeshi immigrants who came after the Partition of 1947. Some (Hindus, Buddhists and so on) came due to religious persecution by the Muslim majority. Many poor Muslims also came in search of a "better life." Such "economic refugees", i.e. those who migrate not due to religious persecution but to seek a better life, are not strictly speaking refugees as defined in the UN Refugee Convention, 1951. But the fact is, that worldwide there are a large number of "economic refugees."

For example, the USA has about 11 million illegal immigrants from Mexico who migrated to America for a better life. Many of them have been living there for decades and now have little roots left in Mexico. What is to be done with them? As we all know, US President Donald Trump wants them deported to Mexico. However, that is easier said than done. In India, under the Assam Accord, only those Bangladeshis who came to the State before March 1971 would be granted citizenship under the Citizenship Act. But CAB will make people of six religions, namely Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis, Buddhists and Jains, who came from three countries, viz Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, Indian citizens, provided they have lived in India for five years. CAB omits the mention of Muslims and this is where the controversy lies.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Government justifies this discrimination by saying that Muslims did not come into India due to persecution, whereas people of other religions did. But this is only a pretext. The real reason is that the BJP knows that Muslims will vote against them in elections and so wishes to deny them citizenship (which carries voting rights).

Also, what has been overlooked is that many Muslims in Pakistan, for example Shias, Ahmadiyyas and so on, are also persecuted there, and may come to India to avoid persecution. Whereas by a constitutional amendment, Pakistan has declared Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims, the Kerala High Court has declared them Muslims and Ahmadiyyas regard themselves as such. However they are treated barbarically in Pakistan.

Many Assamese are protesting because they do not want any immigrants in Assam, whether Muslim or non-Muslim and object to citizenship being given to any settler. Others are objecting to CAB for other reasons. The whole of Assam is up in flames and in many places the Army has been called out.

The truth is that many Bangladeshi Muslims have been living in Assam for decades, though they may not have come here legally. Many were even born in Assam. They have no roots now in Bangladesh. Where are they to go if they get deported? Bangladesh has said it will not accept them. So should they be dumped into the Bay of Bengal? It is a humanitarian problem, not just a legal one.

When I was on the Bench of the Supreme Court, a case regarding illegal squatters in shanties in Mumbai was being heard. The senior judge on the Bench shouted that the illegal squatters had no legal right to remain where they were living and must be thrown out, to which I retorted, "But brother, where are they to go? Should they be dumped into the Arabian Sea? It is not just a legal problem, it is also a humanitarian issue."

It may be noted that under the Indian Constitution whereas certain rights, like those mentioned in Article 19, are available only to citizens, others, like the right to equality, mentioned in Article 14, and the right to life and liberty mentioned in Article 21 (which has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to mean the right to live with dignity) are available to all. A non-citizen is certainly a person, and hence is also entitled to those rights.

In the National Human Rights Commission vs State of Arunachal Pradesh, 1996 case, the question was about the Chakma refugees, who were illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The apex court observed that the fundamental right of life and liberty guaranteed by Article 21 of the Indian Constitution is also available to Chakmas, though they were not Indian citizens. It is submitted that CAB is unconstitutional as it violates both Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India. With inputs by Dhruvi Kapadia, Advocate on Record at the Supreme Court of India and Solicitor, Bombay High Court).

NOT ALL MEN ARE RAPISTS. THIS IS AN INSULT TO INDIA. HE (RAHUL GANDHI) SHOULD BE PUNISHED (FOR HIS RAPE IN INDIA STATEMENT).

—UNION MINISTER SMRITI IRANI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



I HAD SAID THE PM KEEPS TALKING ABOUT MAKE IN INDIA. BUT THERE IS NO NEWS ABOUT THAT. BUT WE READ ABOUT SO MANY RAPE CASES IN PAPERS.

—CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

# No more labour pains

The Government has decided to develop a cadre of midwives as one of the strategies to reduce maternal and infant mortality



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Shanti Devi is a household name at Nichla Badho Village in Jagjit Nagar of Solan district, Himachal Pradesh. This is not surprising considering that as a traditional birth attendant or *dai*, she delivered more than half the population of the village, including six of her grandchildren.

Even after she turned 80, Shanti remained the *dai* a pregnant woman in distress turned to or if the fears of a first-time mother-to-be needed to be soothed. Midwives can provide 87 per cent of the essential care for expectant mothers and newborns if they are educated and trained, says the World Health Organisation (WHO). But most importantly, as an integral part of a woman's life, they provide quality care, support and play an important role in reducing preventable maternal deaths.

WHO research has shown that women were less likely to give birth prematurely or lose their babies before 24 weeks of gestation if midwives were the main providers of care during pregnancy. Further, global data indicates that 83 per cent of all maternal deaths and newborn deaths could be averted with the care provided by midwives. Considering four women die giving birth every hour in India, midwives can be the game-changers in this grim scenario.

This is perhaps why the Government finally recognised that midwives could provide quality assistance through the 30 million pregnancies that take place every year and become a cost-effective and efficient model to improve reproductive, maternal and neonatal health services. The decision to develop a cadre of midwives as one of the strategies to reduce maternal and infant mortality was shared by the Indian Government at the recently-concluded International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+25) in Nairobi. India was among the 179 countries that signed the first international agreement recognising the right to sexual and reproductive health and women's empowerment at the ICPD in Cairo in 1994. This announcement was made as a part of its commitments to reduce preventable maternal deaths and provide an enabling environment to facilitate women's autonomy in reproductive decisions.

Although, there has been a decline in the maternal mortality rate (MMR) from 167 to 122 per 100,000 live births (SRS 2016), India has a long way to go to ensure that no woman dies while giving birth. Nearly 32,000 pregnant women still lose their lives during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period every year. Factors like inequalities in access to quality health services, poverty, distance to facilities, lack of information, inadequate and poor quality services and cultural beliefs remain significant barriers to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) to reduce MMR to less than 70 per 100,000 births by 2030.

Besides, disrespect and abuse of women during childbirth at health facilities contribute to maternal mortality and morbidity. While formulating its guidelines on midwifery care, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare accepted that these were some of the reasons that deterred women from opting for institutional delivery. Although the Government's LaQshya programme mandates promoting respectful maternity care, its implementation remains poor. However, midwifery-led care could address

“ WHO RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT WOMEN WERE LESS LIKELY TO GIVE BIRTH PREMATURELY OR LOSE THEIR BABIES BEFORE 24 WEEKS OF GESTATION IF MIDWIVES WERE THE MAIN PROVIDERS OF CARE DURING PREGNANCY. FURTHER, GLOBAL DATA INDICATES THAT 83 PER CENT OF ALL MATERNAL DEATHS AND NEWBORN DEATHS COULD BE AVERTED WITH THE CARE PROVIDED BY MIDWIVES. CONSIDERING FOUR WOMEN DIE GIVING BIRTH EVERY HOUR IN INDIA, MIDWIVES CAN BE THE GAME-CHANGERS IN THIS GRIM SCENARIO ”



these issues by promoting quality and continuity of assistance through the provision of women-centric care and help expectant mothers have a positive birth experience, according to the Ministry.

While the Government may have come to this conclusion now, women in Himachal Pradesh realised it much earlier. They also understood that women attended by midwives needed fewer epidurals. This is probably why Shanti was a much sought after *dai* as she used traditional knowledge and promoted natural birth. She even induced labour pains by giving hot herbal drinks made by boiling fenugreek and carom seeds with soya. Women have often stated that they prefer to have home deliveries by someone they know, rather than an unknown doctor, especially when respectful maternity care is missing.

With health facilities in rural areas being far, the balance in favour of the midwife is heavily tilted. In Shanti's case, not only was she right there and readily available but her personal touch boosted the confidence of pregnant women. They also knew that she would accompany them to the nearest hospital for delivery if she felt that the pregnancy was complicated and beyond her capabilities.

Shanti's long experience enabled her to predict when a delivery would take place and she also had the skill to deliver a breach baby. Besides, she provided information on immunisation, birth registration and nutrition. Her abilities, skill and knowledge prompted families living in distant villages to seek her help with deliveries. This also

included families belonging to the upper caste, which traditionally shied away from taking the help of a *dai* belonging to a lower caste.

There are over 10 lakh *dais* like Shanti serving rural and urban communities. They can be lifesavers in places where there is an acute shortage of trained medical personnel. At present, there are only 1,859 obstetricians at Community Health Centres in the country as against the requirement of 5,510 (2016 Rural Health Statistics). This lack of specialists can be critical for pregnant women, as one of the major causes of maternal deaths (almost 46 per cent according to a 2014 *Lancet* study) is the poor quality of intrapartum care. This is where trained midwives can make the difference by supporting the overburdened secondary and tertiary care facilities that do not have enough obstetricians.

Severe bleeding after birth can kill a healthy woman within hours if untreated and simply injecting oxytocics effectively reduces this risk. The second major cause of maternal deaths is infection after childbirth.

This can be eliminated if good hygiene is observed and if early signs of infection are recognised and treated promptly. Third, if pre-eclampsia is detected and appropriately managed before the onset of convulsions and other life-threatening complications, maternal deaths can be reduced. In this case, administering drugs such as magnesium sulfate for pre-eclampsia can lower a woman's risk of developing seizures. These risks could be reduced by midwives who are usually from the same communities as the pregnant

women and are familiar with their medical history.

Therefore, investing in harnessing the power of existing midwives across the country by upgrading their skills could mean the difference between life and death for women. What makes the case in favour of trained midwives even stronger is the fact that the financial costs of ending preventable maternal deaths are now known.

A collaborative study between UNFPA, John Hopkins University, Victoria University, University of Washington and Avenir Health shared at the Nairobi ICPD+25, gave a breakdown of the collective costs of ending preventable maternal deaths in 120 countries, including India.

According to Natalia Kanem, Executive Director UNFPA, these figures were a drop in the ocean compared to the dividend expected and the funds available. Speaking at the summit, she said that it would be wrong to even refer to this as a cost as these were smart, affordable investments that would transform the lives of women. What was needed next was the political will and financing to get the job done. The cost of inaction would be much higher, she said.

The decision to build a cadre of trained midwives is a good move to reduce the costs of inaction. But it must not overlook the knowledge and skills that traditional birth attendants have. They must be supported and trained for the sake of the millions of pregnant women they continue to save. After all, even a single preventable maternal death is one too many.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

# Free education is no charity

Peaceful protests and demonstrations cannot be ridiculed in any healthy and vibrant democracy. In fact, we need more campuses like JNU, with students who are curious, questioning, intellectually-aspiring and democratically-engaged



RAHUL KASHYAP

The nation is trying to identify the villain of the piece in the ongoing Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) saga and social media is running amok demonising the premier institution itself. The first question, much before apportioning blame, is to ask ourselves, have we missed the forest for the trees? We indeed have.

My fear is that as a society we are getting consumed by market-driven "everythingness", oversimplified by applying the yardsticks for measuring chalk to cheese as well. In this highly volatile process, we are ending up supporting an ecosystem that kills dialogue and argumentation. Do we even

realise the inherent dangers to nationhood? Please realise this is destructive to the idea of both nationalism and nation-building. There is a huge cacophony and also rancour over the negligible fee paid by a JNU student. Let us never forget that education is every individual's right and even if free, education is not charity. In our attempt to berate JNU, many are ending up giving social credibility to commodification of education. We are playing into the hands of the private education mafia. By doing so, we are committing a crime against future generations. They will blame us for centuries.

If you find the idea odd, it would be relevant to remember how public telecom was bemoaned and ridiculed to tarnish its reputation and make way for private players and how Air India was derided so that it bled and its business share was usurped by private air carriers. So, the assault on the very credibility of JNU is to be seen with concern and obvious suspicion. Withdrawal of the State from health and education is the most undesirable act in a civilisation. Free education

and free health services must be seen as a right rather than charity in a democracy and a welfare State. The more developed a country is, the more dedicated a welfare State is, the more essential services are free. Particularly health and education, followed closely by free public transportation.

We applaud social media forwards about how a train in Japan was continued only because one girl boarded it to go to school. But when it comes to our own country, we seamlessly adopt shameless double standards.

The ones studying in JNU are equal citizens of the country and their parents are also paying taxes. And in future, most of these students will perhaps pay much more in income tax than many of those castigating them claim they cost the country right now, by joining the bureaucracy, media, the development sector, academia and politics. Even the current dispensation at the Centre has two former JNU students as Cabinet Ministers. A study also reveals that 40 per cent of the Cabinet Committee on Security comprises JNU alumni.

JNU has been marked an island of excellence and repeatedly awarded for high standards of research and pedagogy by the Government of India. It is nothing but a calamity that JNU's commitment to education in building a brighter India has been compromised. The need is to work on the perception deficit in the mind of the common man.

The deliberate loss of reputation is doing no good to anyone but vested interests. Currently there are nearly 8,000 students at JNU.

However, a minuscule number, belonging to the radical Left, have held hostage the credibility of the university. These are mischief makers, suffering from an identity crisis and lack of political foothold, taking refuge in provocative acts like honouring Mahishasur.

These elements — the Right-wing loves to call them urban Naxals — are like the goons in a locality who create nuisance because the silent majority avoids them. The need is to awaken this silent majority. There are several ideological streams strongly present in the university. It is time they

challenge these elements on the basis of knowledge as well as positive activism. These are the elements that need to be handled. So that the rest, comprising a large number from the socially and economically-deprived strata, are allowed to follow academic pursuits in peace.

The problem is made complex because the official Left ends up supporting these disruptive elements as they see their vice-like grip over academia slowly slipping, prejudiced research getting exposed and challenged, and a summary loss of political relevance across India. JNU seems to be giving them that fig leaf cover and token confidence.

Peaceful protests and demonstrations cannot be ridiculed in any healthy and vibrant democracy. In fact, we need more campuses with students who are curious, questioning, intellectually-aspiring and democratically-engaged. This is where we should create the India of tomorrow.

The media, especially television, has played a rather ignoble role in the issue. Anchors, with strange display of histrionics and overplay, do not

mind showing off their inadequacies in understanding society and politics. The drama that is unleashed from the television studios — led by intellectually-bankrupt and educationally-compromised anchors indulging in shameless acts of exposing their limitations and their rooted prejudice — must force managements of these channels to take note.

There would hardly be any doubt that JNU is the most gender-friendly and also the safest campus for women. Therefore it comes as no surprise that the Nirbhaya protests started nowhere else but here.

People do not understand that demonisation of a public university like JNU will impact all institutions including the IITs and IIMs. We should not be that short-sighted.

There is an exponential hike in the fee of IITs and IIMs. This must also be opposed. And the students of IITs and IIMs must learn to protest effectively and fight for their rights. We need many more JNUs all across India. Fight for this cause, each one of you, who cares for India.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



HUMANITY ON TRIAL

Criticism of Aung San Suu Kyi's defence of her country must not overshadow the issue at the heart of the case at the ICJ: The ongoing suffering of Rohingya Muslims. Myanmar's generals are largely inured to international condemnation. But the reminder that there may one day be consequences for their actions could offer some deterrent to the worst abuses. It could also increase the pressure on the UNSC to take on the issue. (The Guardian, editorial)

INCREASING GST rates

Buzz everywhere except my office: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the crucial meeting of the GST Council, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the buzz of an increase in GST rates is everywhere other than her office.

She was responding to a question on talk of current GST rates of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent being raised to make up for the fall in revenues that has even hampered giving compensation to states for loss of revenue from implementation of the indirect tax regime.

"The buzz is everywhere other than my office. I don't know where this is coming from. I have not been to GST Council yet... We have not had

any conversation yet. But it's good to see all this churning outside, it helps to clarify our thought processes," she remarked.

Sitharaman, however, did not rule out a hike in GST rates, saying her ministry is yet to apply its mind to it.

"I am saying we as a team have not spoken yet on what we want to go to the GST Council with," she said.

She added there is no denying the fact that GST compensation is pending to all States. "No one is denying it is their (states) right. I fully acknowledge it is their right and I have also given the figures out as to what was the collection, how much was paid in 2017-18, in

2018-19 and up to October 31 and I am also saying that it is an article of faith, cooperative federalism and we shall keep up what has been committed in terms of giving compensation," she added.

States had surrendered powers to collect taxes on goods and services after local levies got subsumed into the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 1, 2017. They were guaranteed through legislation that they will be compensated for any revenue loss in the first five years of GST implementation.

This monthly compensation was to be paid within two months but States have not received any such amount since August 2019.

More measures to boost economy as and when required, says Sitharaman

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday promised more stimulus measures for sectors of the economy in distress as she counted on steps taken till now to boost growth by driving up consumption.

She also said the Centre is aware of the pending GST compensation to States and will honour its commitment.

Addressing a Press conference on the state of the economy along with senior officials, Sitharaman said the government will continue to take

measures as and when required to boost growth.

Asked by when she expects the economy to revive, she said, "I'm not engaging in any prediction based thing. I am looking at the economy, where I need to intervene, I am intervening and I shall continue to address the problem of the industry as and when it rises."

She declined to comment on the narrative of stagflation — high inflation coupled with declining growth. "No comment on that. I have heard it. Stagflation is a narrative which

is going on. I am hearing it," she said. Rising food prices pushed retail inflation in November to an over three-year high of 5.54 per cent, while industrial sector output shrank for the third month in a row by 3.8 per cent in October, indicating deepening slowdown in the economy, government data showed on Thursday.

Many economists, including former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, have expressed fear of India getting into stagflation mode.

PTI

BUSINESS CORNER

BoI CONDUCTS HAR GHAR DASTAK CAMPAIGN



New Delhi: Bank of India, one of the premium bank of our country has launched HAR GHAR DASTAK Campaign across its National Banking Group Offices and Zonal Offices/Branches working under these NBBG Groups with the Slogan One Bank, One Team, One Dream to achieve the target of Business mix of ₹10 trillion by September 2020 in the back ground (Dus Ka Dam) and special drive for recovery. In line with the campaign New Delhi Zone conducted Har Ghar Dastak Mahotsav on December 11, 2019 at STC, Noida premises.

QUIZ, PAINTING COMPETITION HELD IN CLW



New Delhi: Energy Conservation Day will be observed in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) on December 14. In order to create awareness about Energy conservation

among common people, various efforts are being taken with the help of posters, banners and handbills in CLW for Residents. Further to educate Children of CLW township about energy conservation, quiz & painting competitions were conducted among students of various schools of CLW Township from 07-12-2019 to 12-12-2019 in two categories of Class-I to V and Class -VI to XII. The final round of the Quiz & Painting competition amongst students was held on December 13 in Technical Training Centre in Chittaranjan conducted by Electrical Maintenance deptt. The winning candidates will be given an opportunity to participate in presentation by Experts on Energy conservation on December 14.

N RLY GEN MANAGER INSPECTS DELHI CANTT SECTION



New Delhi: General Manager, Northern Railway TP Singh conducted an extensive inspection of Delhi Cantt.-Rewari-Jhajjar-Asthal Bohar Rail section on Thursday. He was accompanied by SC Jain, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Northern Railway, Delhi, Principal Head of Departments of Northern Railway & Senior Divisional Officers of Delhi Division. TP Singh, General Manager inspected the Booking office & circulating area at Delhi Cantt Railway Station. He also inspected a newly developed Smart Coach. He also inspected a Health ATM installed recently at the station.

Moody's cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.6% for 2019

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Friday said it has lowered its 2019 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.6 per cent as slow employment growth weighs on consumption.

It expects economic growth to pick up in 2020 and 2021 to 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively, but sees the pace of growth remaining lower than past. "We have lowered our 2019 gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 5.6 per cent, which is lower than 7.4 per cent growth in 2018," Moody's said in a report.

"India's economic growth has decelerated since mid-2018, with real GDP growth slipping from nearly 8 per cent to 5 per cent in the second quarter (April-June) of 2019," it noted.

It further slipped to 4.5 per cent in July-September quarter. "Consumption demand has cooled notably, with slow employment growth weighing on consumption," it said. "We expect economic growth to pick up in 2020 and 2021 to 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively, but the pace of growth will remain lower than in the recent past."

Moody's said fiscal mea-

asures undertaken by the Government — such as corporate tax rate cuts, bank recapitalisation, infrastructure spending plans, support for the auto sector and others — do not directly address widespread weakness in consumption demand, which has been the chief driver of the economy.

In addition, interest rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India are not being adequately transmitted to lending rates because of the credit squeeze caused by disruption in the non-bank financial sector, it said. Commercial vehicle sales in India declined 22.95 per cent in

the six months ended September 30 2019 compared with the same period a year earlier.

"Commercial vehicle sales have been hit by the liquidity squeeze in the financial sector and the economic slowdown, despite support from Government stimulus measures to boost demand and vehicle purchases ahead of India's migration to new emission standards," it said. It expected auto loan delinquencies to increase in the next few quarters as the economic slowdown will constrain demand for freight transportation and put pressure on freight rates.

India's exports contract for fourth straight month in Nov to \$25.98 billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports contracted for the fourth month in a row in November, dipping 0.34 per cent to \$25.98 billion, mainly on account of poor shipments of petroleum, gems & jewellery and leather products.

Imports too declined by 12.71 per cent to \$38.11 billion in November, narrowing the trade deficit to \$12.12 billion, according to Government data released on Friday.

Gold imports increased by 6.59 per cent to \$2.94 billion in the month. The trade deficit stood at \$17.58 billion in November 2018.

Out of the 30 key sectors, as many as 17 segments showed contraction in exports during the month under review.

Shipments of petroleum products, gems and jewellery, fruits and vegetables, leather and leather products and ready-made garments of all textiles contracted by 13.12 per cent, 8.14 per cent, 15.10 per cent, 5.29 per cent and 6.52 per cent respectively.

In November, oil imports declined by 18.17 per cent to \$11.06 billion, while non-oil imports contracted 10.26 per cent to \$27.04 billion.

Cumulatively, during April-November 2019, exports were down 1.99 per cent to \$211.93 billion while imports contracted by 8.91 per cent to \$318.78 billion.

Trade deficit during the period narrowed to \$54.06 billion as against \$82.47 billion in April-November 2018-19. Commenting on the data, EEPIC India Chairman Ravi Sehgal said though engineering exports have put up a reasonably good show with 6.32 per cent growth in November 2019, the overall external trade environment remains challenging and subdued.

"We are working with the government to improve our competitiveness and hope that the issues raised by exporters, like the higher cost of basic raw material of steel, are addressed," Sehgal said.

ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said, "The merchandise trade deficit in November 2019 trailed our expectations, with imports recording a substantial contraction on account of oil, transport equipment as well as a variety of other items, underscoring both subdued commodity prices as well as the weak demand conditions in the economy."

Income tax, input tax credit refunds up: Revenue Secy

IAN ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department is now conducting complete faceless assessment and the refunds so far in this fiscal stood at ₹1.57 lakh crore as compared to ₹1.23 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said on Friday.

"Income tax refunds so far in this fiscal are ₹1.57 lakh crore as compared to ₹1.23 lakh crore in the last fiscal. IGST (Integrated Goods and Service Tax) refunds so far this fiscal are ₹38,988 crore as compared to ₹56,057 crore in the previous fiscal.

"ITC (Input Tax Credit) refunds are at ₹33,395 crore in FY20 as compared to ₹36,513 crore in FY19. A total of 58,322 cases have been covered under the faceless assessment system and questionnaires have been issued in 19,883 cases," Pandey said at a press conference called by the Finance Ministry to

highlight the impact of the steps taken by the Government to boost consumption. He said tax refund cases have gone up by 17 per cent to 2.16 crore.

"The picture regarding revenue targets will be clear in the next few weeks. On December 15, the figures for advance tax for the third quarter will come and we will get a fairly good estimate of what is going to be the impact of corporate tax reduction. Then only we will arrive at a realistic figure as to what will be the revenue collection under income tax this year," said the Revenue Secretary.

Tax collection data for this quarter, and estimates of the collections for the next quarter, will be released on December 15 or December 16. He added it will be compulsory for all the taxpayers with turnover of more than ₹100 crore to generate e-invoice for all B2B transactions. The same will be optional for those businesses with a turnover of more than ₹500 crore.

Nationwide economic census to be completed by March 2020: CSC e-Governance Service India CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 7th Economic Census, which is being conducted nationwide through common services centres (CSCs), is expected to be completed by March 2020, CSC e-Governance Service India CEO Dinesh Tyagi said on Friday.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has tied up with CSC e-Governance Service for the 7th Economic Census. The survey was launched in Delhi on Friday.

"For the first time, the entire Census is being conducted on a digital platform by the use of an application which will ensure high accuracy and data security.

"In Delhi, the entire process will take around three months where enumerators will survey around 45 lakh establishments and households," Central Statistics Office Director General (Social Statistics) A K Sadhu said after flagging off the survey for

Delhi.

Sadhu said Delhi is the 26th state where the survey has been launched, while the process is already on in 20 states and 5 union territories (UTs). "The work for the 7th Economic Census is pending in just three States — West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. We are in the process of starting the survey in these three states. We expect to start work there in January and report for all the states will be submitted by March," Tyagi said.

Started in 1977, only six economic censuses have been done so far due to massive work involving in-depth survey and data compilation. This is the first time economic census is being done using digital platform which has reduced time for survey to 6 months from 2 years earlier. Over 1.5 lakh trained enumerators have been deployed for the nationwide survey who will visit 35 crore establishments and households to carry out the Census, according to CSC Head of Operations Nepal Chandra Sen.

RBI Central Board discusses functioning of co-op banks

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The RBI Central Board on Friday reviewed functioning of the urban cooperative banks and enforcement framework in the backdrop of scam in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank affecting lakhs of depositors.

The Central Board headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also discussed the current

economic situation, as well as the domestic and global challenges facing the country, the central bank said in a release.

"The Board's discussions focussed on issues related to urban cooperative banks, extension of enforcement policy and framework to cooperative banks and NBFCs (non-banking financial companies)," it said.

Following exposure of scam in the PMC Bank, which had over 9.15 lakh depositors, the RBI had imposed restrictions on withdrawals.

Statutory inspection of PMC by the RBI had revealed large group exposure toward Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL) Group companies to the tune of about ₹6,226.01 crore (inclusive of interest accrued in the

related accounts). Out of the total exposure of ₹6,226.01 crore at the end of March 2019 to the HDIL group, only ₹439.58 crore was disclosed to the RBI and remaining ₹5,786.43 crore remained undisclosed. The RBI released further said the report on trend and progress of banking in India for the year 2018-19 and other policy and operational issues.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Upender S/o Birj Kishor R/o C-755, Mangolpuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under case **E-FIR No. 873/16 U/s 379/411 IPC.**, has been registered at **P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Upender S/o Birj Kishor**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Upender S/o Birj Kishor** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Upender S/o Birj Kishor E- FIR No. 873/16 U/s 379/411 IPC**, required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.04.2020.

By Order  
**Sh. Rakesh Kumar-II, MM (North-West Distt) Room No.105 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Rohini Courts, Delhi**

DP/2956/OD/19- Court matter

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Sanjura, W/o: Minjar, R/o: H. No. 238, Mumim ka Makan, Village-Rajapur, Sec-09, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since **11.11.2019** from the area of P.S. Prashant Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 28-A dated 13.11.2019** has been registered at P. S. Prashant Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing female are as under: **Age: 24 years, Height: 5' 1", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: White colour suit, salwar and black colour hawal sleeper in her feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
SHO P.S. Prashant Vihar, Delhi  
DP/3494/RD/19 Tel.No. 011-27557184, 8750870328

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Navneet Gupta S/o Late. Sh. Surender Kumar R/o H.No 919/7, Ward No. 7, Mehrauli, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under case **FIR No. 523/18 U/s 323/341/452/506/356/379/34 IPC**, has been registered at **P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Navneet Gupta S/o Late. Sh. Surender Kumar**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Navneet Gupta S/o Late. Sh. Surender Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Navneet Gupta S/o Late. Sh. Surender Kumar FIR No. 523/18 U/s 323/341/452/506/356/379/34 IPC** required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 17.01.2020.

By Order  
**Sh. Vaibhav Mehta, MM-5 DP/5857/SD/19- Court matter Room No. 210, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Bharat @ Mirchi S/o Dalip R/o H.No.8030, Gali No.09, Multani Dhandha, Paharganj, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **e-FIR No. 009793/17 u/s 379/411/34 IPC P.S. Janak Puri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Bharat @ Mirchi** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Bharat @ Mirchi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Bharat @ Mirchi of e-FIR No. 009793/17 u/s 379/411/34 IPC P.S. Janak Puri, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on **24.01.2020**.

By Order  
**Sh. Deepak Vats Metropolitan Magistrate Room No. 9, Ground Floor, Dwarka District Courts, Sector-10, Delhi**

DP/8533/WD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Santosh Kumar S/o Krishan Kumar R/o (1) B-48, Pocket-3, LIG-Flats, Sec-02, Rohini, Near Jaipur Golden Hospital, Red Light, Delhi (2) Saini Travels at Old Private Bus Stand Churu, Rajasthan (3) Shop No. 35, Ambedkar Market Near Gate No.-06, Tis Hazari Court, Mori Gate Delhi (4) A-117, Ekta Enclave, Near Metro Station, Peeragarhi, Delhi** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **Cr. No. 8838/17, 8839/17, 8840/17** has been registered at **P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Santosh Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Santosh Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Santosh Kumar of Cr. No. 8838/17, 8839/17, 8840/17** has been registered at **P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on **06.02.2020**.

By Order  
**Ms. Pooja Aggarwal, MM, Room No.112, Rohini Court, Delhi**

DP/9581/NW/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a one lady namely **Unknown W/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age-55 years, Height-4'6", Face-Long, Complexion-Sallow, Wearing-White Colour Printed Suit-Jamani Salwar and Hawi Chappal in her feet** found abandoned near **DDA Park, Nihal Vihar on Dated 22.11.2019** from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar. In this regard a **DD No. 73-B Dated 22.11.2019** has been lodged of **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
SHO P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-25946710, 25946700  
DP/2925/OD/19 706503619

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Kajal D/o Sh. Praveen Kumar R/o B-2/33, 3rd Floor, Sharma Colony, Budh Vihar, Ph-II, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **18.11.2019** from the area of PS Budh Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 23-A dated 20.11.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age : 19 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Oval, Wearing : Red & Black Colour Top and Black Colour Jeans and Red Colour Leather Sleeper.**

Any person having any information/clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Budh Vihar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>.

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
SHO P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi  
Rohini Distt. Delhi  
DP/3481/RD/19 Ph. No. 011-27052772, 27052773

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Mala D/o Sh. Hari Poodar, R/o H.No. C-7A, Gali No. 09, Shalimar Village, Delhi, Age : 16 yrs., Height : 5 ft., Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built : Normal, Wearing : Blue Colour Suit, White Colour Salwar and Golden Colour Sandal in Feet**, has been missing / kidnapped since **22.11.2019**. In this regard a case **FIR No. 609/19 dated 22.11.2019 u/s 363 IPC** has been registered at **PS. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

if anyone have any information / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in), Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-27495198, 8750870227

DP/9568/NW/19

Sensex zooms 428 pts on trade deal boost, Brexit clarity

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex soared 428 points to close above the 41,000-mark on Friday as the US and China reportedly reached a trade deal and Boris Johnson's win in UK general elections turbocharged global equity sentiment.

After hitting a high of 41,055.80 points, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 428 points, or 1.05 per cent, higher at 41,009.71.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty settled 114.90 points, or 0.96 per cent, higher at 12,086.70.

On a weekly basis, Sensex advanced 564.56 points or 1.39 per cent and Nifty rose 165.20 points or 1.38 per cent.

Global markets surged after reports said the US had finalised a phase one trade deal with China in return for Beijing buying more American goods.

US President Donald Trump has reportedly given his final approval to the deal which would suspend tariffs that are set to kick in from Sunday, de-escalating their 17-month trade war.

Meanwhile, Boris Johnson secured a thumping parliamentary majority in the UK's general elections, ending the uncertainty over Brexit.

Gold tumbles ₹232

New Delhi (PTI): Gold prices on Friday fell by ₹232 to ₹38,486 per 10 gram in the national capital on stronger rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

"Spot gold for 24 Karat in Delhi fell by ₹232, reflecting overnight fall in international prices. Gold prices witnessed additional pressure on stronger rupee with fall in dollar index. The spot rupee was trading around 15 paise higher during the day," HDFC Securities senior analyst (commodities) Tapan Patel said.

Silver prices fell marginally by ₹7 to ₹45,189 per kg from ₹45,196 per kg on Thursday.

Gold prices traded steady with international spot gold prices trading near USD 1,470 per ounce on Friday witnessing decline from recent highs on possible phase 1 trade deal between the US and China, Patel added.

bankex and finance indices ended up to 2.30 per cent higher. BSE telecom settled in the red. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices closed up to 0.92 per cent higher.

In rest of Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo soared up to 2.57 per cent.

Stocks in Europe were also trading significantly higher in opening deals.

Brent futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.07 per cent to USD 64.89 per barrel.

RUPEE PARES GAINS TO CLOSE FLAT AT 70.83

On the currency front, the rupee retreated from the day's high levels to close flat at 70.83 to the US dollar on Friday as surging crude oil prices after reports that the US and China have agreed on a partial trade deal weighed on the unit.

The rupee opened strong at 70.54 and surged further by 33 paise to touch the day's high of 70.50 to the US dollar, mirroring sharp gains in the stock markets.

However, crude oil prices gaining more than 1 per cent to USD 65.19 per barrel hit the rupee sentiment. The domestic unit, finally, closed flat at 70.83.

RIL arm acquires 51.78% stake in Asteria Aerospace for ₹23.12 crore

New Delhi (PTI): Reliance Industries on Friday said its wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd had acquired over 51% stake in Asteria Aerospace for ₹23.12 crore.

"RSBVL has acquired equity shares of Asteria Aerospace for a cash consideration of ₹23,12,49,584. The said investment represents 51.78% holding in the equity share capital of Asteria," Reliance Industries Ltd said in a BSE filing. The investment will further enable the group's initiatives in emerging technology, it added.

RSBVL proposes to make a further investment of up to ₹125 crore, subject to Asteria achieving agreed milestones, and is expected to be completed by December 2021, it said.

"Post the further investment, the shareholding of RSBVL will increase to 87.3% of the equity share capital of Asteria," it added. On Thursday, RSBVL had said it had picked up 85% stake in NowFloats Technologies for a cash consideration of ₹141.63 crore. Asteria, incorporated in India in June 2011, is a full-stack drone technology company with in-house drone manufacturing capabilities, and also offers software solutions to provide actionable insights from aerial data to deliver "drone-as-a-service" digital platform.

Yes Bank expects 3rd quarter to remain subdued, sees some improvement in revenue in Q4

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Yes Bank on Friday said it expects the third quarter of the current financial year to remain subdued but sees improvement in revenue in the March quarter on the back of Government measures.

The muted demand environment amid economic slowdown weighed on corporate earnings during the second quarter of 2019-20 with an aggregate revenue recording a contraction of 3.5 per cent year-on-year compared to an expansion of 3 per cent in the preceding quarter of the financial year, Yes Bank said in a note on 'Corporate Earnings and Sectoral Outlook: Q2 FY20'.

"Going forward, we expect Q3 FY20 to remain subdued, however topline growth in Q4 (fourth quarter) FY20 could see some relative improvement as the economy is likely to gradually respond to measures rolled out by the Government along with improved monetary policy transmission," the bank said.

Yes Bank had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹629.1 crore for the September 2019 quarter due to a spurt in bad loans. Its total consolidated income slipped to ₹8,347.50 crore during July-September 2019, compared with ₹8,713.67 crore in the corresponding period last year.

Restaurants may hike prices if onion remains costlier: AHAR

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR) on Friday said they may have to hike rates of the dishes that contains onion if the tuber prices does not reach to around ₹60 per kg level soon in the city.

Onion prices had touched ₹160-170 per kg in local vegetable markets across Mumbai and its suburbs over the last week.

However, on Monday, prices of the tuber began to fall by up to 30 per cent with onion growers bringing more domestic produce to wholesale markets to get the benefit of the higher prices.

"The onion prices are on a downward trend and have gone down by 30 per cent in Mumbai. We will wait and watch the trend for a week to 10 days before taking a decision of hiking prices on the dishes that contain onion," AHAR president Santosh Shetty told PTI here.

AHAR is an apex body which has over 8,000 members of big and small scale restaurants in Mumbai. The rates of onions had increased sharply in the last two months, the tuber which was available in ₹20 per kg, crossed over ₹100, Shetty said. "There are many hotels and restaurants which have cut down on onion-based items. If this situation continues, we will be left with no option but to increase the prices as we cannot sustain the business," he added. The AHAR members had called for a meeting of hotel and restaurant owners last week to decide on the future course of action.

GIC settles insider trading case with Sebi

New Delhi (PTI): General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has settled with regulator Sebi a case of alleged violation of insider trading norms by paying over ₹1.23 crore towards settlement charges. The markets watchdog had conducted an investigation in the scrip of Axis Bank and observed that state-owned GIC had delayed in making disclosures with respect to change in its

shareholding in the private lender as required under Prohibition of Insider Trading norms.

However, before proceeding further and initiating proceedings, Sebi sent a notice of settlement to the reinsurer in October 2019 intimating that proceedings may be settled and disposed of upon filing of a settlement application along with remittance of over ₹1.23 crore.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Bse 500

Table with columns: SCRIP, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: SCRIP, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

TOP GAINERS 13 DEC. A graphic showing the top 13 gainers in the BSE Sensex index, including Axis Bank (4.21%), Vedanta (3.75%), SBI (3.39%), Maruti Suzu (3.20%), IndusInd Bank (3.07%), Yes Bank (2.87%), TCS (2.72%), Tata Steel (2.39%), L&T (2.03%), and Tata Motors (1.90%).

Table with columns: SCRIP, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: SCRIP, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: SCRIP, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: SCRIP, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: SCRIP, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

Table with columns: SCRIP, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

# PM JOHNSON WINS HISTORIC UK ELECTION

## Vows Brexit by Jan 31

**PTI ■ LONDON**

Election-weary British voters gave Prime Minister Boris Johnson a "powerful new mandate" in the historic polls as his Conservative Party on Friday won a commanding majority in Parliament to allow him to finalise UK's divorce deal with the European Union next month.

Johnson, 55, who vigorously campaigned on a simple slogan "Get Brexit done," vowed that he will work "night and day" to repay the trust of the voters after the Conservatives' most emphatic majority since the 1980s under Margaret Thatcher.

A 364-seat haul gave the party a solid 78-seat majority in the 650-strong House of Commons.

Addressing a victory rally, Johnson hailed a "new dawn" which "unarguably" broke the Brexit deadlock and vowed not to let down the "sacred trust"



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie Symonds wave from the steps of number 10 Downing Street in London on Friday. AP

Johnson, who was accompanied by his girlfriend Carrie Symonds and their pet dog Dilyn at the rally.

"With this election I think we've put an end to all those miserable threats of a second referendum," he said, as he got the crowd to repeat "Get Brexit Done" numerous times during an energetic victory speech.

Johnson will soon have an audience with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, which will mark the formal start of his new government.

The Opposition Labour was down to just 203 seats, a disastrous performance for the party in decades which resulted in

leader Jeremy Corbyn announcing that he would not lead the party in the next election.

"It has been a very disappointing night for Labour... I will not lead the party in any future General Election campaign," said 70-year-old Corbyn, as he won his own seat in London's Islington North constituency.

## How world is reacting to Johnson's win

**Paris:** British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's resounding election victory was largely welcomed by governments around the world on Friday, with hopes it will put an end to years of Brexit deadlock.

"Congratulations to Boris Johnson on his great WIN!" US President Donald Trump tweeted.

"Britain and the United States will now be free to strike a massive new Trade Deal after BREXIT. This deal has the potential to be far bigger and more lucrative than any deal that could be made with the EU Celebrate Boris!"

EU Council President Charles Michel said the bloc was now ready to embark on trade talks with Britain.

"My point is very clear: we are ready. We have decided what are our priorities," he said. "I hope we will have loyal negotiations, good negotiations."

He also voiced hope for an early ratification by the British parliament of the exit agreement negotiated between London and the EU "so that we can start the negotiations on the next phase calmly, quietly but with great determination."

The EU's Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton said: "We now have to rebuild relations with Great Britain which is an important partner." He told French radio the bloc wanted "balanced" trade relations with the UK.

Britain, he said, was a very important trade partner for the EU, "but we are by far the biggest trading partner for Britain." AFP

## Ready for Brexit trade talks: EU

**Brussels:** EU leaders said on Friday they were ready for the next phase of Brexit, just hours after the resounding victory of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's party that all but seals Britain's divorce from the bloc. "My point is very clear: we are ready. We have decided what are our priorities," said EU President Charles Michel as he arrived to an EU summit where leaders will discuss the aftermath of the UK vote and Britain's planned departure from the bloc on January 31. AFP

## Trump congratulates UK's PM Boris

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump on Friday congratulated UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on his election victory, saying their two countries were now free to strike a "massive" new trade deal. Prime Minister Boris Johnson looks set to win a comfortable majority in parliament after Thursday's election. "Congratulations to Boris Johnson on his great WIN!", Trump tweeted. "Britain and the US will now be free to strike a massive new Trade Deal after BREXIT". AFP

## Corbyn: Will not lead Labour at next poll

**London:** Jeremy Corbyn on Friday said he would not lead Britain's Labour party at the next general election, after predictions of a crushing defeat at nationwide polls. "I will not lead the party in any future general election campaign," the socialist, 70, said after winning his north London seat. Corbyn went into Thursday's election offering a radical leftist programme for social change, including huge investment in public services, as well as a second referendum on Brexit. AFP

## Britain will be 'competitor at our door' after Brexit: Merkel

**Brussels:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned on Friday that Britain would be an economic "competitor at our door" after it leaves the European Union.

Merkel was speaking after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson won a resounding election victory promising to get Brexit done without further delay.

The EU is worried about the tight timetable to strike a trade deal and officials have stressed they will insist that Britain respect European norms to win the agreement.

"There will be a competitor at our door... That may also encourage us to be quicker in our decisions," the German leader said. Some Brexit supporters want Johnson to make Britain a low-tax, low-regulation "Singapore on Thames" after leaving the bloc, leading to fears in Brussels of a race to the bottom on labour, environmental and other standards. AFP

## Macron seeks 'clarity' after Johnson win

**Brussels:** French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday congratulated British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on his crushing election victory but demanded clarity over Britain's repeatedly delayed exit from the European Union.

"The time for clarity has come," Macron said after a summit with European Union leaders in Brussels, adding: "I hope the Brexit agreement will be ratified as quickly as possible by the British parliament." AFP

## Want 'constructive talk' with UK: Putin

**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday called for "constructive dialogue" with Britain's Boris Johnson as he congratulated him on a decisive general election victory. "I am sure that the development of constructive dialogue and cooperation in various spheres would be fully in the interests of our countries' peoples and the entire European continent," he said in a statement. Earlier Friday the Kremlin said it doubted however that Johnson's election victory would change Russian-UK ties for the better. AFP

## 15 Indian-origin MPs register strong result

**London:** A record 15 Indian-origin politicians entered the UK's House of Commons on Friday after a historic election won by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Indian-origin candidates across both the ruling Conservative and Opposition Labour parties registered equally strong results of seven wins each in the UK's General Election on Thursday, with around a dozen MPs retaining their seats alongside some new faces, taking their number in the UK's lower house up to 15. PTI

WESTERN RAILWAY			
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/13/2019 Date 12/12/2019			
S.N.	Short Description of items	Quantity	T.O.D.
291	10 Watt Bulk Head LED Down Lighter	9506 Nos.	06.01.20
292	HASP Locking Pin	2556 Nos.	06.01.20
293	Electro Hydraulic OT Table	1 No.	07.01.20
294	Remote Controlled Electro Hydraulic OT table with Accessories	1 No.	07.01.20
295	Control Arm Lower Left	128 Nos.	07.01.20
296	2D Echo Machine with Doppler	1 No.	08.01.20
297	Entrance Door Handle	338 Nos.	08.01.20
298	Stainless Steel Air Refresher	2274 Nos.	08.01.20
299	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	73200 Kg.	09.01.20
300	Synthetic Enamel Paint Gential Blue	53200 Ltrs.	09.01.20
301	REMUMounted AC Package Unit	25 Set	09.01.20
302	Case Hardening Steel	2500 Nos.	09.01.20
303	R/M Paint Synthetic Enamel, Exterior Finishing colour Black	129132 Ltrs.	10.01.20
304	Joint Less Grooved Copper Contract Wire	7344 Kg.	10.01.20
305	Step steel	600 Nos.	11.01.20

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.westernrailways.gov.in](http://www.westernrailways.gov.in)

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

## House to take historic vote on Trump impeachment

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**

The House Judiciary Committee is expected to approve articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Friday after abruptly shutting down a 14-hour session late Thursday following a marathon slog through Republican amendments aimed at killing the charges.

Approval of the two charges against the president would send the matter to the full House for a vote expected next week.

But the sudden turn late Thursday punctuated the deep split in the Congress, and the nation, over impeaching the Republican president.

The committee, made up of some of the most strident lawmakers, clashed all day and

into the night as Republicans insisted on lengthy debate over amendments designed to kill the two formal charges against the president but with no hope of winning votes from the majority Democrats.

Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said the committee would resume at 10 a.m. Friday.

"It is now very late at night," Nadler said after presiding over the two-day session. "I want the members on both sides of the aisle to

think about what has happened over these past two days and to search their consciences before they cast their final votes."

Trump is accused, in the first article, of abusing his presidential power by asking Ukraine to investigate his 2020 rival Joe Biden while holding military aid as leverage, and, in the second, of obstructing Congress by blocking the House's efforts to probe his actions.

The Republicans on the

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 Cr. PC**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Javed S/o Sh. Irshad Jain R/o 574, Ghoda Chowk, Khajonwali Gali, Jafrabad, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 361/15 at Police Station - RK Puram, Delhi which is punishable under section 33/58 of Indian Penal code and a warrant of arrest issued thereupon has been returned unexecuted stating that the said accused Javed could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Javed has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Javed is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.01.2020.

By Order  
Sh. Manoj Kumar  
Metropolitan Magistrate-08  
Patiala House Court,  
New Delhi

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is here by informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Seema D/o Bhoran Lal R/o Gali No. 09, Nathu Colony, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Swaroop Nagar, Delhi since **15.11.2019**. In this regard **FIR No. 457/19 U/s 363 IPC** dated **15.11.2019** at **PS Swaroop Nagar, Delhi** has been lodged. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Female, **Age:** 17 years **Height:** 5' 5" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Red Colour Suit & Black Colour Salwar and Hawai Chappal in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-  
**SHO P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi**  
**E-mail:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **Ph. No.:** 011-27811415  
**Fax No.:** 011-24368639 **Mob. No:** 7065036327  
**Tel. No.:** 011-24368638/24368641 **DP/831/ON/19**

## BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

**OA No. 841/18** **Date: 07.12.2019**  
**STATE BANK OF INDIA** **APPLICANT**  
**Versus** **SH. VIKAS SHARMA & ORS.** **RESPONDENT**  
To, DEFENDANT  
3, M/IDEA BUILDERS PVT. LTD.  
C-294, 1st FLOOR, VIVEK VIHAR, NEW DELHI-95, ALSO AT: C-10, RAMA PRASTHA, GHAZIABAD, UP-201010.

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs.17,32,439/- (RUPEE TWENTY SEVENTEEN LAKH THIRTY TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY NINE ONLY)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **29.01.2020 at 10.30 A.M.**

Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of the Tribunal,  
Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one lady Namely: **Laxmi, W/o: Golu, R/o: J-269, Prem Nagar Kirari, Delhi, Age: 20 Years, Height: 5', Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Red & Orange Sari and Pink Sandal in feet with son Aryan, Age 6 Months** has been missing/kidnapped since 26.11.2019 from the area of PS Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 14-A Dated 28.11.2019** has been lodged at **PS. Nangloi, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady with son but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped lady with son please inform the undersigned.

**Web-site :** <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**  
**E-Mail ID:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **PS. Nangloi, Delhi**  
**Fax:** 011-24368639 **Ph:** 011-25947225, 25949470  
**DP/2954/OD/19**

## UN talks struggle to stave off climate chaos

**Madrid:** United Nations climate negotiations in Madrid were set to wrap up Friday with even the best-case outcome likely to fall well short of what science says is needed to avert a future ravaged by global warming.

The COP25 summit comes on the heels of climate-related disasters across the planet, including unprecedented cyclones, deadly droughts and record-setting heatwaves.

Scientists have amassed a mountain of evidence pointing to even more dire impacts on the near horizon, while millions of youth activists are holding weekly strikes demanding government action.

As pressure inside and outside the talks mounts, old splits dividing rich polluters and developing nations -- over who should slash greenhouse gas emissions by how much, and how to pay the trillions needed to live in a climate-addled world -- have reemerged. AFP

## Martian auroras may help track planet's water loss: NASA

**Washington:** A type of aurora in Mars -- first identified by NASA's MAVEN spacecraft in 2016 -- is the most common form of the lights occurring on the Red Planet, according to a study which can help track water loss from the Red Planet.

The study, published in the Journal of Geophysical Research - Space Physics, noted that aurora on the Earth are commonly seen as colourful displays of light in the night sky near the polar regions. However, the researchers

## House panel approves Trump charges

**Washington:** US lawmakers took the grave step Friday of approving two charges against Donald Trump, setting up a full House of Representatives vote to impeach the president over his alleged misconduct.

Democrats and Republicans in the House Judiciary Committee voted along strict party lines, 23 to 17, appearing somber as they put Trump on track to become only the third president to be impeached in US history. AFP

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
**DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION.**  
**DIRECTORATE OF RAJBHASHA & O&M**  
**Rajbhasha Book Award Scheme: 2018-19 for books originally written/translated in Hindi.**

Books originally written/translated in Hindi in the field of Defence Science and Technology and Allied subjects are invited for the under-mentioned awards to promote writing books in Hindi

**Defence Science & Technology and Allied subjects**

1st Prize (one)	50,000/- ₹
2nd Prize (one)	40,000/- ₹
3rd Prize (one)	30,000/- ₹
Consolation Prize (Two)	20,000/- ₹

Details of the scheme alongwith the prescribed application form, can be obtained from the Director, Rajbhasha & O&M, DRDO HQ., Ministry of Defence, DRDO Bhawan, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110011.

Last date for submission of application form is **31st JANUARY 2020.**

**Davp/10301/11/0118/1920**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner(Cord)/RPF/Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E- Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work.

- Name of the work with its location** Hiring of one multi utility road vehicle (Innova Crysta, Tata Hexa, Scorpio or equivalent) along with vehicle driver for movement of day & night (24 hrs.) under jurisdiction of Sr.DSC/RPF/Delhi, Delhi Division on monthly basis for a period of Two years.
- Office Address** Sr.DSC (Co-ordination)/RPF, P.K.Road, New Delhi
- Approx. Cost of work (Tender value) (Rs)** Rs. 10,36,800/- with GST as applicable
- E.M.D (Rs)** Rs. 20,790/-
- Date and time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.** 15.00 hrs on 15.01.2020
- Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)
- Cost of tender documents** Rs. 2000/- + 360 GST 18% Total Rs. 2360/- payment of tender document Fee in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only

TENDER NOTICE No. -1 Sr.DSC(Cord)-RPF-V.H.-Delhi/2019-20 Dt. 12.12.2019 3983/2019

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**DIVERSION/ RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS**

**This is notified for the information of all concerned that Northern Railway will undertake the work of Electronic Interlocking at Parsakhera Railway Station on Moradabad-Bareilly Double line electrified section. To execute this work, traffic block will be taken for the duration of 5:00 Hrs from 12.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs on 16.12.2019 (Monday). Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under :-**

**DIVERSION OF TRAINS ON 15.12.2019**

Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Route
15910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh Awadh Assam Express	Via Moradabad-Chandausi-Bareilly Cantt. instead of Moradabad-Bareilly Cantt.
15211 Darbhanga-Amritsar Jannayak Express	Moradabad-Bareilly Cantt.

**RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS ON 16.12.2019**

Train No. 12358 Amritsar-Kolkata Durgiana Superfast Express will be rescheduled at 06.55 hrs instead of 05.55 hrs
Train No. 14258 New Delhi-Varanasi Kashi Vishwanath Exp. will be rescheduled at 12.35 hrs instead of 11.35 hrs

**Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).**

**Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138**

Please join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/northernrailway) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/northernrailway) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/northernrailway)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

3980/19

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

Public Relations-Northern Railway

SHORT CIRCUITS

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

It has been an eye-opening year for me. This year has bolstered my belief that I should only back content that is extremely fresh, disruptive, unique and experimental because the audience expects that from me. It has been humbling to get the kind of love and adulation from audience as well as from critics.



TWINKLE KHANNA

My partner returns from performing at the Kapil Sharma show and says, 'They were showing onion earrings to Kareena (Kapoor). I don't think she was too impressed, but I knew you would enjoy them so I got them for you'. Sometimes it's the smallest and the silliest things that can touch your heart. #onion-earrings #bestpresentaward



SARA ALI KHAN

I am super excited to be walking down the orange carpet and performing at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards for the very first time. While the details on the line-up are still being worked out, I am going to perform with Nicktoons on a song from my forthcoming film with Varun (Dhawan).



DEEPIKA PADUKONE

With more than 300 million people suffering with various problems, depression is a major contributor to the overall global burden of disease. Therefore, we need to aggressively address what is an invisible and overlooked social burden. I am humbled and deeply honoured to be chosen for this year's Crystal Award.

TAYLOR SWIFT

Lately, there has been a new shift that has affected me personally and that I feel is a potentially harmful force in the music industry. I felt the need to bring it up. The unregulated world of private equity coming in and buying up our music as if it's real estate just happened without my approval or consent.



In God's country



U2 touched down in Mumbai on Thursday night ahead of tomorrow's concert at DY Patil Stadium. It is the band's first visit to India and will see Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen play the final show on the acclaimed *The Joshua Tree Tour*. A new track titled *Ahimsa* from U2 and AR Rahman was released to celebrate the occasion. The album is influenced by American and Irish roots music and through socio-politically conscious lyrics, embellished with spiritual imagery, contrasts the group's antipathy for the "real" America with their fascination with the "mythical" America. After completing *The Joshua Tree*, Bono said that he was "as pleased with the record as I can ever be pleased with a record," calling it their most complete album since their debut.

CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES

Author AVIK CHANDA revisits the Mughal prince and makes him more relevant to contemporary times through his book *Dara Shukoh, The Man Who Would Be King*, says SAIMI SATTAR



Bahrain, which means mingling of two oceans (Hinduism and Islam). If we really want to celebrate Dara Shukoh's legacy, let us start from there," he emphasises.

He believes it is important to revisit history but not to rewrite it. "Revisiting might just be about updating ourselves, having a new perspective of things, which is not equivalent to rewriting which implies striking something off," he says. He quotes the example of taking off Tipu from textbooks. "Among the British forces which defeated the Mysore ruler was Arthur Wellesley. A couple of decades later, he moved up the ranks and became Duke of Wellington and towards the end of June 1815, he comprehensively defeated the invincible Napoleon at Waterloo. So, if Tipu did not exist and was not defeated, Wellington did not exist, if Wellington did not exist, Napoleon was not defeated and probably we would be having this conversation in French!" he exclaims and guffaws before adding, "It sounds bizarre. But the assumption is ridiculous."

To revisit Dara, he relied on three sources. "In the absence of original Persian scripts, I read translations that were accurate and non-interpolative. The second source was contemporary Europeans. For instance, Sir Thomas Roe was writing during the same time when the *Jahangir Nama* was written, so both give a perspective of the times. What is interesting among Europeans is that I have Niccolao Manucci, who is partisan to Dara's cause as François Bernier, who didn't like him and Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, who was on the periphery of the royal house. So these three different perspectives of three different Europeans who were contemporaries of Dara give an overall view."

The third category that he relied upon were historians like Jaduath Sarkar writing in 1950 right down to contemporary chronicles, like Muzaffar Alam, Sanjay Subramanian, Rajiv Kinra from whose wealth of scholarship available he benefited immensely.

Crucial to Dara is often the debate that even though he was a secular and a liberal ruler, he might not have been able to hold on to the reins of power had he ascended the throne instead of Aurangzeb. Chanda points out, "Dara along with Jehanara interceded with Shah Jahan to get the pilgrimage tax waived off. It was levied on people travelling to Benaras to worship. So if he came to power, it is fair to assume that this, as well as 'jizyah', would not have been imposed again. This naturally would have found favour among his subjects. On the other hand, he was very easily susceptible to superstitions, sycophancy and not a good judge of human character. So how would he have got good people around him? The second aspect is, like his ancestor Humayun, who was a brilliant connoisseur of arts, a liberal person, not dogmatic and large-hearted, he was unsuccessful on the battlefield, which was essential in those times." Like many questions of history, this, too, shall remain in the realm of "what if" with a million permutations and combinations.



Pinni, straight from the heart: Tahira

Author-filmmaker Tahira Kashyap describes her forthcoming short film *Pinni* as a sweet story, adding that the effort came straight from her heart.

"I have made a short film with Neena (Gupta) ji and it is produced by Gunet Monga. It's a very sweet film and it has come straight from the heart. There is nothing complicated about it. It's the voice of a woman, so I am looking forward to releasing it," said Tahira at the launch of the Audible Suno app.

She has previously directed the short film *Toffee* and the music video *Kudiyeh ni*, which featured her brother-in-law Aparshakti Khurrana. The year 2019 has been special for her husband, actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who delivered the back-to-back hits *Article 15*, *Dream Girl* and *Bala*. "I am so glad that he is doing a fantastic job. He has been picking up good scripts and I feel he has grown a lot as an actor," Tahira said, about her husband's growth as an actor.

On the Audible Suno app, she will narrate *My Ex-Breast*, a seven-episode audio series by Tahira and Gunet Monga. In this series, Tahira takes you on an intimate journey through her experience of battling breast cancer.

Talking about the forthcoming series, she said, "I am very excited because this is the first time I have done an audio show. It's a subject that is very close to my heart, so I am very excited about it. It's a quirky, fun and happy show but it deals with something really serious. I have given my voice to it and it's my story."

The Amazon-owned audio platform Audible Suno offers free access to more than 60 original and exclusive series in Hindi and English, featuring voice-acting by Ajay Devgn, Katrina Kaif, Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Guru Randhawa, Anil Kapoor, Diljit Dosanjh, Ranbir Kapoor, Tabu, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Taapsee Pannu, Mouni Roy, Karan Johar, Farhan Akhtar, Anurag Kashyap, Vir Das and Vicky Kaushal.

The variety of content spans horror, suspense and romance on the fiction front and interviews, podcasts and discussions in non-fiction, which touch upon mental health and LGBTQ+ rights among other issues.

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY

There is a tide in the affairs of men/Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune," proclaims Brutus in Act-4, Scene 3 of *Julius Caesar*. And something similar happened with business adviser, entrepreneur, trainer speaker and author, Avik Chanda, when in 2016, he decided to pen a book on Dara Shukoh, the Mughal, who despite being his father Shah Jahan's favourite, did not succeed him to the throne. Chanda had already written two books, one a novel and the second a business book "which did quite well." He was wondering whether he should follow it up with another business book, considering that "there were so many issues in the world, particularly in the disruptive economy that we find ourselves in." But he decided to give it a miss in favour of "something which is purely from my own perspective, a passion project. Something that I am really fond of, which I really want to do but which is a little out of my domain of work in sphere of experience and training." He spoke to his publisher Harper Collins and discussed it with his agent Priya Doraswamy, who felt that it was a great idea. "She told me that Dara seemed to be the forgotten Mughal. So much has been written about Akbar or Shah Jahan and even the female personages like Noor Jahan as compared to him. And very uncannily, today, when the book is out, Dara Shukoh is the man of the moment for all kinds of political reasons," he says with a laugh, speaking over the phone from Kolkata.

he started work on the book. As he started reading, he realised that so much more had been written in 100 years from 1914-15 to 2016 about Aurangzeb, who was so to say the other side of the same coin. "There was research around what his legacy meant, his politics, his kinship but all that Dara had were two fairly obscure biographies, one by Konika Ranjan Kanungo, *Life of Dara Shukoh*, in the mid-1930s and Bikram Jit Hasrat's monograph published by Vishwa Bharati. Neither was there a debate or discussion in the academic sphere or in the readers' mind," he says. Chanda realised that it was also important to talk about Dara to break stereotypes and he goes about explaining it from a different angle. "I come from the corporate world and engage in organisational transformation. Whenever we are talking of people, at the back of our minds is the premise that the person is not a great or a bad performer, manager, leader and employee. The truth is not black and white. The truth behind that perception is multi-layered, so we need to figure out what those layers are before we give any kind of a solution. And when this is true for just run-of-the-mill regular people, how much more is it true for very complicated and complex historical persons." It was this approach, which made him question the labels that we often encounter during our reading of textbook history like "good Mughal, bad Mughal," "good Muslim, bad Muslim," "good Indian and bad Indian." Even though the book had been written, the idea further got sharpened sometime last month. "Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said that we are not going to celebrate Tipu Jayanti. Then he made an official Press announcement saying

that he wants to take Tipu Sultan off the history books as if he had never existed. This is the kind of narrative that we have been seeing all this time," argues Chanda. He says that neither was Aurangzeb completely black nor Dara Shukoh pure white. There are different shades of grey. "Both of them were astute politicians. It is not that Dara never did politics, nor did Aurangzeb indulge only in Machiavellian moves and kill people. If this was the case, how did he have Rajput *rajas* fighting on Aurangzeb's side? One of the things that I wanted to do was to, in an accessible, engaging way, break these myths and stereotypes," says Chanda. When history lessons are often imparted on WhatsApp groups, how does one engage with people and make them understand that? He points out that while the internet is a great tool for the dissemination of information, the problem arises when it is used for a particular kind of information-building. "From morning to night, you keep getting different versions of history on WhatsApp. And when at midnight, you are tired and someone wants to know your opinion about the issue, you will say this is what I read and it must be true. That is a very dangerous thing. I don't even know if there is an alternative. What do we do? Create a group and say this is authentic history?" he asks. Talking about the recent killings of the alleged rapists in Hyderabad and the way social media praised them, he points to the way popular culture celebrates it. "While reading the news, I am reminded about the film *Shootout at Lokhandwala*, in which at the end they are justifying the killing, even glorifying it. It very subtly legitimises the position that this is fine and this is the way they

ought to be treated while we will look the other way," he says and adds that mob justice is even more alarming. History can give positive examples which are relevant to present times. Dara, for instance, was known to have got several religious texts translated from Sanskrit to Persian which stands in stark contrast to the recent controversy where a Muslim professor's appointment in the Sanskrit department saw protests from the students of Banaras Hindu University. "It is very unfortunate," says Chanda and adds, "Things like education and art do not belong to a particular denomination. I am a music buff and I love Hindustani classical. So one of the greatest vocalists of the past century in the genre was Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, who sang a *raag* called *Chhaya Nat*, in which the entire first part has him repeating the phrase *Sugreeva Ram Kripa Chahat Hai* (Sugreeva wants the benevolence of Lord Rama) over and over again. Should we go back and dishonour his memory and say how dare Bade Ghulam Ali sang that?" However, at his own level, he is a part of initiatives that would bring about a change in people and mindsets. He says, "Recently, I was doing a session on Dara in Kolkata, which was a part of an initiative called *History for Peace*. The history teachers of a cross-section of schools in West Bengal were told that though they had a limited time to finish the syllabus, they had to be aware of the underlying sub-currents and texts, particularly in a milieu where there might be selective representation of facts. Things like this would go a long way in disseminating the right kind of information." The author frequently equates history with present events to put things in perspective. He points to a symposium where the discussion was on Dara Shukoh being the emblem of Indianness. "I have one little point to sum up his philosophy. He wrote a book *Majma Ul*

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

# Superhero tells her story

Filmmaker RAM DEVINENI's *Priya and the Lost Girls*, despite being a comic book integrated with augmented reality, brings the grave issue of sex trafficking to the fore and makes sure the message gets delivered aptly, says SAKSHI SHARMA

she is like everyone — the power exists in all of us but is hidden in our fears. She was named by UN Women as a "gender equality champion."

**How does the story begin and move forward?**

The protagonist, Priya, continues her adventures with the flying tiger Sahas. She then returns home and discovers that all the young women of her village have disappeared, including her sister, Laxmi. She learns from her parents that they were taken to an underground city, Rahu. Priya searches for the city and discovers that it is run by a demon living in a volcano, who gets his power through fear and entrapment of women in his brothel city. The city used to be a tranquil kingdom run by Manidhari, half-snake and half-woman and her husband, Paatal. But Rahu tricked them and turned the kingdom into a wasteland and put his servant, Amrit, in charge of luring women and controlling them. Priya convinces her sister and other women to leave Rahu and break his spell over them. When the women escape and

return home, they face the stigma and prejudice from their own people and family. This angers Priya and leads to a dramatic conclusion.

**Comic books are usually seen as a fun read. So how did you conceptualise such a grave issue?**

I selected the comic book format because I grew up reading the series *Amar Chitra Katha* and was hugely influenced by it. I think mil-

lions of children have entered the collective consciousness of contemporary Indian culture by reading these stories. Comic book characters like Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman have become modern mythological icons. Other comic book stories such as Art



Spiegelman's *Maus* address important historical events. We are using existing constructs that are familiar to everyone in India but presenting them in a fresh and an original way. A comic book can talk about serious subjects too besides being entertaining.

**This edition by far has reflected upon the horrors of the brutal gangrape of 2012. Recently, the Hyderabad gangrape also initiated debates, bringing attention to how such crimes haven't really changed even in seven years. What would you say about it? Do you plan to curate this issue into the newer edition?**

Violence towards women is a major problem in India and the Hyderabad gangrape is the most extreme example of it. Creating a

cultural shift is incredibly difficult to do and takes time. The goal of the comic book series is to create empathy for survivors and challenge patriarchal views. Talking with several rape survivors, I realised how difficult it was for them to seek justice and how much their lives were constantly under threat after they reported the crime. Their family, local community and even the police discouraged them from pursuing criminal action against their attackers. The burden of shame was placed on the victim and not the perpetrators. This created a level of impunity among certain men to commit more rapes.

**Artists have the creative freedom and power to put across a perspective through their talent.**

**Does this give them a certain kind of responsibility towards the society?**

Free artistic expression is critical in a democratic society — even art that challenges and criticises society is very important. In the comic book series, I have struck a beautiful balance between storytelling, dynamic artwork, technological innovation and social responsibility.

**How have you used augmented reality to bring your comic book to life?**

Through AR we are able to embed a lot of information, interactive elements and stories from survivors. It is a powerful and imaginative tool to bring the comic book to life.

The images are markers which are activated through the Artivity App. The image can be mounted on wall, printed in a comic book on your computer screen or even on a large mural on the side of a building. The AR is really effective when you see it on a printed comic book or on street art, but it also can be viewed on the downloadable versions on your computer. The comic book is the perfect format for AR because it comprises images. Embedded in the AR are many new layers, including stories from survivors who were sex trafficked, and short documentaries. For *Priya and the Lost Girls*, we innovatively used green-screen filming to put real people and effects into the comic book. For example, the writer Dipti Mehta was filmed performing excerpts from her play *Honour: Confession of a Mumbai Courtesan*. When you scan certain pages with the AR app, she appears in the pages.

**Do you think technology plays an important role in changing perspectives?**

We believe that the use of augmented reality will have a significant impact on the readers who are not much familiar with this approach. There is a huge "wow" factor when readers experience it for the very first time. Our comic book was one of the first publications to use augmented reality in India and defined the new frontiers of integrating books, exhibitions and public art. We also created AR murals in Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru on buildings which were seen by millions.



Given the increasing graph of crimes against women, the comic book genre, too, has been moved enough to take positions. Filmmaker Ram Devineni, along with writer Dipti Mehta, decided to focus on the issue through a comic book integrated with augmented reality, *Priya's Shakti*, which was earlier showcased in an exhibition. He has now brought a third edition to it — *Priya and the Lost Girls* — which revolves around sex trafficking and gender-based violence. He introduces Priya as the first female superhero of India who is a rape survivor and acts as an inspiration for acid attack victims. He explains how his characters are animated through AR.

**Since it's the third edition of the book, what is new this time?**

*Priya and the Lost Girls* is the third in our series which focusses on Priya — India's first female superhero and a rape survivor. Her origin and the theme of gender-based violence was in the first comic book, *Priya's Shakti*. The second comic book, *Priya's Mirror*, focussed on acid attacks. And this new edition continues Priya's journey and focusses on sex trafficking.

**What was the idea behind creating a female superhero — Priya?**

We did not want to create a typical superhero. Instead, we wanted a hero whose strength is her idea. Priya is not your typical "superhero." Her strength is her power of persuasion and the power of an idea. Although she is seen riding a tiger, she has no special powers. An idea is much more powerful than Superman's strength or Wonder Woman's magic lesson. Another idea that we kept in mind was the non-violence and passive resistance that the society has. So



CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES

# Who ruled the red carpet?

The closing decade was an ever-shifting parade of fashion for Hollywood

Lady Gaga wore meat and Rihanna went naked, practically. Kate Middleton delivered royal wedding opulence and Billy Porter went viral in a tuxedo gown. There was the much-coveted Olivia Pope white coat, Lupita Nyong'o's perfect powder blue Oscar gown and Karl Lagerfeld's embrace of athleisure.

The closing decade was ever-shifting in fashion. The most special moments among fashion editors had Rihanna and Beyoncé top of mind as trendsetters, along with the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, and former first lady Michelle Obama.

Rachel Torgerson, senior fashion editor at *Cosmopolitan*, said it might seem easy to overlook the decade of 2010 to 2020 fashion-wise. Lady Gaga's raw meat dress in 2010 at the MTV Video Music Awards was a much talked about exception.

More definitive moments came before — the grunge-y '90s, the Paris Hilton-drenched early aughts," Torgerson said. "But the truth is there were some majorly iconic sartorial instances that changed us forever during this time." We'll start with Rihanna.

"My jaw dropped to the floor when Rihanna sparkled onto the stage in an Adam Selman Swarovski crystal 'naked dress' to receive her CFDA style icon award," said JoYann King, executive editorial director of *HarpersBazaar.com*. "It was as beautiful as it was provocative and began a trend that continues to rule the red carpet and our social feeds."

Laurel Pantin, fashion features director of *InStyle*, agreed, "I'll never forget it. In my dreams, that's what I look like and that's what I'm wearing."

It was 2014. The following year, at the Met Gala, Beyoncé donned Givenchy in another barely there look, a long sheer design that relied on coverage from strategically placed embroidery and a smattering of sparkles, said Andrea Laventhal, style and beauty director for *People*.

Duchess Kate wore the house of McQueen to marry Prince William in 2011, more than a year after Alexander McQueen's death. The lace and ivory satin gown included a pinched-in bodice inspired by Victorian corsetry, a signature of McQueen, but it also evoked the wedding look of Grace Kelly. It was designed by his successor, Sarah Burton.

"Literally every bride wanted to look like her then, and many still do," Torgerson said. "People are still request-



Billy Porter has provided more than a few moments but it's his showstopping black velvet tuxedo gown by Christian Siriano at Oscars that initiated a dialogue about race, gender & fashion

ing look alike."

"In this decade, not only one but two of the UK's spotlight princesses got married, which left the world pondering about who these women would choose to design their momentous wedding dresses," said Shilpa Prabhakar Nadella, fashion market director for *Glamour*. "Both have become style icons in their own right." As style icons go, few had as much impact as Obama, who caused dresses and other attire to sell out simply by putting them on and was a big booster of both fashion and diverse designers. Her choices often made headlines.

Lindsay Peoples Wagner, editor in chief of *Teen Vogue*, noted a particular Obama moment, this one by designer Tracy Reese, a rare African American woman among top designers. It was the pink sleeveless dress with specks of gold brocade that Obama wore for her speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2012. "I can still remember how the dress shimmered as she walked on that stage," Peoples Wagner said.

Like Obama, Beyoncé served a heaping plate of style throughout the decade. There was her larger-than-life black hat and layered necklaces of Swarovski crystals, leather and gems in *Formation*, from her groundbreaking *Lemonade* visual album. For her September 2018 *Vogue* cover, she was photographed by Tyler Mitchell in a huge floral headdress by Phil John Perry for Rebel Rebel. It was stun-



Michelle Obama's pink sleeveless dress with specks of gold brocade, which she wore for her speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2012, made headlines

ning and also historic: Mitchell became the first black photographer to shoot a cover for the magazine.

"The photos were so dynamic and powerful," Peoples Wagner said. Rihanna, too, has endured. Her bright yellow cape gown by Chinese couturier Guo Pei won the 2015 Met Gala and launched a thousand omelette memes, Hyland said. Pei said, "Only women who have the confidence of a queen could wear it."

By the decade's end, she would also become a powerful fashion and beauty mogul in her own right — Her Fenty Beauty line with its inclusive shades forced other brands to adapt a wider view, her Savage X Fenty lingerie line for all body types was cited as a reason for Victoria's Secret's drop in popularity, and

she became the first black woman to helm a luxury line for LVMH with Fenty.

Virgil Abloh, as creative director of Louis Vuitton's menswear, also made history. "Not only did he become one of the first black men to take over such a position in fashion, but the self-taught designer and multi-hyphenate represented a democratisation of the industry and a breaking down of boundaries previously in the way for those considered far outside the lines of the traditional fashion industry insiders," said Brooke Bobb, senior fashion news writer for *Vogue.com*.

Legendary designer Lagerfeld died in February, but his faux supermarket show for Chanel in 2014 lives on. "Karl Lagerfeld, who once equated sweatpants with 'giving up', cheekily nodded to the athleisure industrial complex with intentionally holey sweatsuits and dad sneakers," said Veronique Hyland, fashion features director for *Elle*. "It came at a turning point in fashion, with the everyday becoming more aspirational and studied casualness becoming the order of the day, even for fashion week habits. It was also prescient. These days, the Whole Foods aisle is our runway."

Kerry Washington, buoyed by *Scandal*, and Porter, uplifted by *Pose*, helped define the decade as well. "*Scandal* was pretty much everything and every adult woman wanted Olivia Pope's polished, perfect style and crisp, white waterfall overcoat," Torgerson said.

Porter has provided more than a few moments but it's his showstopping black velvet tuxedo gown by Christian Siriano that achieved his goal in February at the Oscars — A conversation about gender, race and fashion. The top half was a classic men's tuxedo jacket he wore with a bow tie and the bottom was a dramatic full skirt.

"Gender neutral fashion and inclusion emerged as a key shift in the way designers approached creative direction and their businesses," King said. "Billy Porter's tuxedo gown that went viral embodied this movement in the most glamorous way."

Porter, the black and gay breakout star of the boundary-expanding FX series, spent the awards season using fashion as political art. There were previous dresses, and there was help from powerhouses Tom Ford and Michael Kors, along with smaller designers who embrace a greater gender fluidity in their collections and were thrilled to dress him.

"People are actually listening," Porter said after the Oscars. "I hope it opens up a dialogue of healing. I will always continue to do me." —AP



## A classic revival

Actors RASHIDA JONES and KENAN THOMPSON say that *The Grinch* is a timeless story with complex layers. By TEAM VIVA

**How does it feel to be a part of the classic *Dr Seuss* story and what are your memories of the book?**

**Kenan:** It is an absolute pleasure to know Dr Seuss' history. I don't have a lot of memories with the book but I remember watching *The Grinch* on TV every year and being scared of it when I was a little kid because he was a sinister with a frown. It was very intruding and it felt like it pierced through the TV screen. I was just so confused because I loved Christmas and he hated it like anything.

**Tell us something about your character Bricklebaum and relationship with Grinch?**

**Kenan:** Bricklebaum is purported to be the happiest Who in Whoville and also believes that he's Grinch's best friend. Bricklebaum is oblivious to the Grinch's schemes throughout and his overwhelming good faith and optimism become a source of entertainment for all viewers. He is super jolly and happy-go-lucky kind of a person. It's all about Christmas for him. Grinch hates Christmas because his entire life, he has spent the festival alone, which

makes him despise the holiday. When he meets Cindy-Lou Who, his heart softens. And when you think of all the Whos, you think of how much they all love Christmas. In order to bring another character to have the opportunity to make a splash like that on top of what we already know is the highest version of Christmas celebration.

**What can the audience expect from this version of *The Grinch*?**

**Kenan:** The audience can expect a classic revival of the story with a lot of new stuff thrown in the traditional motif of watching a guy go from being horrible to amazing, underneath the umbrella of Christmas. There is no sweeter time, in my opinion, in the entire year, where everybody is on the same page, everyone is like let's just ease off from the arguing or from the tempering or from all that other stuff for a few days. For me, it starts around Halloween all the way through Christmas. Winter brings people together every year. It's the most magical time.

**How does Donna relate to the Grinch in the film?**

**Rashida:** It might sound weird but sometimes during Christmas, I feel a little grinchy myself and this film does a really good job of making the season a little bit annoying in a way that I completely relate to. It's like 'no more trees, no more lights, just give me a break.' I just need one year off exactly like Grinch. I don't know if I felt that way before, maybe that makes me Grinchy.

**Tell us something about Donna.**

**Rashida:** It was so great to see the character that I voiced come to life. You spend a lot of time making weird noises with a lot of grunts and efforts, not quite sure of how it's going to look on camera. She is a good mother, so it's actually good to see that my efforts are all worth it.

**How has Illumination brought another layer of comedy to the story?**

**Rashida:** I think that it's a timeless story and Illumination is well-known for its comedy, especially physical one. For me, that just puts another layer on top of the story because even though Grinch is kind of a bad guy but in reality, he is not and it's laughable because he is lovable in all his layers. There is something really sweet about all the crazy stuff. He is not a bad guy and is completely relatable and fun to watch.

(*The Grinch* will premiere on Sony P1X on December 22 at 1 pm and 9 pm.)

# Utd youth shines in Europa

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Teenager Mason Greenwood again grabbed his chances for Manchester United, scoring twice in a 4-0 thrashing of AZ Alkmaar in the Europa League on Thursday.

Earlier Arsenal came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at Standard Liege and also make sure of a place in the last 32 as Group F winners.

With Wolves, who crushed Besiktas 4-0, also advancing, English clubs ended with a full house in Europe with the three Europa League entries following the Premier League's four Champions League teams into the knockout rounds.

Spanish clubs also completed a full set when Getafe joined already-qualified Sevilla and Espanyol by scoring three times in the last 14 minutes to beat Krasnodar 3-0 in a showdown for second place in Group C.

However, Bundesliga leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach and Italian power Lazio made surprising exits.

At Old Trafford, in a battle for top spot in Group L, Alkmaar matched a youthful United side until the 53rd minute when veteran Ashley Young smashed the home team ahead.

Greenwood pounced on a loose ball to snap the second into the corner of the net. After Greenwood was



Mason Greenwood acknowledges crowd support after Man Utd win

ManUtd/Twitter

fouled, Juan Mata converted a penalty.

Then the Spaniard set up Greenwood for another crisp low left-footer inside the post.

Alexandre Lacazette and Bukayo Saka were on target in the space of three second-half minutes as Arsenal survived a scare to win their group.

They lived on their nerves as Eintracht Frankfurt were poised to knock them off top spot when the Germans led Guimaraes 2-1.

However, the Portuguese side,

already eliminated, scored twice in the last five minutes to claim a 3-2 win.

With a place in the knockout round already virtually certain, Arsenal caretaker coach Freddie Ljungberg made nine changes to his starting line-up in Belgium.

The home side took the lead just after half-time when a speculative Samuel Bastien shot took a huge deflection.

The goal meant Arsenal had failed to keep a clean sheet in their last 13 matches in all competitions.

It got worse after 69 minutes when Selim Amallah made it 2-0 off another deflection as Liege looked for the unlikely scoreline of 5-0 which would put them through and Arsenal out.

However, Lacazette calmed Arsenal nerves after 78 minutes when he headed in a cross from Saka.

## LATE DRAMA

Three minutes later, the impressive Saka levelled with a fine finish from the edge of the box.

On a night of late drama, Gladbach conceded in the 91st minute to lose 2-1 to Istanbul Basaksehir and drop from first to third in Group J and out of the competition.

Marcus Thuram had given the Germans a 33rd minute lead. Irfan

Can Kahveci replied before half time and Enzo Crivelli hit the late winner after a goalmouth scramble.

Basaksehir topped the pool. Roma, held 2-2 at home to Austrians Wolfsberg, were second.

In a straight shootout for second in Group H in Razgrad, Bulgaria, substitute Nikolay Signevich scored five minutes into added time to give Ferencvaros a 1-1 draw with Ludogorets.

The Hungarians finished one point ahead of Ludogorets in second place behind Espanyol.

Celtic, fresh from winning the Scottish League Cup last weekend and already assured of making the last 32, lost 2-0 at Cluj who went through as Group E runners-up behind the Scots.

Lazio, third in Serie A, were knocked out after a 2-0 loss at Rennes in the same group.

Rangers got the draw they needed with a 1-1 home draw against Young Boys of Berne in Group G.

Alfredo Morelos gave the home team the lead but in the 89th minute Borna Boric put into his own goal to deprive the Glaswegians of first place in Group G.

That went to Porto who beat Feyenoord 3-2 in a game in which all the goals came in the first 33 minutes.

## SINGLES

### COMAN EXPECTED BACK IN JANUARY

Munich: Bayern Munich's team doctor expects French winger Kingsley Coman to be able to play again soon after the January winter break despite suffering a knee injury. Coman had to be helped off on Wednesday when his left knee buckled while he was running for the ball, prompting fears of another long spell on the sidelines for the injury-prone star. However, tests showed Coman tore the capsule around the joint — a less severe injury than feared — and he should be able to take part in Bayern's training camp in Doha, which starts on January 4.

### GERRARD SIGNS NEW RANGERS DEAL

GLASGOW: Steven Gerrard has signed a contract extension at Scottish Premiership giants Rangers that will keep him at Ibrox until 2024. The former Liverpool and England player, appointed in May 2018, led the club to a runners-up spot in the league in his first season. On Thursday the 39-year-old guided Rangers into the last 32 of the Europa League. "Rangers Football Club is today delighted to announce manager Steven Gerrard has agreed a two-year extension which will keep him at Ibrox until the summer of 2024," it said in a statement.

### PEP DENIES MAN CITY BREAK CLAUSE

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola has denied having a clause in his contract that would allow him to leave Manchester City at the end of the season. The Spaniard signed a deal last year keeping him at the Etihad Stadium until 2021, but reports had suggested that the deal included an option allowing Guardiola to depart 12 months early. Speaking at Friday's press conference ahead of the weekend clash with Arsenal, Guardiola said: "No, it is not true. I spoke a few weeks ago about my intentions with the club."

Agencies

# Klopp agrees new Reds deal

AFP ■ LONDON

Jurgen Klopp has agreed a contract extension with Liverpool until 2024, the runaway Premier League leaders announced on Friday.

Klopp, who moved to Anfield in 2015, guided Liverpool to Champions League glory in June and they are currently eight points clear at the top of the Premier League.

"For me personally this is a statement of intent, one which is built on my knowledge of what we as a partnership have achieved so far and what is still there for us to achieve," the 52-year-old Klopp told Liverpool's official website.

"When I see the development of the club and the collaborative work that continues to take place, I feel my con-

tribution can only grow."

A statement from owners the Fenway Sports Group (FSG) said Liverpool had taken "giant strides in re-establishing themselves as one of world football's powerhouses" under the German.

During Klopp's first campaign at Anfield, Liverpool reached the finals of both the League Cup and Europa League but ended the season empty-handed.

They lost 3-1 to Real Madrid in the 2018 Champions League final but regrouped and became European champions for a sixth time after a 2-0 win against Tottenham in Madrid this year.

Liverpool lost just one match in the Premier League last season, racking up 97 points -- the best in the club's history -- but missed out on the title by a

solitary point to Manchester City.

## PREMIER LEAGUE CHARGE

So far this season, Klopp has overseen Liverpool's surge to the top of the Premier League, where they currently sit eight points clear after 15 wins from their opening 16 matches. They are chasing their first English top-flight title since 1990, and their 19th overall.

Klopp, who won two Bundesliga titles with Borussia Dortmund, said success on the pitch was not the only measure of progress — he had also seen commitment from the owners.

"When the call came in autumn 2015, I felt we were perfect for each other. If anything, now I feel I underestimated that. It is only with a total belief that the collaboration remains totally

**So far this season, Klopp has overseen Liverpool's surge to the top of the Premier League, where they currently sit eight points clear after 15 wins from their opening 16 matches. They are chasing their first English top-flight title since 1990, and their 19th overall.**



Jurgen Klopp poses for photo after signing new Liverpool contract LFC/Twitter

complementary on both sides that I am able to make this commitment to 2024.

"If I didn't I would not be re-signing. This club is in such a good place I couldn't contemplate leaving."

Assistant managers Peter Krawietz and Pepijn Lijnders have also agreed deals keeping them at the club until 2024.

Principal owner John Henry, chairman Tom Werner and FSG president Mike Gordon said in a joint statement: "We are absolutely delighted we have been able to reach an agreement with Jurgen, as well as Peter and Pep, on extending their time with the club.

"As we are sure our supporters would agree, it is truly wonderful news and we are all extremely thrilled, not only professionally, but personally too." Liverpool reached the knockout stages of the Champions League with a 2-0 win against Salzburg on Tuesday and will play in the Club World Cup in Qatar later this month.



PV Sindhu in a file picture

# Sindhu beats Bingjiao for consolation win

PTI ■ GUANGZHOU

Already out of reckoning, India's PV Sindhu recorded a consolation win over China's He Bingjiao in the third Group A match to end her campaign on a positive note at the year-ending BWF World Tour Final here on Friday.

Sindhu, whose title defence lay in tatters after her second successive loss on Thursday, scripted an incredible turnaround after being 9-18 down in the opening game to eventually outwit Bingjiao 21-19, 21-19 in minutes and finish third in the group.

This win also snapped Sindhu's run of four straight losses to the Chinese, making their head-to-head record 6-9.

The Indian struggled with her precision initially, allowing Bingjiao to lead 7-3 at one stage in the opening game.

long as Bingjiao jumped to a 18-9 lead.

However, the Indian effected a massive recovery, rattling off nine straight points to draw parity at 18-18.

Bingjiao managed to break the run of points before a deceptive return to serve took Sindhu to 19-19. The Indian then gathered the remaining two points to edge past Bingjiao in the opening game.

Sindhu carried her momentum in the second game, opening up a 7-3 lead initially and then moving to 11-6 advantage at the interval.

Bingjiao punished the two weak returns from Sindhu but then started committing unforced errors as the Indian lead 15-10.

The Chinese soon narrowed the gap to 16-18 before Sindhu won a point after a gruelling rally.

A good judgement at the backline earned Sindhu three match points. Bingjiao saved two before Sindhu sealed it with a smash on the third.

Sindhu will be next seen in the Premier Badminton League.

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

In a major setback for All India Chess Federation President PR Venketrama Raja, the Union ministry of sports has cancelled an urgent meeting of the AICF convened by him in Chennai on December 14 and asked him to follow a spate of directives failing which the Federation could be derecognized or suspended.

The ministry stepped into the AICF factional war on a petition from the Federation secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan.

Raja convened the urgent meeting after issuing an order to cancel a prescheduled General council meeting of the AICF convened by Chauhan in Gurgaon on December 22. The AICF secretary and the President are at loggerheads over a spate of issues. Raja recently issued a show cause notice on Chauhan, asking him to explain some 'so-called irregularities' committed by him violation of the AICF constitution.

"It's great day for me. I served chess with sincerity and passion for more than four decades. No one ever raised a finger at me. Now, some people were trying to tarnish my image. I'm thank-

# Sports ministry steps in AICF dispute

## Major setback for AICF prez

ful to God to save my honour and dignity," Chauhan told The Pioneer.

Chauhan wrote to the sports ministry that Raja is trying to protect West Bengal chess association secretary Atanu Lahiri, who is facing serious corruption charges leveled by Grandmaster Dibeyndu Barua.

Barua had accused Lahiri of diverting state fund for chess promotion to his (Lahiri's) company Global Chess and banning several top players on flimsy grounds.

Chauhan backed Barua and chess players and issued strong statement against Lahiri. Raja expressed displeasure over this press release and formed a three-member committee to probe Barua's charges. Interestingly, he kept Chauhan outside the committee ignoring the fact that as per AICF constitution Secretary has to be part of all such committees.

Barua has objected to the compo-

sition of the probe committee contending that in-house committee can never fairly probe alleged misconduct of another office-bearer of the Federation. Incidentally, Lahiri is joint secretary of the AICF.

The three-member committee gave a clean chit to Lahiri and authorized him to conduct the election of the state chess association. Barua approached the Kolkata High Court against the order. In a major setback to the AICF, the court appointed two administrators to conduct the elections.

The Raja faction faced another major loss of face when the Sports Authority of India (SAI) found that Lahiri had submitted fake utilization certification of a national event organized by the state chess associations, who wanted the ministry and SAI to intervene in the dispute.

Raja referred the matter to the same committee which had given clean chit to Lahiri and also asked Chauhan to attend its meeting on December 5. Chauhan refused to attend the meeting, asked for setting up a new committee, and suggested that the AICF should file a FIR for faking the utilization certificate.

In this background, Chauhan approached the sports ministry, expressing apprehension that Raja had convened the urgent meeting in Chennai on December 14 to expel him from the association and sought the ministry's intervention. He also submitted letters from 18 top Indian players including GM Barua, Abhijit Kunte, Deep Sengupta and others, and majority of the state chess associations, who wanted the ministry and SAI to intervene in the dispute.

In the letter to Chauhan dated December 13, the sport minister has

referred to the two parallel meeting convened by the President and secretary on December 14 and December 22.

"As the matter relating to financial irregularities in conduct of national championship and forged signatures are to be discussed, the Ministry will depute an observer for the meeting. The meeting proposed to be convened by the President, AICF on 14.12.2019 may be cancelled and meeting may be held on 22.12.2019 as scheduled by Hon. Secretary, AICF, so that the Government observer is able to attend the meeting." The ministry said.

The ministry has warned that in case their directions were flouted and there is an attempt to suppress the complaints regarding financial irregularities "the Government will take a serious view in the matter, warranting action for suspension/de-recognition of the federation by the Ministry."

# I was mentally and physically ruined: Maxwell

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell said being constantly on the road for the past "four to five years" had mentally and physically ruined him, forcing him to take a mental health break in October.

Maxwell had opted out of Australia's T20I series against Sri Lanka after playing the first two matches to address his mental health.

"I was pretty cooked when I decided to take the time off. Big reason why I did take that time away is I was pretty mentally and physically ruined," Maxwell was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"I think it was eight months on the road, living out of a suitcase and that probably had been going on for four or five years, just constantly on the road and it all just caught up with me at that time.

"I really want to thank Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria and the Stars for giving me that space and allowing me to have that time away from the game and get myself right."

Maxwell said it was his girlfriend, who first noticed the change in him.

"It was actually my partner who suggested I speak to someone, she was the first one who noticed it, so I should probably thank her as well. Once I had that initial conversation it was a big weight off my shoulders," he said.

"My girlfriend was probably No. 1, it wasn't an easy job for her to deal with me going



Glenn Maxwell shakes hand with teammate Seb Gotch

MelbourneStars/Twitter

through my mood swings for the first few weeks, but Michael Lloyd was the guy I had the initial conversation with, he's been someone who I've confided in since back in the academy days, so I've known him for well over a decade now."

On a comeback trail now, the 31-year-old will make his domestic cricket return, captain-

ing Melbourne Stars in their opening Big Bash match later this month.

"It probably took a bit longer than I thought it was going to take, it was an interesting six weeks, away from the game and there was probably times I thought I was going to come back earlier," Maxwell said.

"I've been getting back in the swing of things for a while, I've been around the Vics change rooms for the last two or three weeks now, so I've sort of been floating around and watching a few of the one dayers and just trying to get back into the change room atmosphere again.

"Once I got back into club cricket, the cycle started to feel a bit more normal again and I feel like I'm back at home. Coming back here with the Stars feels like home again, a new coach, a bit of familiarity as an ex-player, but it's a great change room to be a part of, it's very welcoming."

Maxwell said he will try to manage his playing commitments better and also be more careful of his self-expectations in the remainder of his career.

"I did put a bit of pressure on myself to try and play as much as I could this year and, rightly or wrongly, I didn't come out of it the way I thought I was going to. I'll have a look at that next year," Maxwell said.

"A holiday was actually spending time at home. I spent as much time at home as I could with friends and family. I tried to stay fit, and I still watched a fair bit of cricket over that time, but pretty exciting to get going now.

"I look at it a little bit differently, a little bit more respect for taking care of myself in all aspects of the game and not losing sight of taking care of myself in those times where you're in a hotel room pretty constantly and being able to have that time to myself and refresh," he added.

# 'Dube will get better with confidence'

# Starc's magic puts Aus in front

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India bowling coach Bharat Arun strongly feels that Shivam Dube has all the ingredients to become a good all-rounder at the international level as he keeps gaining confidence with every international game that he plays.

Dube came into the limelight with his big-hitting prowess during an innings of 54 in 30 balls during the second T20 International against West Indies in Thiruvananthapuram.

He hit four sixes in that innings apart from a good show with the ball in an earlier series against Bangladesh.

"He is an exciting prospect and I think he is gaining in confidence from every game. Even you if look at the way he came back the way after he bowled the first over (in Mumbai) against West Indies, I think that was creditable. For Virat (Kohli), to show faith in him after the first over and also for him to bowl a good spell after that..."

"And I think he is an exciting talent for us. As he gains in confidence, he will become a good all-rounder," Arun said.

He was all praise for seamer Deepak Chahar, who has done well in the recent T20 games, the Indian bowling coach said he has got everything in him to do well consistently at the international level.

"Deepak has been exceptional even in the IPL. He is someone who can move the ball both ways. He is also a very skillful bowler, bowling

**SHIVAM IS AN EXCITING PROSPECT AND I THINK HE IS GAINING IN CONFIDENCE FROM EVERY GAME. AND IF HE CONTINUES TO DO SO HE WILL BECOME A GOOD ALL-ROUNDER**  
—BHARAT ARUN

slow bouncers, yorkers, I think with so much skill on hand... Let me put it this way, he has got everything in him to do well at the international level," he added.

Wrist spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal hasn't featured together in recent games unlike the last two years in the lead up to the World Cup.

"See, we were looking at an ideal combination which lends absolute balance to the team. Also there was an option to use Ravindra Jadeja as an all-rounder. That really helped us. There may be occasions when there may be conducive conditions where both can be used. We have to look at overall balance of the team," he added.

Looking ahead to the first ODI



India allrounder Shivam Dube during net session

BCCI/Twitter

against the West Indies boasting of aggressive batsmen, asked if the India bowlers can tame the rival batsmen, he said their batsmen come after you there is always a chance.

"Definitely, I think yes. The last two out of three games we have won, the bowling also has done pretty well. I am sure we have the bowling to restrict them, but saying that West Indies are an extremely competitive side. But when their batsmen come after you, you also have a chance against them," he added.

Arun said that the team was not overtly worried about the dew factor.

About the fitness status of pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, he said the physios are taking a call and they would be giving a press release later in the evening after the assessment.

About the Indians having a number of quality fast bowlers presently, Arun said it augurs well but it would be horses for courses policy.

"...The more number of bowlers do well, I think it augurs well for us. So it gives you a varied pool of bowlers to choose from. Also we would be seeing the conditions, New Zealand would be different, Australia would be different. So it will be horses for courses," he added.

On not playing right-arm off-spinners more in the ODIs, he said: "As it is, if you look at Jadeja, you have a readymade all-rounder for us. Jadeja, after the World Cup, he has been exceptional for us. He bowls well, bats well and is the best fielder in the world. He adds a lot of dimension for us."



Australian players celebrate as Henry Nicholls leaves the field after being dismissed

IAN S ■ PERTH (AUSTRALIA)

Bowlers dominated Day 2 of the first Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Perth Stadium. Ross Taylor's resilience has given the visitors hopes of not having to follow-on, but Australia are firmly in the driver's seat in the Test having blown away the Kiwi top-order in the final session. New Zealand ended the day on 109/5, trailing Australia by 307 runs.

Australia were all out for 416 earlier in the day and Mitchell Starc started the rampage with the wicket of Tom Latham in the very first over of the innings. Hazlewood then castled Jeet Raval with a searing inswinger that went straight through the gates.

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor then held on in what was treacherous conditions for the batsmen. Hazlewood pulled up short while bowling the third ball of the fourth over and walked off. His participation for the day ended with that incident.

Cummins and Starc steamed in on the two batsmen with Matthew Wade bowling two overs in between before Nathan Lyon was brought into the attack. New Zealand did not lose a wicket until the

23rd over in which Williamson fell to Starc largely thanks to a stunning catch at second slip by Steve Smith.

Henry Nicholls replaced his captain and survived for five overs before becoming Starc's third wicket. Neil Wagner, sent in as nightwatchman, was dismissed the very next ball. Starc didn't get his hat-trick and Taylor, who scored a fifty, ended the day with a four towards mid-on.

Earlier, Australia started the day on an overnight total of 248/4 with centurion Marcus Labuschagne and Travis Head at the crease. It was Labuschagne who fell first after adding 33 runs to his total. Neil Wagner bowled an inswinger from round the wicket that castled him and Labuschagne walked with 143 off 240 balls to his name.

Head went on to score a fifty in the 110th over and fell two overs later to Tim Southee, going for a wide ball outside off with a drive that was caught at cover.

Captain Tim Paine and Pat Cummins then held fort into the next session and it was Jeet Raval who got the latter out after he had absorbed 84 balls. Paine batted on with the tail and was the last man to be dismissed as the Australian innings wrapped up for 416.

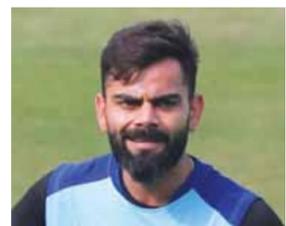
PTI ■ CHENNAI

Virat Kohli is the "benchmark" and that is why all West Indies players should work as hard as the Indian captain to achieve their goals, feels their assistant coach Roddy Estwick.

In a media interaction ahead of the ODI series, which begins here on Sunday, said the team's young cricketers like Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran must learn from opposition skipper Kohli.

"It's exciting times for us when you look at guys like Hetmyer, Pooran and Hope. We have got young batsmen who are developing.

# Kohli is the benchmark for WI youngsters



India's captain Virat Kohli warms up during a training session

But the key thing is how you prepare to work hard. You have got a benchmark in Virat Kohli. He is somebody who will be in the gym and work very hard," he said on Friday.

"A lot of players can learn from him. Then, we have got a chance. Without hard work, there is no success. Hard work is boring but it can give you great success. Once they keep working and dealing with the process, they will have a chance."

He said the players had been brilliant on this tour but cautioned that in cricket one cannot relax.

"They have been brilliant on this tour, we can't fault them. They have worked really hard. They are beginning to see the results. If you look at Hetmyer's play in the T20s, it was exciting. Now, we move to a longer format. People forget the fact that at a very young age, he already has four ODI hundreds. Obviously, there is a lot of talent there. In cricket, you cannot rest and relax," he added.

Estwick also said the West Indies team had done well to bridge the gap with India in the T20s and hoped to do the same in the ODIs too. The visitors lost the T20 series 1-2.

"We are happy with the way we performed in the T20s. When these two teams played three T20s in the Caribbean, the gap between them was wide. We are happy that we have narrowed that gap (in the T20 matches) and hope to do the same in 50 overs," he added.



# INDIAN NAVY

## An Ocean of Opportunities

10+2 (B.TECH) CADET ENTRY SCHEME (PERMANENT COMMISSION)  
COURSE COMMENCING – JUL 2020

Indian Navy invites online application for a four year degree course under the 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry Scheme from unmarried eligible Male candidates who Passed Senior Secondary Examination (10+2 Pattern) or its equivalent examinations from any Board with at least 70% aggregate marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) and at least 50% marks in English (either in Class X or Class XII).

### Age Limit.

Born between **02 Jan 2001** and **01 Jul 2003** (Both dates inclusive).

### Note:

- (a) Candidates are to register and submit their application on the recruitment website [www.joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in) from 29 Nov to 19 Dec 2019. To save time during the application submission window, candidates can fill in their details and upload documents in advance.
- (b) Online (e-application):- Whilst filling up the e-application, it is advisable to keep the relevant documents readily available to enable correct filling up of personal particulars.
- (c) Details are to be filled up as given in the Matriculation Certificate/12<sup>th</sup> Certificate.
- (d) Fields such as e-mail address, mobile number are mandatory fields.
- (e) All relevant documents (preferably in original) Date of birth proof (as per 10<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> certificates), 10<sup>th</sup> marksheet, 12<sup>th</sup> marksheet, JEE (Main)-2019 score card (indicating All India Rank) and a recent passport size colour photograph should be scanned in original in JPG/TIFF format, for attaching the same while filling up the application.
- (f) If any scanned document is not legible / readable for any reason, the application will be rejected.
- (g) Print one copy of online application form and carry it along with original certificates/documents while appearing for SSB interview.

### IMPORTANT –

- (a) The full advertisement regarding detailed information and selection procedure will be published in Employment News dated 23 Nov 19 and will also be available on [www.joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in). The candidates can apply 29 Nov to 19 Dec 2019. It is advisable to apply early, to avoid network congestion on last date.
- (b) Please read the instructions given on the website carefully before finally submitting your online application.
- (c) Your application is subject to subsequent scrutiny. The application can be rejected, if found INELIGIBLE/INVALID at any point of time.
- (d) After closing of online application, no request will be entertained for amendment in the uploaded documents.
- (e) Your candidature will be cancelled if any declaration is found wrong at any stage of selection process.
- (f) The terms and conditions, given in this Advertisement, are subject to change and should, therefore, be treated as guidelines only.

Apply online through QR Code  
Step1: Download QR Code Scanner App  
Step2: Open QR Code Scanner App and Scan it  
Step3: Open URL & follow the instructions

