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NEARBY



Cong. MP for privilege motion against Smriti

NEW DELHI
Congress member of the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore has given a notice of privilege against Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani for allegedly misleading the House on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks about rape. Mr. Tagore met the LS Secretary General on Monday, seeking privilege proceedings against Ms. Irani.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

HC annuls election of Azam Khan's son as MLA

ALLAHABAD
In a jolt to RAMPUR MP Azam Khan, the Allahabad HC on Monday annulled the election of the senior SP leader's son Abdulla Khan as an MLA on the ground that he was underage and not qualified to fight the poll in 2017. A Bench of Justice S.P. Kesarwani declared the election of the junior Khan from the Suar Assembly segment null and void on a plea by defeated BSP candidate Nawab Kazim Ali Khan.

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Students erupt in nationwide protests

■ Police action in Jamia, AMU sends youth out to the streets

■ Opposition, ruling fronts unite in Kerala against CAA

■ Won't implement citizenship law or NRC, declares Mamata



Boiling point: Various organisations staging a protest at India Gate in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Attack on India's soul'

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra led a dharna at India Gate in the capital, condemning the Narendra Modi government for bringing the CAA and attacking innocent students of Jamia Millia. "An attack on students is an attack on the soul of India," she said.

Speaking at the Kolkata rally, Ms. Banerjee said, "As long as I am alive, I will never implement the citizenship law or the NRC [National Register of Citizens] in the State. You can very well dismiss my government or put

me behind bars, but I will never implement this black law. We will continue to protest democratically till this law is scrapped. If they want to implement it in Bengal, they will have to do it over my dead body."

In Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Centre had perverted the original law by introducing a communally polarising amendment that discriminated against Muslims. Mr. Vijayan added

that Kerala, with its distinctive secular character, would lead the widespread resistance to the Centre's move to undermine the secular foundation of the Constitution.

Meanwhile, protesters vandalised a police station and torched vehicles in Mau in Uttar Pradesh, prompting the police to fire in the air. Two men who were apparently caught in the Jamia violence are being treated for "gunshot injuries" at Safdarjung Hospital here, sourc-

es said on Monday, but the police insisted the wounds could be from the sharp end of tear-gas shells.

SC to hear pleas today

The Supreme Court, which agreed to hear on Tuesday pleas alleging police atrocities on students at Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia, said it would not hear this issue in an atmosphere of violence. "The only thing we want is that the violence must stop," said a

Bench headed by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde.

Speaking at a joint Opposition press meet, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury demanded an inquiry by a Supreme Court judge into the Jamia incident.

(With inputs from Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Mumbai, Guwahati and PTI)

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RULES READY ▶ PAGE 12

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR PLEAS FOR JUDICIAL PROBE ▶ PAGE 13

+ Students released, but protests continue at Jamia

Demonstrations also at DU, India Gate and outside Delhi Police Headquarters

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Protests continued at Jamia Millia Islamia on Monday, a day after the police baton-charged and fired tear-gas shells at students and other protesters agitating against the amended citizenship law.

Thirty-five students who had been detained by the police were released in the early hours of Monday. Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar put to rest rumours that a student of the university had been killed during the protest, but decried the police action.

Protests also erupted at Delhi University, outside the Police Headquarters and at India Gate in the evening with heavy police deployment. Two reporters of a news agency were allegedly assaulted by protesters and were rushed to Holy Family Hospital for treatment. Police said the accused will be iden-



All India Students' Association members protesting at DU against Sunday's police action at Jamia Millia Islamia.

■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

tified in due course and action taken against them.

The area around Jamia where clashes broke out on Sunday remained relatively calm even as several people gathered at street corners, discussing the previous day's events. Though there was support for the students' right to protest, several residents The Hindu spoke to

said that the violence was wrong.

At Delhi University, members of students' groups, including AISA, NSUI and ABVP, gathered at the Arts Faculty.

While the police maintained that there was heavy deployment to maintain law and order, several protesters claimed that right-wing acti-

vists manhandled them. Students also alleged that earlier in the day, there was a police crackdown on students who were "peacefully protesting by boycotting examinations".

2 FIRs registered

The Delhi police lodged two FIRs in connection with the violence during Sunday's protest in the Jamia Nagar area and Mathura Road.

The Delhi government said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has sought an appointment with Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the issue. "AAP is completely against any kind of violence. Whoever has indulged in and instigated the violence must be punished after a thorough and independent probe of the entire matter," said AAP Delhi convener and Delhi Minister Gopal Rai.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGES 2 & 3

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Govt. releases ₹35,298 cr. in GST compensation

Transfer done ahead of Council meet

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

The Centre released ₹35,298 crore to the States in Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation on Monday, just two days before a crucial meeting of the GST Council. The decision comes at a time when several States had urged the Centre to transfer the compensation payments, which have been pending for several months, with the Punjab govern-

ment warning that it was prepared to take the issue to the Supreme Court.

Speaking at an event earlier in the day, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sought to assure the States that the Centre would not renege on its promise to compensate them and explained that the delay was because GST collections had been lower than expected.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Jamia, AMU VCs present a study in contrast

While Najma Akhtar stood by her students, Tariq Mansoor allowed the police on campus



Najma Akhtar



Tariq Mansoor

huge damage to university property," Ms. Akhtar said on Monday. She went a step further, saying the university will lodge an FIR over the damage to property and police action on students. The VC also said that the university has requested the Ministry of Human Resource Development to order a probe into the police crackdown.

Ms. Akhtar sought to assuage the students, saying the police swoop impacted

protests in different parts of the city.

Registrar Abdul Hamid, an IPS officer, who is being seen as the man who helped the VC make the decision to allow the police to enter the campus, said late in the evening that 26 persons have been arrested. "Nine or 10 of them are university students. The rest are all outsiders. The students would be released soon," he told The Hindu. AMU old-timers say this is the first time the police were allowed to enter hostels and pick up students. "Earlier, police were allowed to enter only when the students would cause harm to the campus property during any protest against the administration and it was limited to the Vice Chancellor's Lodge and the administrative block," said a university official, requesting anonymity.

Unnao rape case: Sengar found guilty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday held former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar guilty of raping a minor in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao in June 2017. Arguments on the quantum of sentence, which may extend to life imprisonment, will be heard on Wednesday.

The court said the victim's testimony was unblemished and truthful, and was proved to be of "sterling quality" to arrive at the conclusion that she was sexually assaulted by Sengar. However, the accused Shashi Singh got the benefit of the doubt and was acquitted.

Sengar was convicted of the charge of committing offences under Section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code, read with Sections 5 (c) (public servant committing penetrative sexual assault on a child) and 6 (punishment of minimum 10 years, which may extend to life imprisonment, and fine) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

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'Why did police beat us? We were studying'

Students recall the incident when police barged into the Jamia Millia Islamia library and hit them with batons

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

"We were peacefully sitting inside the library and studying. We were not even protesting outside. I don't know why they hit us," said Taj Mohammed (23), second year student of Masters in Islamic Studies as he lay on the bed at Al Shifa Hospital.

Recalling the incident when police entered the Jamia Millia Islamia campus here on Sunday evening, the native of Uttar Pradesh said that though holidays had been declared, he hadn't gone home as he was preparing for his National Eligibility Test examination and goes to the library to study.

"It was around 6-6.30 p.m. when police entered forcibly. As soon as they entered, they started abusing us. They had sticks in their hands and were wearing helmets and jackets. They threw our books. My mobile phone was on the table, a cop took it and broke it," he said.

Next, as he recalled, he was hit on his head and back with a stick after which he lay semi-conscious on the floor. He was taken to the Holy Family Hospital by a group



of students. In the morning, he was shifted to the Al Shifa Hospital where he underwent treatment and was later discharged.

A female student who didn't wish to be identified said: "I'll never forget it. Police didn't care whether it was male or female. They charged at us with sticks. I hid under a table and made a short video but within se-

conds, a cop saw us and pulled out a male friend hiding next to me." Zaful Islam, a research scholar, said: "We requested them to not use force on us but they did not listen."

Malik Mahmood, final year student of Masters in Islamic Studies, was at the old library sitting and studying. As police entered, he ran out to save himself, he recalled.



Broken door and windows of the library at Jamia Millia Islamia; (above) abandoned bags of university students. • R.V. MOORTHY

Standing next to him was his friend Amir Fahad who claimed that a blind friend of his who was also inside the library pleaded with cops and told them that he was blind but they abused him.

The injured also included Jamia school students, 17-year-old Mustafeez Mumtaz and 18-year-old Shahzeb who nursed their wounds at the hospital.

Inzamam Ul Haq (21), student of Development Communication, recalled how stayed inside the washroom next to the library and drank water from the taps after being lathi-charged. Carrying

salt in the jacket of his pockets which he wore on Sunday and continued to wear on Monday, he said, "My eyes hurt. I didn't feel like a student yesterday. I was made to feel like a criminal".

Scene of mayhem

The new library inside the University, on Monday, was a testimony to the mayhem on Sunday. The bags of students, papers and books which were lying on the tables remained as it is.

The blue coloured plastic chairs were spread haywire and upside down. The glasses, broken.

In Jamia, entering a library is a first for the police

'Mob' violence cannot justify police brutality. In any democracy, a uniformed force must be an accountable one

AMIT BARUAH
NEW DELHI

The scenes of police personnel barging into the library of a university, beating students and firing tear-gas shells inside an enclosed space are quite unprecedented. So are pictures of two students lying injured inside a toilet.

Overnight scenes of police brutality in and around Jamia Millia Islamia, which have been captured by journalists and protesters alike, cannot be justified on the grounds that "mobs" indulged in violence. The onus is always on law enforcement authorities to use minimum force.

Police versus protesters

In any democratic polity,

where the rule of law applies,

a uniformed force must be accountable for its actions. The police are supposed to be trained for dealing with provocations;

they are not supposed to lash out in anger against

students inside a library or outside a house.

The burning of buses or destruction of public property is abhorrent, but so are the scenes of uniformed policemen beating student protesters.

A point of interest is that while the Jamia Vice-Chancellor, appointed by the BJP government earlier this year, has come out openly against the police entry into her university, Aligarh Muslim University Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor went on record to say on Monday that he had called the police to the AMU campus to deal with antisocial elements.

The issue of police entry into a university campus has always been a difficult one. So far, the police would only enter a university campus with prior permission.

With the Vice-Chancellor going on record, it's clear that this did not happen in the case of Jamia.

any bystander.

Contrasting approaches

Unlike JNU Vice-Chancellor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, who has been locked in a protracted confrontation with his students and union leadership, Jamia Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar came out openly against what she called atrocities against her students.

In a video message, she said that the police entry into the Jamia campus and beating up students studying in the university library was "totally not acceptable" to her.

"I want to tell my students that they are not alone in this difficult moment," Ms. Akhtar added.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Addressing a press conference on Monday, the Vice-Chancellor also made it clear that the university would register an FIR about police entry into the Jamia campus and a high-level inquiry into how it happened.

Ms. Akhtar pointed out while 10,000 people were marching outside Jamia, the police came after 10 persons into the campus.

The pictures of nearly a dozen lathi-wielding policemen hitting a male student being defended by a group of women students of Jamia has gone viral. Though Delhi has been no stranger to such kinds of violence, what has happened in Jamia is quite unprecedented.

It's not as if Delhi Police or its Special Branch would have been unaware of the mood of people, especially Muslims, in the wake of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act being passed by Parliament. For instance, after Friday prayers, thousands of Muslims marched towards Barakhamba Road / Tolstoy Marg.

The anger was visible to

Do not club all violence under 'Jamia', says V-C

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar requested the media to not club all the violence that happened in the area on Sunday under the name "Jamia" as it was hurting the reputation of the university.

"Any incident that happened in the area... the name Jamia is being used. There are many areas surrounding the university, which are not in our control and because of this we are being dragged in," the Vice-Chancellor said.

'Psyche harmed'
A special meeting of the Jamia Millia Islamia Executive Council (EC) was held on Monday where it took strong exception to the entry of the police into the campus without permission. The EC expressed se-

There are many areas surrounding the university, which are not in our control.. because of this we are being dragged in

NAJMA AKHTAR
Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia

rious concern over police action that "irreparably harmed the psyche of the students, besides destruction of valuable property and infrastructure that takes years to build".

The V-C clarified that students staying in the university hostels were not being forcibly evicted following declaration of winter vacation. "Rather, they have been advised to proceed to their hometowns. The hostel administration is geared up to facilitate the residents for their travel," she said.

It's not as if Delhi Police or its Special Branch would have been unaware of the mood of people, especially Muslims, in the wake of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act being passed by Parliament. For instance, after Friday prayers, thousands of Muslims marched towards Barakhamba Road / Tolstoy Marg.

The anger was visible to

JMI students from J&K leaving city

Hosteller says many residents hid in washroom as violence erupted on campus

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Rutba Aalee (20), a Political Science student who resides in the Jammu and Kashmir Girls' Hostel in Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), waited outside the campus for her cab to Noida. She feels unsafe at the university. "The proctor had come and assured us that we are the responsibility of the authorities... the students that were trapped and attacked inside the library were also the responsibility of the authority and they could not protect them," she said.

Rutba did not step out of the hostel on Sunday and watched the events unfold from inside the campus. The women in her hostel had locked themselves in the washroom and cried out of fear. Rutba kept receiving updates on her class WhatsApp group. In the afternoon, she

learnt that a bus had been torched. Soon after, they got to know that the police had entered the university and students were being thrashed.

"We could see the smoke from the tear gas shells. We could hear students and police shouting and screaming. Subsequently, a huge group of boys came to our hostel to take refuge. Many of them

were injured. We called in all the girls studying medicine to give them first aid," she said, adding that the students thought that since they were at a girls' hostel, the police would not come close.

There were a few who were severely injured and the ambulance came to take them, she said, adding: "We were all frightened and all we could do

was to calm each other down."

Rutba's parents back home in Kashmir saw the news on TV and called her to enquire whether she was okay. "For me, none of this is new... I have seen all this before, so I was okay, said Rutba who was among many students who left the campus on Monday fearing for their safety.



Two men admitted with gunshot injuries'

They were allegedly at JMI protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Two men who were apparently part of the demonstration by Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) students on Sunday have been admitted to Safdarjung Hospital with "gunshot injuries", sources said on Monday.

The father of one of the men, Sohaib Khan (23), said his son was not part of the protest but was passing by

when he was hit by a "pellet". "He underwent surgery last night and was shifted to a ward," Mohammad Arshad said, adding that Sohaib was a 4th-year B.Tech student at Jamia Hamdard.

Ajaz (22), who suffered gunshot injury on his chest allegedly at the protest site, is also undergoing treatment. The Delhi Police has, however, denied firing at protesters during the clash.

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The agitation continues



Marching on: Students protest against the amended Citizenship Act at Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY



Protest spreads to DU, students boycott exams

Demonstrators say police lathi-charged them

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after violence at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), protests spread to Delhi University (DU) where students demonstrated against the amended Citizenship Act and tried to enforce a strike and boycott the ongoing semester examinations.

Several students claimed that police and paramilitary personnel lathi-charged demonstrators who were "protesting peacefully".

Condemning the incident, Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) president Akshit Dahiya said: "It is my duty to help the students who are appearing for the exams if they are stopped from doing so. We reject any lockdown call for DU and I reach out to all students to appear for exams without fear."

One video that went viral was of a policeman pouring some liquid inside a bus. The video claimed that police personnel were seen setting vehicles on fire... The policeman were trying to put out a minor fire caused by the protesters. The timely response of the policeman saved the bus from being burned down... we can share the numbers of the bus... it is in the workshop now," he said.

Students from opposing ideologies assaulted each other despite heavy police deployment.

"The demonstration was meant to be peaceful... the police were seen backing the ABVP and they manhandled other students. Several students were also detained but those from the ABVP were spared," said Rishi, an MA student.

DU student Surbhi Jaiswal said, "We had gathered



All India Students' Association members protest against police action at Jamia Millia Islamia, on Delhi University campus on Monday. ■ PTI

Police launch drive to track down 'rumour mongers'

Spokesperson says that action will only be taken against those involved in illegal activities

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI
The police have launched a massive identification drive, on the ground as well as on social media, to round up alleged perpetrators of violence that erupted in south-east Delhi on Sunday when protesters opposing the amended Citizenship Act clashed with the police.

Delhi Police spokesperson M.S. Randhawa said they are in the process of

identifying WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms that "fuelled violence by posting unverified videos and pictures".

Instigated violence

Our investigations have found that rumours like death of students, injuries due to police firing, buses being set alight by policemen, sharing visuals of Patna and Aligarh as happening in Jamia Millia Islamia, insti-

gated the violence and created an insecure atmosphere in the city, he added.

"A team of police personnel supervised by a senior police officer is scanning social media platforms to identify rumour mongers. The police will file a separate FIR under Sections of IT Act," said the spokesperson.

"We are continuously monitoring social media platforms as rumours are

being circulated widely from verified handles. The Delhi Police urges people to not believe rumours and request children, especially students, not to be afraid," he added.

The spokesperson said that action will only be taken against those involved in illegal activities. "We have to identify those involved in the incident, and action will be taken only against them," Mr. Randhawa added.

One video that went viral was of a policeman pouring some liquid inside a bus. The video claimed that police personnel were seen setting vehicles on fire... The policeman were trying to put out a minor fire caused by the protesters. The timely response of the policeman saved the bus from being burned down... we can share the numbers of the bus... it is in the workshop now," he said.

Protesters claimed that

here to protest against the recently passed Citizenship Act, and against the brutal manner in which students were attacked by the police

on Sunday. Unfortunately, members of a certain group decided to dilute the issue and turn it into a clash between ideologies.

The Delhi Police, however, maintained that the force was deployed to maintain law and order and no students were detained.

AAP, Congress using students for political gains, says BJP

Arvind Kejriwal seeks meeting with Shah

'Worried about law and order situation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Delhi BJP on Monday accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and AAP Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan of being part of a conspiracy "to spread violence" in the Capital. A BJP delegation met the Delhi Police Commissioner to demand stern action against those guilty of rioting in south-east Delhi on Sunday. It alleged that AAP and the Congress were "using the students for their political gain".

"We strongly condemn the violent protests against the amended Citizenship Act on Sunday," Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said he had sought time from Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the law and order situation in the Capital.

Mr. Kejriwal had on Sunday appealed to protesting students to ensure that their protests were peaceful. He had also urged Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal to take "all steps to restore normalcy and peace" in the city.

Taking to Twitter over the issue on Monday, Mr. Kejriwal said: "I am very worried about the deteriorating law and order in Delhi. Peace should be restored immediately in Delhi - for this, I

have asked Home Minister Amit Shah for an appointment."

On Sunday, the CM had said that any kind of violence was unacceptable and protests should remain peaceful. "No one should indulge in violence. Any kind of violence is unacceptable. Protests should remain peaceful [sic.]," he had tweeted.

Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh said, "We appeal to the people to not indulge in any violence, and raise their voice in a democratic manner. We condemn the violence by the Delhi Police in Jamia. This is the trend followed since Amit Shah became the Home Minister," Mr. Singh said.

AAP seeks independent probe into 'violence' inside JMI

Party says no clash at protest held by MLA Amanatullah Khan

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday demanded an independent probe into the "violence" that took place inside Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) on Sunday. It also said that the BJP was doing "dirty" politics in Delhi as they fear defeat in the upcoming Assembly elections.

"AAP is completely against any kind of violence. Whoever has indulged in, and instigated, the violence [on Sunday] must be punished after a thorough and independent probe," AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai said at a press conference.

Referring to Sunday's protests which turned vio-

lent, Mr. Rai said that there were no clashes at the protest carried out by AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan.

"On Sunday, there were two protests in Okhla. In the first, locals and the legislator participated, but no violence occurred. The second protest in JMI saw the police enter the campus without the permission of the Vice-Chancellor or the Proctor... they used tear gas, and lathi-charged students in the li-

brary. The AAP demands an independent inquiry into this unwanted violence inside the university, and the guilty should be punished," he added.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh said that a thorough inquiry is required to find out who burnt the buses on Sunday. He added that the BJP's role in the entire incident also needs to be exposed. "Ever since Amit Shah took over as Home Minister, the Delhi Police has been resorting to extreme brutalities on lawyers, students, farmers, differently abled persons and even women," he said, adding: "The AAP strongly condemns brutal police action against JMI students."

Manch, and Nagina government college student leader Afzal Jalapuri were present.

MVS chief Salamuddin, an advocate, said there was strong resentment among the people of Nuh against the amended Citizenship Act, the NRC and the police brutality on university students.

"The action of the police against the students shows that the present regime can go to any extent to suppress the voice of the masses. Police brutality as seen on Sunday is unprecedented in a democracy," he said.

A protest will be held in Nuh on December 18 on the issue, and a 'Mashal March' will be organised till Ghazera village, also called Gandhi Gaon, he added.

Nuh residents condemn 'police brutality'

To hold another protest on Dec. 18

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NUH
Hundreds of people, including students, gathered at Badkali Chowk here on Monday to protest against police action on Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) students in Delhi, and the amended Citizenship Act.

Holding placards opposing the Act as well as the National Register of Citizens (NRC), people from across the district gathered at the chowk around 4 p.m. and held a protest for over an hour. Many of them held tricolours and raised slogans in support of the JMI and Aligarh Muslim University students.

Workers of Mewat Vikas Sabha (MVS), Mewat RTI

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SC gives three months for pilot project on smog tower

A high-level panel in its report to SC suggests several pilot projects

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI
Painting roads with photocatalytic coating to clean air, using anti-smog guns at construction sites to reduce dust pollution and setting up of a 20 metre-high 'smog tower' with air purifiers are among the pilot projects suggested by a High Level Committee (HLC) to the Supreme Court to control air pollution in Delhi and NCR, said officials.

"In the report submitted to the Supreme Court on Thursday, the HLC also recommended using of wireless sensors and laser methods for monitoring pollution," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

On November 25, the Supreme Court had directed to form the HLC and look into the feasibility of these technologies to control and monitor pollution. The HLC has members from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), NEERI, professors from IIT-Delhi, IIT-Kanpur and heads of environmental departments of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

Painting roads
There are companies that develop photocatalytic paints, which can remove pollutants from the air in the presence of sunlight and ultraviolet (UV) rays. "It can

be applied on a range of surfaces, such as roofing tiles or even on the surface of roads. Photocatalytic paints contain titanium dioxide (TiO_2) which acts as a catalyst when exposed to UV rays and removes atmospheric pollutants," the official said.

The catalyst converts the pollutants into other species. The committee has suggested that a pilot study may be taken up by institutions such as IISc and IIT-Kanpur in association with Ministry of Heavy Industries to find out the effectiveness of paints using nano materials for cleaning ambient air, including releasing of other undesirable compounds, according to officials.

Anti-smog gun
Anti-smog gun is a device that sprays nebulised water droplets into the air through high pressure propellers, which help particles to settle down.

"The committee, based on the finding of a study by the CPCB and DPCC, informed the court that anti-smog guns may be effective in controlling localised dust during the period of application and more suitable to high dust emission zones such as large construction sites," the official said.

"But there is a risk that nano materials may result in production of other undesirable species such as nitrous acid and formaldehyde, which will have adverse health impacts," the official said.

Around two-km-long traffic snarls were caused on both sides of the Kherki Daula toll plaza during rush hours on the first working day on Monday after the dedicated FASTag lanes order was rolled out a day ago. The toll management authority had to lift booms more than two dozen times during the day to clear the congestion resulting in revenue loss.

As expected, long traffic snarls were witnessed all through the day at Kherki Daula toll plaza with 19 of the total 25 lanes reserved for vehicles fitted with FASTags. But the situation worsened during the rush hours with

the vehicles queued up to two km on both sides.

"Since around two third of the motorists passing through the toll are cash users, it is bound to happen. It is causing a lot of harassment to commuters. To avoid inconvenience to them, we had to lift the booms for around 25 times during the day. Usually, we do so only 1-2 times a day," said Rajendra Singh Bhati, Project Head of Skylark, the company that operates the toll.

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COURSES OFFERED BY ATDC			
S.NO	COURSES NAME	DURATION	EDU. QUALIFICATION
1	Merchandiser	6 Months	Graduation
2	Fashion Design Technology	12 Months	12th pass
3	Apparel Manufacturing Technology	12 Months	12th pass
4	Production Supervisor Sewing	8 Months	12th pass
5	Pattern Master	8 Months	10th pass

COURSES OFFERED BY NSIC (Only at Dilshad Garden)			
S.NO	COURSES NAME	DURATION	EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION
1	Advance Diploma in Software Technology	12 Months	12th or 10th pass with Certificate Course or Experience in Computer
2	Advance Diploma in Beautician	12 Months	10th pass
3	Beauty Therapy	6 Months	The applicant should be able to read/write and communicate effectively
4	Domestic Data Entry Operator	6 Months	10th pass or Diploma in Computer Science Technology
5	Assistant Electrician	6 Months	Preferably 10th pass

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Resident of Delhi and age between 18 to 40 years.
- Family income should not exceed Rs. 3 lakh per annum.
- The SC/OBC applicants must have caste certificate issued by concerned area SDM. Minority category applicants have to submit an affidavit indicating their religion. EWS applicants from general category have to submit income certificate issued by concerned area SDM.
- Education qualification as per the requirement of the course. For beauty therapy course the application will have to submit affidavit highlighting his/her education qualification.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Application form is available on the Department's website.
- The application in the prescribed format duly filled alongwith the self attested documents should be submitted within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.
- Applicants can submit application forms at the centres at ATDC, NISC, DSFDC and at the head quarter of the corporation i.e. Ambedkar Bhawan, Institutional Area, Sector 16, Rohini, Delhi-89.
- No application shall be entertained after the last date.
- Selection of candidates would be on the basis of merit by the selection committee. The selection committee reserves the right to reject the candidature of any applicant with assigning any reason.

APPLICATION FORM CAN BE SUBMITTED AT THE FOLLOWING CENTRES

Apparel Training & Centre (ATDC)

- 6th Floor, Ambedkar Bhawan, Institutional Area, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-89
- 1st Floor, Sanskaar Aashram Complex, Opp. Gate No. 7 of GTB Hospital, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-93
- YMCA Building, Plot No. 6&7, 2nd Floor, Sector 10, Near Dwarka Metro Station
- St. Paul's School, 3rd Floor, Block H, Ph 6, Aaya Nagar, New Delhi-47
- A 223, Okhla Industrial Area, Ph 1, New Delhi-20

National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Centre

- Ground Floor, Sanskaar Aashram Complex, Opp. Gate No. 7 of GTB Hospital, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-93

District Offices (DSFDC)

- D Block, 1st Floor, Bunker Bhawan, DC Office (North East) Opp. Gagan Cinema, Nand Nagri, Delhi-93
- A 33-38, B Block, Lal Building, Near Police Station, Mangolpuri, Delhi
- 2, Battery Lane, Rajpura Road, Delhi-54



Timings
DELHI

TUESDAY, DEC. 17
RISE 07:07 SET 17:27
RISE 22:45 SET 11:25
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18
RISE 07:08 SET 17:28
RISE 23:49 SET 12:06
THURSDAY, DEC. 19
RISE 07:08 SET 17:28
RISE 00:00 SET 12:44

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 13 10
Safdarjung 13 10
Palam 12 10

Delhi Palam Today
16°C Moderate fog in parts with cool morning to persist. A cold day with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
18°C Shallow fog/mist in the morning. A partly cloudy sky and a comfortable day.

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THE HINDU
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Protests against CAA spread to Lucknow

Seminary students try to take out march, police block gate

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The protests against the amended Citizenship Act spread to Lucknow as students of the Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulema seminary here gathered in large numbers on Monday morning and tried to lead a protest march.

However, police closed the gate of the seminary and did not allow the students, who raised slogans in solidarity with the protesting students of Jamia Millia Islamia University, to lead the march.

Stones pelted
Once the gate was closed, the protesters allegedly pelted stones, bricks and slippers at the police force stationed outside the gate, for a brief moment, police said.

"The situation is now under control. All students have been sent back in," said



Policemen locking the gates of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulema seminary in Lucknow on Monday. ■ PTI

Lucknow District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash.

Mr. Prakash said around 200-250 students had gathered to lead a protest in the morning. Once the main gate was closed, some stones from the pots inside were pelted once all of them were back in. None was injured, said the District Magistrate, adding that the stu-

dents have gone back to their hostels and classes.

SSP Lucknow Kalanidhi Naithani said the police used restraint to push back the students. For a brief moment, 35-40 seconds, some bricks and stones were thrown from inside, he said. The situation was brought under control in a short time, he added.

Some shots were also fired in the air, as per footage of the incident being shared on social media.

Protest turns violent in U.P.'s Mau

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Protests against the amended Citizenship Act turned violent in Mau district on Monday following which the administration imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 in the affected areas.

Restrictions have also been imposed on Internet services, said District Magistrate Mau Gyan Prakash Tripathi who stated that a person had instigated the youth to gather on the streets for protest.

Police lathi-charge

While the protesters in the Mirza Hadipura area allegedly pelted stones at the police and torched three to four vehicles parked near the Dakshinola police station, the police resorted to lathi-charge and fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

A woman student of the law faculty said that RAF jawans used "abusive language and religious slurs" against them. "I was trying to make a video with my friend but they charged at us," she alleged.

Sources said it was a sudden surge as the Students' Union had just planned to issue a statement. The students have been protesting

At least 100 students injured in clash with police at AMU

Their protest was in solidarity with Jamia Millia students

ANUJ KUMAR
ALIGARH

Police entered the Aligarh Muslim University campus on Sunday evening after a clash broke out between students and the police. At least 100 students were injured, six of them seriously, as PAC and RAF and the U.P. police lathi-charged and showered tear gas shells on the students.

According to local sources, around 7.30 p.m. students came out of the Sir Syed Hall in solidarity with the Jamia Millia students.

A woman student of the law faculty said that RAF jawans used "abusive language and religious slurs" against them. "They entered the Sir Syed Hall (North) and Morisson Hall and beat up the students."

A student alleged that the university administration was nowhere to be seen. "The Vice Chancellor has yet to make a statement," said a student.

Kashmiri students prot-

ested that they were asked to vacate hostels. "Flight tickets are too expensive and the roads are blocked because of bad weather. How will we go," asked a Kashmiri student.

AMU Students' Union strongly condemned the action against the students of JMI and AMU. "We believe that the police repression was conveyed by the PM in his speech wherein he associated the protests with a specific dress code. The PM wanted to communalise the protests being held by people of all faiths and different political affiliations," said Salman Imtiaz, president of the outgoing AMUSU, who was also hit during the clash.

SP (City) Abhishek said around 1,500 students broke the Sir Syed Gate on Sunday evening and started pelting stones on policemen, including Aligarh DIG Preetinder Singh, were injured.

AGP to challenge Citizenship Act in SC

'Indigenous people are apprehensive that their identity might come under threat'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Demanding exclusion of the Brahmaputra valley from the purview of the Citizenship Act, ruling BJP's ally, the Assam Gana Parishad, had on Sunday announced to challenge the law in the Supreme Court after it faced the ire of some party leaders and grassroots level workers.

AGP president Atul Bora said the Brahmaputra valley should be excluded from the purview of the law and it may be implemented in the Barak valley. "We will take the legal route to seek revocation of the Act as the indigenous people of Assam are apprehensive that their identity, language might come under threat," AGP leader Kumar Deepak Das said.



AGP president Atul Bora. ■ FILE PHOTO

A party delegation, led by Mr. Das, will leave for New Delhi to file the plea in the apex court as the PILs seeking revocation of the Act are scheduled to be taken up for hearing on December 18.

Maintain calm'
Mr. Das, a former Rajya Sabha MP, appealed to party workers to maintain calm as the AGP "respects the sentiments of the people and we

will never go against their hopes and aspirations".

AGP leader and Minister Keshab Mahanta said the party has not left its "old stand" of opposing the Act. "Though we are a part of the NDA, our stand has not changed. We still do not want this Act to be implemented in Assam and the Northeast," he added.

The regional party's lone MP in the Rajya Sabha, Brindaban Prasad Baishya, had opposed the Bill in Parliament, but later voted in favour of it. After that, the party has been termed "traitor" and is facing severe criticism across the State with its leaders being boycotted from public events.

Dissidence has been brewing in the AGP after Mr. Bora said if the Centre "wants to

bring the Bill, he cannot do anything about it".

Former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta has said that the party had never taken a resolution supporting the Act and urged the leadership to clear the party's stand on the issue.

'Not the party's stand'

"We cannot go against the interests of the indigenous people, and the views expressed by Mr. Bora were his personal and not the stand of the party," Mr. Mahanta claimed.

Party MLA Brindaban Goswami has also been critical of the party leadership and had said "what is the point of filing a petition against the Act now after the party MP voted in its favour".

AMU students worry about their future

'The protests will continue,' says one of the injured lying in JN Medical College

ANUJ KUMAR
ALIGARH

"When I regained consciousness, the first thing I asked the doctor was the time," muttered Rashid Khan, a first-year student of History, one of the four admitted to the Emergency ward of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College after the "bloody" clash with the police on Sunday over the police action in Jamia and the amended Citizenship Act.

He only has a faint memory of being hit by a stone hurled by a policeman on the left side of his forehead. As he had an exam of Modern History scheduled at 11 a.m., he was relieved to know that it has been postponed and that the university has shut down till January. "But the protest would continue...I will protest in my Araria [his native town in Bihar]," he said. "Nit-

ish Kumar has said we should start collecting the documents."

He said the protest started after news of police action in Jamia percolated to the AMU. "We are like bhai-behen. We have to stand for each other."

Naved did his Alim course from Deoband before doing a bridge course to become eligible for graduation. "I wanted to join the Civil Services but now I have doubts about my

future in India," said Naved.

'Possible haemorrhage'

"There is a sharp laceration that confirms that he was hit by a sharp object. There were chances of subdural haemorrhage. We considered surgery but right now he is being put on conservative medication," said Dr. Sathark, the senior resident who is treating him.

On a bed perpendicular to him was lying Tabrez, who had slept after a long and difficult night. "He has internal injuries in the stomach. He has been hit by a blunt object," said Dr. Sathark. The doctor said it was pretty clear that the Act was targeting a particular community but one should also respect the line drawn by the administration. "There are different ways to show solidarity.

When the clash happened, we all gathered to provide relief. Around 125 students were hit. Most of them had minor injuries and were discharged after an hour. Four are serious and are being monitored," said Dr. Sathark.

In the plastic surgery ward, Sajid is waiting for his friend Rizwan to wake up after the plastic surgery performed on his hand. "He was trying to throw away tear gas shells. One of them burst in his hand. The doctors have tried to reconstruct his hand," said Sajid, with tears rolling down his cheeks.

"Mr. Modi fills me with both anger and fear. What have we done wrong? Why are we being targeted," he asked.

(The names of the students have been changed on request.)

High Court annuls election of Azam Khan's son as MLA

'Was underage and not qualified to fight poll in 2017'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALLAHABAD

In a jolt to Rampur MP Azam Khan, the Allahabad High Court on Monday annulled the election of senior SP leader's son Abdullah Khan as an Uttar Pradesh MLA on the ground that he was underage and not qualified to fight the poll in 2017.

A Bench of Justice S.P. Kesarwani declared the election of the junior Khan from the Suar Assembly segment null and void on a plea by the defeated BSP candidate, Nawab Kazim Ali Khan.

Allowing Kazim Khan's election petition, the Bench ruled that Abdullah Khan was not qualified to contest the election of the Legislative Assembly as he had not yet turned 25 when he filed the nomination papers for



Suar MLA Mohammad Abdullah Azam Khan. ■

the election in 2017.

In his election petition against Abdullah Khan, Kazim Khan had contended that the elected MLA's actual date of birth was January 1, 1993 and not September 30, 1990, as claimed in the nomination paper.

Accordingly, he was yet to reach 25 years of age to become eligible to fight the election, when he filed the nomination papers on Janu-

Physically challenged voters score high

Over 92% cast votes in Jharkhand poll

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
DHANBAD (JHARKHAND)

At a time when the ongoing Jharkhand Assembly election is registering a drop in voter turnout compared to 2014 elections, 92.43% physically challenged electorates exercised their franchise in the penultimate phase on Monday.

"In the fourth phase elections held across 15 Assembly constituencies in four districts, the number of physically challenged voters in the electoral roll was 64,318. It is heartening to note that 92.43% voters could cast their votes," Jharkhand's Chief Electoral Officer Vinay Choubey said.

"We had made special arrangements for physically challenged voters for casting their votes. As many as 4,039 volunteers were deployed to

assist these voters and 2,504 wheelchairs were kept ready at different polling booths. The administration also provided 3,432 vehicles to transport them to booths and take them back to their homes," said Mr. Choubey.

The fourth phase voting registered a turnout 62.54% – a drop of 2.12% from 64.66% polling recorded in 2014 elections. The Jharkhand CEO said the poll passed off peacefully without any incident of violence.

Highest 74.50% votes were polled in Chandanki Assembly constituency in Bokaro district. "We have noticed that voter turnout in urban centres is lower in comparison to rural areas. In Dhanbad, 52.69% poll percentage – down by 6.5% – was recorded," Mr. Choubey said.

"We had made special arrangements for physically challenged voters for casting their votes. As many as 4,039 volunteers were deployed to

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS(IFB)1

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Shillai District Sirmour HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the online bids on item rate in electronic tendering system in 2 cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HP PWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	Improvement and Metaling Taring on Bella Bashwa road Km 0/0 to 6/200 (SH- Removal of formation deficiency C/o Retaining structure, C.D works M/T, Side drain, Essential Parapets and road sing furniture in KM 0/0 to 6/200) under NABARD RIDF-XXV.	2,16,11,558/-	2,48,620/-	5000/-	A Class

Key Date

1. Date of on line Publication:- 25-12-2019 at 10:30 HRs
2. Document Download Start & End Date:- 25-12-2019 at 3:00HRs, Up To 08-01-2020 at 5:00 HRs
3. Bid Submission Start & End Date :- 25-12-2020 at 3:00HRs, Up To 08-01-2020 at 5:00 HRs

4. Physical Submission of EMD and cost of Tender document:- 09-01-2020 up to 11:30 HRs
5. Date of Technical Bid opening Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by opening of financial:- 09-01-2020 up to 12:30 HRs

3. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:- The Bid document is available online



कमल नाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश



एक वर्ष में 365 वचन पूर्ण

कृषि

- 'जय किसान फसल ऋण माफी योजना' के अंतर्गत 20 लाख से अधिक किसानों के ऋण माफ़।
- मण्डियों में एक साथ ई-अनुज्ञा ऑनलाइन प्रणाली।
- इंदिरा किसान ज्योति योजना में 10 हॉर्स पॉवर तक के कृषि पंपों के लिये आधी दर पर बिजली उपलब्ध।
- किसान परिवार की कन्याओं के विवाह के लिए कृषक कन्या विवाह सहायता योजना प्रारंभ। इसमें 51,000 रुपये प्रोत्साहन राशि के लिए 2.5 एकड़ तक पात्रता।

बिजली

- इंदिरा किसान ज्योति योजना में अब आधी दर पर बिजली उपलब्ध। इससे लगभग 20 लाख किसान लाभान्वित।
- इंदिरा गृह ज्योति योजना - घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को प्रथम 100 यूनिट तक की खपत पर 100 रुपये प्रति माह में बिजली उपलब्ध।
- घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं तथा लघु एवं सूक्ष्म उद्योगों को 24 घंटे बिजली की आपूर्ति।
- बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के निराकरण के लिये 1912 कॉल सेंटर की सेवाएँ।

उच्च शिक्षा

- सभी शासकीय महाविद्यालयों को भूमि का स्वामित्व देकर अगले 30 वर्ष की विकास योजना तैयार करने का 'भूमि सुरक्षा अभियान'।
- कैम्ब्रिज यूनिवर्सिटी लंदन के सहयोग से अंग्रेजी भाषा का विशेष प्रशिक्षण प्रारंभ।
- IIT व IIM के उच्च श्रेणी के प्राध्यापक पहली बार नवाचार हेतु उच्च शिक्षा परिषद में शामिल।
- विदेश में उच्च शिक्षा के लिए विद्यार्थियों के अर्हकारी अंक और परिवार की आय रीमा को कम किया गया।
- पीएससी से चयनित 3148 प्राध्यापकों व अन्य की नियुक्ति में पहली बार पारदर्शिता से ऑनलाइन पदस्थापना का विकल्प।

आदिवासी समाज

- वन अधिकार अधिनियम 2006 के तहत 8,683 दावों का निराकरण।
- आकांक्षा योजना में विद्यार्थियों को JEE, NEET, CLAT की प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी पर 14 करोड़ 50 लाख रुपये व्यय।
- बालिकाओं की शिक्षा एवं साक्षरता वृद्धि के लिए 82 कन्या शिक्षा परिसर संचालित।
- मुख्यमंत्री मदद योजना में जन्म एवं मृत्यु के अवसर पर प्रति जन्म 50 किलोग्राम गेहूँ/चावल एवं प्रति मृत्यु पर 100 किलोग्राम अनाज गेहूँ/चावल का वितरण।
- आदिवासी समुदाय के देवस्थानों के संरक्षण के लिए आषान योजना।
- तेंदूपत्ता श्रमिकों की मजदूरी की दरों में वृद्धि। मजदूरी और बोनस का हो रहा है नकद भुगतान।

पिछ़ा वर्ष

- पिछ़ा वर्ष हेतु शासकीय सेवाओं में 27 प्रतिशत आरक्षण लागू।
- पिछ़ा वर्ष के परंपरागत कुटीर, हस्तशिल्प, हाथकरघा के उत्पाद जीएसटी से मुक्त।

उद्योग

- निवेश को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए औद्योगिक नीति में महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन। सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्योगों के विकास के लिये नई एमएसएमई विकास नीति एवं स्टार्ट अप नीति 2019 लागू।
- पॉवरलूम, फार्मास्युटिकल एवं रेडिमेड गारमेंट के लिए विशेष पैकेज।
- तकनीकी विकास को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए मैन्युफैक्चरिंग इनोवेशन फण्ड की स्थापना।
- निजी भूमि अर्जन के लिये लैण्ड पूलिंग पॉलिसी लागू की गई।
- मैन्नीफिसेंट मध्यप्रदेश-2019 का इन्दौर में सफल आयोजन।

युवा

- मध्यप्रदेश में स्थापित होने वाले उद्योगों में 70 प्रतिशत रोजगार स्थानीय युवाओं को देना अनिवार्य।
- प्रदेश के आईटीआई, पॉलीटेक्निक तथा इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेजों से उत्तीर्ण विद्यार्थियों को न्लोबल स्किल्स पार्क भोपाल कैंपस में प्रिसीजन इंजीनियरिंग कोर्स में प्रशिक्षण।
- शहरी बेरोजगार युवाओं को 100 दिन के रोजगार के साथ-साथ कौशल प्रशिक्षण के लिये मुख्यमंत्री युवा स्वाभिमान योजना।
- प्रतिभावान खिलाड़ियों की पुरस्कार राशि एवं खेल संघों की अनुदान राशि में वृद्धि।
- खिलाड़ियों के उच्च स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण के लिए कोच डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम।
- खेल अकादमी एवं प्रदेश के राष्ट्रीय स्तर के खिलाड़ियों को चिकित्सा और दुर्घटना जीवन बीमा की सुविधा।
- स्वरोजगार मूलक योजनाओं में ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के बेरोजगारों के लिए पृथक से लक्ष्य।

महिला सशक्तिकरण

- लाडली लक्ष्मी योजना में 3 लाख 20 हजार 289 नई बालिकाओं का पंजीयन।
- मुख्यमंत्री कन्या विवाह/निकाह योजना की अनुदान राशि 28 हजार रुपये से बढ़ाकर 51 हजार रुपये।
- वृद्धावस्था और विधवा पेंशन राशि 300 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 600 रुपये प्रतिमाह।
- प्रदेश की 202 आशा कार्यकर्ताओं को उसी ब्लॉक में एनएम के पद पर नियुक्ति।
- प्रदेश की 9411 महिलाओं को राजमिस्त्री का प्रशिक्षण।
- एकीकृत महिला हेल्पलाइन 181 की सेवाएँ प्रारंभ।
- कन्या शैक्षणिक संस्थानों तथा महिला कामकाजी क्षेत्रों को चिन्हित कर वहाँ पुलिस सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था।

उम्मीदें रंग लाई, तरक्की मुस्कुराई

D-16215/2019

आकल्पन : मध्यप्रदेश माध्यम/2019



मध्यप्रदेश शासन

IN BRIEF



Wild elephant electrocuted in Mandya

MANDYA
A wild elephant died of electrocution in Mandya district near Malavalli of Karnataka. The tusker, aged about 10, was found dead at an agricultural field, said the forest and police officials. According to officials, the tusker that probably came from the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in search of food, probably five days back, and came in contact with live cables illegally erected around the farmland.

Minor commits suicide, two arrested

NARSAPURAM
A Class IX student, who was sexually assaulted by a youth, allegedly committed suicide by consuming pesticide in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The police arrested the suspects, Manikala Raju and Mamilla Subramanyam, on Monday. According to the police, Raju reportedly sexually assaulted the 14-year-old girl a couple of days ago. The victim conveyed the incident to her friend Subramanyam, who reprimanded her, after which she consumed soft drink laced with pesticide.

Left and Cong. unite in Kerala against 'discriminative' CAA

CM, Leader of Opposition join galaxy of Ministers, leaders and heads of NGOs

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a rare bipartisan coming together of political forces against the Centre, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government on Monday joined hands with the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition to protest against the enactment of the recently legislated Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala joined a galaxy of Ministers, political leaders and heads of social organisations to condemn the Bharatiya Janata Party-sponsored law as patently unconstitutional and particularly discriminatory against Muslim refugees and migrants aspiring for Indian citizenship.

Mr. Vijayan stood his ground on the State's refusal to implement the CAA and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). He alleged that the Centre aspired to lead the country through a descent into theocracy by fixing religion as the criterion for citizenship. None of the earlier amendments introduced



Joint fight: Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan welcoming All India Jamiyathul Ulama leader A.P. Aboobacker Musliar at the protest in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. Opposition Leader Ramesh Chennithala and Minister Chandrasekharan look on. ■ S. GOPAKUMAR

to the Citizenship Act, 1955 had sought to differentiate people on the basis of their faith and deny their fundamental rights, he said. The new law denied Muslims the opportunity available to people of other religions to attain citizenship through a process of naturalisation.

Mr. Vijayan also questioned the rationale behind excluding suppressed minorities from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal, countries with which India shared land and maritime borders.

"While the legislation has included Afghanistan, with which the country did not share a border, the Centre has deliberately refused to consider the long-standing demand of 73,000-odd Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka and the numerous Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar to grant them citizenship," he said.

Today's hartal unlawful: police

The police have declared as "unlawful" the hartal called by the Social Democratic Party of India and allied groups in Kerala on Tuesday. State Police Chief Loknath Behera said the SC had ruled that no party could call a general strike without prior notice of seven days.

Siddaramaiah, Dinesh likely to continue in posts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After Karnataka Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and Dinesh Gundu Rao tendered their resignations from the posts of Leader of the Opposition and KPCC president respectively after the bypoll rout, several Congress leaders are camping in the national capital and lobbying to grab the posts, though the

party high command is expected to ask both leaders to continue in their posts.

Capital visit

Leaders such as K.H. Muniyappa, H.K. Patil, D.K. Shiva Kumar, B.K. Hariprasad, S.R. Patil, Eshwar Khandre and Mallikajun Kharge, who went to New Delhi for attending the party's Bharat Bachao rally on Saturday.

They held talks with senior leaders including AICC General secretary in-charge of Karnataka, K.C. Venugopal.

Though some of these

leaders have expressed their displeasure at the functioning of Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Gundu Rao on more than one occasions and blamed them for the Lok Sabha and bypoll defeat, both are likely to stay in their posts.

Moreover, the party high command has not accepted their resignations. Any discussion on new leadership would be held only after

their resignations are accepted, sources in the party said.

The new president is likely to be appointed only after the appointment of full-time president of the AICC in 2020, sources said.

Talks are abuzz in the party circles that Mr. Shivakumar could take over as the new PCC president to intensify campaign ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections.

Man lynched in Kerala on suspicion of theft; six held

No one helped him while he was attacked by gang last week

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A man who was tortured by a gang in Kerala a few days ago over suspicion of theft, died of his injuries at the Government Medical College Hospital here on Monday.

The police identified the deceased as Ajesh, 30, of Mutukkudu, near Thiruvallam here. He was attacked by the gang on December 11.

Following the incident, five persons, Jinesh, alias Amathalam, 28; Nazeer, alias Shahabudeen, 43; Arun, 29; Sajan, 33; and Robinson, alias Kunjumon, 39 were arrested on Saturday and remanded in judicial

custody. A sixth accused, Sajimon, was detained on Monday.

Ajesh had been accused of stealing a bag, which purportedly contained ₹45,000, and a mobile phone that belonged to Sajimon, said Thiruvallam station house officer Sampath K.L. The gang led by Jinesh then searched Ajesh's house. Despite failing to find the stolen bag from the house, they went on to manhandle Ajesh.

The officer said the charges invoked against those arrested would be altered as murder.

The incident bore similarities to the death of Madhu, a tribal youth, who was beaten to death by a group in Attappady a year ago after being accused of theft.

School booked for enactment of Babri Masjid demolition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

A case has been registered against the management of a school in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district for enacting the 1992 demolition of Babri Masjid, as part of a school event on Sunday.

The Bantwal Town police have booked a case following a complaint against Sri Rama School in Kalladka town, filed by a member of the Popular Front of India.

The case has been booked for offence under Sections 295 A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings) and 298 (uttering words, etc, with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings) of Indian Penal Code.

On Monday, a video clip of the event was widely shared on social media, attracting criticism.



The clip of the event at the Sri Rama School was shared on social media, attracting criticism. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tracting criticism. The enactment of demolition was one among the 20-odd presentations made by nearly 4,000 students at their annual sports day 'Kreedotsava'.

Many social media users felt that it amounted to the school management sowing the seeds of hatred in students.

Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat, a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader, who is also a member of Sri Rama Vidya Kendra Trust that runs the school, defended the programme. "Our students have just enacted events that have occurred in the past." He said students also enacted the Chandrayaan-2 mission.



अशोक गहलोत
मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान

एक नंबर, एक कार्ड, एक पहचान

प्रदेश के निवासी परिवारों को मिलेगा जन-आधार कार्ड।
सरकारी योजनाओं व सुविधाओं का लाभ
जन-आधार कार्ड से।
व्यक्तिगत एवं पारिवारिक पहचान के लिए एक ही कार्ड
जिसमें परिवार की मुख्या महिला।

मेरा अधिकार मेरे हाथ

"जन सुविधाओं का नया आधार" जन-आधार



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आयोजना व सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी और संचार विभाग, राजस्थान

सरकारी योजनाओं एवं जन-कल्याण की योजनाओं के लाभ/सेवाएं

पहचान (Pol) एवं पते के प्रमाण (PoA) के लिए मान्य

आयुष्मान भारत महात्मा गांधी राजस्थान स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना का लाभ

योजनाओं की पावता निर्धारण में सहायक/उपयोगी

मोबाइल ऐप से सरकारी संचालन एवं सभी लाभों का व्योरा उपलब्ध

IN BRIEF



CBI seeks more time in Asthana case

The CBI on Monday told the Delhi HC that it needed more time to complete the probe in a bribery case allegedly involving the agency's then Special Director Rakesh Asthana and others, as four more stages of scrutiny are left before the report can be filed. Counsel representing Mr. Mr. Asthana and the other accused — the agency's then DSP Devender Kumar and businessman Manoj Prasad — opposed the plea, saying the court had on October 9 given it two months and had said no more time would be given. PTI

Nitish writes to PM Modi seeking ban on porn sites

PATNA In the wake of rising incidents of rape of women and minor girls in the country, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on Monday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to immediately ban pornographic sites. "A large number of children and youth are watching pornographic, violent and inappropriate content. In many cases, videos of rape incidents are being circulated on social media, which severely affects the brains of children and youngsters, and such material has also been seen as a factor leading to crimes of rape," he said in his one-page letter to Mr. Modi.

ED files chargesheet in PMC Bank scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI The Enforcement Directorate on Monday filed a chargesheet against Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd promoters Rakesh Wadhwani and Sarang Wadhwani in connection with the multi-crore Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC)

Crime sheet

A look at the events leading up to the conviction of former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar

June 4, 2017: Minor girl allegedly raped by then BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar
April 3, 2018: Her father is beaten up and allegedly

framed in an Arms Act case

April 8: Rape survivor tries to immolate herself outside U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath's residence, alleging police inaction
April 9: Father dies in judicial custody
April 10: Allahabad HC transfers the rape case

to the CBI

July 11: CBI files chargesheet

July 12, 2019: Victim and her family write to then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, alleging threat to their lives

July 28: Truck rams a car in which the rape survivor, her family and their lawyer were travelling, killing her two aunts and leaving her and the advocate critically injured
Aug. 1: SC transfers five cases related to the rape to Delhi

Court; the victim is airlifted to AIIMS from a Lucknow hospital
Aug. 9: Court frames charges against Sengar and co-accused Shashi Singh in the rape case
Sept. 25: The girl is discharged from hospital
Dec. 10: Court reserves judgment in rape case
Dec. 16: Court finds Sengar guilty, acquits the co-accused



A file photo of students staging a protest against Kuldeep Singh Sengar in Delhi

Aug. 5: Day-to-day trial commences at Tis Hazari

Court raps CBI for delay in Unnao case

Probe not done by woman officer, as mandated under POCSO Act: judge



Crime and punishment: Kuldeep Singh Sengar being taken to Tihar jail after being presented in court, in this file photo. ■ PTI

District and sessions judge Dharmesh Sharma said: "In my considered opinion, this investigation has suffered from an patriarchal approach or an inherent outlook to brush the issues of sexual violence against the children under the carpet, apart from exhibiting lack of sensitivity and a humane approach. It appears that somewhere, investigation in the instant case has not been fair to the victim of crime and her family members."

The probe, the court said,

was not conducted by a woman officer, as mandated under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the successive statements of the victim were recorded at the CBI office, "without bothering about the kind of harassment, anguish and re-victimisation that occurs to a victim of sexual assault in such case".

Fear ingrained'

On the delay of more than two months in reporting the incident, the court said the

victim and her mother explained that she had been threatened by Sengar to keep quiet or else she and her family members would not be spared. Soon after the incident was reported, a vicious tirade against her father and uncle began.

"It [the case] epitomises the fear ingrained in the mind of [a] young girl in the countryside or elsewhere against reporting the issues of sexual assault by powerful adults," the court said.

The minor girl was raped on June 4, 2017.

SC panel to monitor trial of rape cases

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has set up a committee of two of its judges to coordinate with High Courts to monitor the trial of rape cases across the country and to ensure they are completed in a time-bound manner.

The matter came to lime-light when the girl threatened to set herself ablaze outside the residence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on April 8 last year, al-leging police inaction.

Days before that, her father was allegedly framed in a case under the Arms Act and sent to judicial custody, where he died under mysterious circumstances on April 9, 2018.

The girl also alleged that about a week after the MLA raped her, she was again abducted by three of his asso-

Sources said Justices R. Subhash Reddy and M.R. Shah form the two-judge committee.

The decision to set up the committee came after extensive consultations among CJI S.A. Bobde and other senior Supreme Court judges.

ciates, kept in confinement and gang-raped. The CBI is also pursuing that case.

The CBI took over the investigation of all the related cases in April last year and arrested Sengar.

In the gang-rape case, it filed a chargesheet against Shubham Singh, Naresh Yadav and Brijesh Tiwari in October this year.

In July last year, another chargesheet was filed against five persons, including Sengar's brother Atul, for their alleged involvement in the murder of the victim's father.

SC orders status quo in Aarey case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Petitioners, who have challenged the felling of trees in the Aarey forest in Mumbai to construct a metro car shed, told the Supreme Court on Monday that the "new government" in the State had set up a committee to identify alternative land for the project.

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta ordered the status quo, that is, there would be no felling of trees. The Bench scheduled the case for hearing in January next. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the State, said the question in the case is whether the area allotted for the metro car shed is forest land or not.

Lt. Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane next Army chief

He will replace Gen. Bipin Rawat who retires on December 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Vice-Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane, has been appointed the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), Army officials confirmed late on Monday.

He will take over as the 28th COAS from incumbent General Bipin Rawat, whose term ends on December 31.

Lt. Gen. Naravane took over as vice-chief in early September. He is the senior most officer in the Army after Gen. Rawat and the government has gone with the seniority principle in the appointment. He will have a tenure till April 2022 till his

Lieutenant General Manoj Mukund Naravane

superannuation.

Lt. Gen. Naravane has served as the Eastern Army Commander and Commander Army Training Command. He is from the Sikh Light Infantry and has commanded a Rashtriya Rifles battalion in Kashmir, served in the Assam Rifles and has

been posted as defence attaché to Myanmar.

He will be the third Army chief from the Sikh Light regiment after Gen. V.P. Malik and Gen. Bikram Singh.

With the appointment of the next COAS, the next awaited appointment is that of the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), expected in the next few days. Gen. Rawat is the front runner for the post. An Implementation Committee headed by the National Security Adviser was constituted to finalise the roles and modalities of the post of CDS and the committee has submitted its report to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).

Increase LS seats to 1,000, says Pranab

'Present strength based on 1971 census'



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Former President Pranab Mukherjee on Monday drew attention to the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpeyi as a consensus builder, noting that the Indian electorate may have given strong majorities to different parties since 1952 but over 50% of them have never voted for one party.

He was delivering the second annual Atal Bihari Vajpeyi memorial lecture in New Delhi organised by the India Foundation.

"A numerical majority in elections gives you the right to make a stable government. The lack of popular majority forbids you from a majoritarian government. That is the message and essence of our parliamentary democracy," he said.

"The Indian electorate has time and again conveyed to the ruling party that goes on to form the government, that yes, they

may be entitled to form the government with majority of the seats won by them but, they are also to take into consideration, all those people, who may not have voted for them. The mandate is to govern as a majority party with a stable government, but carry others with you," he said.

He made a case for raising the number of Lok Sabha constituencies to 1,000 from the existing 543 and for a corresponding increase in the Rajya Sabha's strength, arguing that India has a "disproportionately large size" of electorate for elected representatives.

He said the last time the strength of the Lok Sabha was revised was in 1977, which, he noted, was based on the 1971 census that put the population at 55 crore.

Amitabha Bagchi wins 2019 DSC Prize

ANUSUA MUKHERJEE

POKHARA

The 8th edition of the IME Nepal Literature Festival, held from December 13-16 at Pokhara, concluded with the announcement of the winner of DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019.

The \$25,000 award went to Amitabha Bagchi for his 2018 novel, *Half the Night is Gone*.

It was presented by Pradeep Gawali, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal, in the presence of Surina Narula, founder of the DSC Prize, and the four-member jury, headed by Harish Trivedi, former Professor of English at University of Delhi.

The six shortlisted books

included one translated work (Manoranjan Byapari's *There's Gunpowder in the Air*, translated from Bengali by Arunava Sinha), a novel by Pakistan-born author Jamil Jan Kochai and another by Sadia Abbas, who grew up in Pakistan and Singapore, besides fiction by Indian authors.

The DSC Prize, instituted in 2010, awards fiction from the South Asian region, which includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as from the diaspora. +

Ninety books had been submitted for the prize this year.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH		Dated: 16.12.2019
ADVERTISEMENT NO. PG/RC/2019/0145536		
FACULTY APPOINTMENTS		
Start date for generation of Challan form for fee deposit and online payment of fees		17.12.2019
Closing date for challan generation for fee deposit		06.01.2020
Last date of deposit of application fee in the Bank		10.01.2020
Last date for receipt of hard copy of application in the office of the Administrative Officer (Recruitment Cell), PGIMER, Sector-12, Chandigarh 160012	16.01.2020 till 04:00 P.M	
The interested candidates may Log on to the Institute website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in (recruitment link at home page) for detailed information viz. application form, fee, age, pay-scale, eligibility, qualification and experience etc. The number of posts are subject to variation at the discretion of Competent Authority.		
DIRECTOR		

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED		Dated: 16.12.2019
A Government of India (Dept. of Atomic Energy) Enterprise		
INSTRUMENTS & SECURITY SYSTEMS GROUP - MMD : ECI, P.O. Hyderabad 500062		
PUBLIC TENDER NOTIFICATION No. ECI-JSG-PUR-PT-19-20/20 to 19-20/2025		
ECI invites E-procurement tenders for supply of Technical support to implementation of ECI-IPCC System and other equipment. The equipment categories are PT-020 - IP CCTV Cameras - Fixed and PTZ - PT-021 - 4K UHD Cameras (III) PT-022 - Network Switches & NMS (IV) PT-023 - IP Audio System (V) PT-024 - Glass Epoxy Copper Clad Laminate (VI) PT-025: Fabrication & Delivery of Mobile Soil Testing Van v/o Tata on coil Chassis model No.LP.71242 BS4V. For detailed tender schedule and tender documents, please visit our website www.eci.co.in (or) https://etenders.eci.co.in		Sd/- DGM (MMD)

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI TENDER NOTIFICATION

DISPOSAL OF FOREIGN COUNTRY COINS THROUGH SEALED TENDERS

Sealed tenders are invited from Banks / authorized Foreign Exchange Dealers for disposal of foreign coins of different countries like Malaysia, USA, UK, Euro, UAE, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Bahrain, Thailand, Nepal, Maldives, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Qatar and Oman. For other details please visit TTD website <http://www.tirumala.org>.

Roc.No PR4/13913/Adv.344/PRO/19, Dated: 16-12-2019 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI VIGILANCE & SECURITY DEPARTMENT e-Tender Notice

Roc.No.C1/2017/V&SO/TTD/TPT/2019

e-tenders were invited to Entrustment of Security Services under Man Power Contract by Inviting Tenders through online (e-Tender) to Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, TTD Information Centre, Chennai, VR Dhamasala, Royapettah and TTD Information Centres (Kanchi, Vellore & Madurai).

DATE OF OPENING TENDER: ● Pre-Bid Meeting: 19-12-2019 ● Technical Bid: 23-12-2019 ● Financial Bid: 27-12-2019

Tender Documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>. For further details contact Phone Numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax: 2264554 and mail ID: csofficedtt@gmail.com.

INTERVIEW | BIBEK DEBROY

'If India has to grow faster, States have to grow faster'

Half the States are growing at less than 6%, says the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM



PUJA MEHRA

To present the economic slowdown as a binary of structural versus cyclical or demand side-driven versus supply-side driven factors is completely unwarranted, says Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In this interview, Mr. Debroy hints at expenditure cuts and reduction in personal income rate to 15% for some income brackets provided taxpayers agree to give up exemptions they enjoy currently. He also says a simplification of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to fewer number of rates is likely to be taken up by the GST Council. Edited excerpts:

Is the economy in a slowdown or, as many well-regarded economists are saying, in a growth recession?

■ There's no point of getting into the semantics of it because this year we are going to end with a growth rate of 5% or thereabouts. Next year it is going to be about 6%. That has implications for what can be done to raise the rates, the fiscal consolidation exercise, tax revenue and all of that.

There is no clarity or consensus both in and outside government on the reasons for the slowdown.

■ To present it as a binary of structural versus cyclical or demand-side versus supply-side driven factors is completely unwarranted. Let's step back. For four successive years GDP growth was about 9%. During those four successive years, the exports GDP ratio was about 20%. Exports grew 15% plus in dollar terms. Sometimes 19%. Sometimes even 20%. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that at least 3 percentage points of the GDP growth were because of exports. If I take that away from 9%, I am at 6%. If exports are not doing well then [GDP growth would be 6%].

If India has to grow faster, the States have to grow faster. If you remove the railways and defence and



stuff like that, 90-95% of national income is generated in the States. The data on the States' GSDP is slightly dated but half the States are growing at less than 6%. You can't expect India to grow faster than that.

If I look at the list of structural reforms – land, natural resources, labour, privatisation – all of those have been pending since 1991. I am not denying the importance of structural reforms. All that I am pointing at is that there are obstacles in the way of structural reforms. Sometimes the Seventh Schedule [of the Constitution], sometimes legislation, sometimes the judiciary, sometimes environment clearances. The tardy progress of the reforms in the past indicates that they are not that easy.

If I am to respond to the quarterly figures, a large part of the growth has come from government expenditure. But there are limits to government expenditure. I am not even talking about a temporary deviation from the FRBM [Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003], which is always possible in the current circumstances. But there are limits to [even that]. A large part of government expenditure is committed – salaries, pensions, interest payments, centrally sponsored schemes, schemes that are legislation-mandated... Government expenditure does not just mean Union government.

There isn't much leeway with the Central government. The growth multiplier of expenditure by State governments is in fact twice that of expenditure by the Central government.

■ Precisely. So, we should be much

I recommend one single rate. If you want to address items for the poor, it is best not to do it through indirect tax policy but other means.

more concerned with what the State governments are spending on.

So, not much of a fiscal stimulus should be expected from the Central government?

■ Depends on what we mean by fiscal stimulus. Traditionally, it means either taxes or expenditure. If I don't slash expenditure, just because the GDP has declined, the deficit will be higher [because fiscal deficit is expressed as a percentage of GDP].

On the tax side, what items can be brought under GST is a decision of the GST Council. That leaves the direct taxes. The Finance Minister has said there is going to be a relook at the direct tax rates because the corporate tax rate has come down but the MSME don't pay the corporate tax rate, they pay the personal income tax rate.

However, as with the corporate tax rates, you cannot have reduced personal income tax rates and exemptions at the same time. Everyone who wants a fiscal stimulus says give me a concession for my sector – both on the GST and also on direct taxes. But if you do that, you will never clean up the system that is discretionary and completely ad hoc.

So sensible fiscal stimulus can only be a reduction in tax rates. Direct taxes have to have an element of progressivity. So, it cannot be 15% for everyone and you cannot have 15%

and also have exemptions.

So, exemptions such as on home loans, investments in provident fund and tax savers will be withdrawn?

■ If you begin to have exemption A, there will be an argument for exemption B. Better to get rid of all. And I am giving you a choice: either you avail of the exemptions or you avail of the lower rate.

Isn't it a contradiction to give a boost to consumption by reducing direct tax rates and at the same time raise rates of GST, which, being an indirect tax, is non-progressive?

■ The trouble is, we want GST to be simplified. [To] how many rates the GST Council will decide. Let's say three rates: 6%, 8% and 12%. When Arvind Subramanian was the Chief Economic Adviser, he did some exercise that showed the average GST rate ought to be 16% to make it revenue neutral. Today, the average GST rate is 11.6% because a large number of items are at 0%. To make the GST a simpler tax, the 28% [highest bracket GST rate] has to come to 18%, which everyone wants. But the 0% must also go up, which no one wants. I don't think the GST Council has yet arrived at a decision. Newspaper reports suggest some items from the 12% GST rate bracket may move to the 18% bracket. And some items that are in the 5% GST rate bracket may move to the 12% bracket. In the midst of a growth slowdown, that's a bad idea.

What do you recommend?

■ It's the prerogative of the GST Council. A perverse incentive has been created by the compensation guarantee. We are stuck with it. If I were to recommend, I would say as an economist: to avoid complications, I recommend one single rate. If you want to address items for the poor, it is best not to do it through indirect tax policy but other means. But let us recognise that no country in the world has a single indirect tax rate. So, the best you can probably get is three rates – a standard rate, a higher rate for 'luxury items' and a lower one for merit goods.

Puja Mehra is an independent journalist based in Delhi. The full interview is on www.thehindu.com

Reservations need to continue for Anglo-Indians

The community's troubles were highlighted in a 2013 report

ROBYN ANDREWS, DOLORES CHEW & UTHER CHARLTON-STEVENS

The Union Cabinet recently approved a proposal to end the constitutional provisions that guarantee the reservation of two seats for the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and in State Assemblies. The decision not to renew this provision was based on the view that the community is doing well and does not need these political reservations. Our view is that this premise is inaccurate. While Census data are not available (as Anglo-Indians are no longer identified as a separate category in the Census survey), those working on the ground with members of the community have experience and evidence that tell a different story. And this is supported by the government-commissioned Ministry of Minority Affairs report (2013) on the situation of Anglo-Indians.

Based on surveys conducted among people belonging to the community in a number of cities, the report documented poor economic and social conditions for too many.

Among the major challenges and problems faced by people of the community, the report observed, the most significant ones related to identity crisis, lack of employment, educational backwardness, lack of proper facilities and cultural erosion. The document also explicitly commended the assistance Anglo-Indians receive from their nominated MPs and MLAs, stating that "representatives of the Anglo-Indian community in the State Assemblies and local leaders of the community are working hard for the welfare and progress of the community".

A forward-looking move

Nomination of seats for Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha was a testament to the fair-minded and forward-looking vision of the founding fathers of the Republic, whose understanding of how to build a successful democracy has rather uniquely stood the test of time. Frank Anthony made the case for special representation on behalf of the community following which Mahatma Gandhi agreed to his request for three seats in the Constituent Assembly, thereby giving Anglo-Indians a voice in the creation of India's Constitution.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas was the person most directly responsible for the granting of these special concessions to this community, scattered across the country. Representing an All-India community, Anthony and his successors in the Lok

Sabha used that voice to provide an independent, national view of the interests of India as a whole. Even when supporting their own community's causes, particularly in areas like education, they advanced the national interest and greatly benefited the country. The presence of Anglo-Indian MLAs in many State legislatures similarly provided a constructive pro-national voice, less tied to parochialism or provincialism, and emphatically against linguistic and religious separatism and similar narrowly communal interests. Unfortunately, the present Lok Sabha has no representation from this community.

In recent years, under its current president-in-chief, Barry O'Brien, the All-India Anglo-Indian Association has continued to expand, creating and promoting positive political engagement. Other community organisations have also been engaged in such work. It would be a great loss to the nation if these voices were to be further marginalised by hasty decisions premised on short-term political considerations.

Some success stories

While there certainly are success stories in the community, the existence of many not-so-successful ones must also be acknowledged. A radical decision like that involving scrapping of reservations ought to have been based on a thorough examination of the position of the community as a whole, and not on the status of some eminent individuals. It should also be noted that many success stories exist because of the work of dedicated community members, including those who serve or have served as MLAs and MPs.

We would therefore conclude that the Indian government needs to continue giving reservation to this marginalised community. The costs to the state here are minimal. But retaining the reserved seats would demonstrate its ability to respond to the needs of those among the most vulnerable people. This would also be a recognition of encouragement for the work done on the ground by grassroots groups involved with the community. In the near future, the community can also possibly find representation in the National Commission for Minorities.

A stronger, less socioeconomically marginalised Anglo-Indian community would benefit the nation as a whole. And the community needs all the support it can get.

Robyn Andrews teaches at Massey University, New Zealand; Dolores Chew at Marianopolis College, Montreal, Canada; and Uther Charlton-Stevens at Volgograd State University, Russia

CAA isn't a Hindu-Muslim issue

Indian Muslims should hold their political fire to oppose the NRC rather than the Citizenship Act

MOHAMMED AYOOB

Instead of protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Indian Muslims should take Home Minister Amit Shah at his word. This is even more imperative in the light of the protests and the police action over the past two days in Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University, which portray predominantly Muslim educational institutions in an unfavourable light. During the debate on the CAA in Parliament, Mr. Shah said, "The Bill has no provision to snatch citizenship from anyone but to grant citizenship to the refugees. There is no need for Indian Muslims to live in fear." Indian Muslims should hold their feet to the fire as far as this assurance is concerned. Their interests can be better served by a different strategy for several reasons.

A brake on implementation? First, there is a good chance that the Supreme Court will determine that the CAA is ultra vires of the Constitution because, *prima facie*, it discriminates on the basis of religion for the grant of citizenship. While recently the apex court has appeared disinclined to challenge the government's decisions, in this case the violation of the letter and spirit of the Constitution appears to be so obvious that the court is unlikely to endorse the CAA without asking for major changes.

Second, the severe protests in the Northeast are likely to put a brake on the immediate implementation of the Act. Assam and West Bengal have exploded in opposition to the law, and the West Bengal government has made it clear that for principled as well as political reasons, the CAA is unacceptable to it. Third, it is best that the fight against the CAA is led by secular-minded and pluralist segments among Hindus and Muslims jointly rather than be turned into a Hindu-Muslim issue. Portraying it as a Hindu-Muslim issue plays into the hands of extremist majoritarian elements thus defeating the purpose of opposition to the law.

Finally, Muslims should hold their political fire to oppose stringently the promised National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC), which is most likely

to be the next contentious move on the government's agenda. It is in this context that they must particularly hold Mr. Shah to his word and insist that no discrimination should take place against them in the NRIC process. Such discrimination, if it takes place, is likely to be even more blatant than a discriminatory CAA, and the Muslims' case for it to be struck down by the courts would be far stronger and garner even more support.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) process in Assam turned out to be counterproductive from the BJP's perspective. Over 19 lakh people were excluded from the NRC list, a substantial number of whom were Bengali Hindu migrants from Bangladesh. Unhappy over the final list, the Assam Bharatiya Janata Party demanded a nationwide NRC. The primary purpose of the CAA is to give citizenship to the Hindu Bangladeshi while deciding on the extremely complicated process of an NRC. However, to the BJP's extreme discomfort, the CAA has set off a political storm in Assam aimed at Bengalis as well as the Central government, a situation reminiscent of the anti-Bengali riots in the early 1960s in undivided Assam. This could even cost the BJP the next election in Assam.

Likely to be targeted As a result of these factors, it is imperative that Indian Muslims make every attempt to prevent the controversy surrounding the CAA from becoming a Hindu-Muslim issue. This is particularly because they are likely to be targeted for being anti-national and pan-Islamic for agitating on behalf of supposedly illegal Bangladeshi Muslim migrants. It may be all right for the BJP in the present atmosphere in the country to play the pan-Hindu card; it will be imprudent for Indian Muslims to portray themselves as pan-Islamic on this issue, especially since they need to conserve their political energy to confront the NRIC move, which will be far more pertinent to their future.

Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University



DATA POINT

Clamped down

1. Affected States

Apart from Kashmir Valley, which continues to face Internet restrictions enforced on August 4, States marked on the map have seen telecommunication shutdowns in the last 35 days. Due to widespread protests following the Citizenship Amendment Act, Meghalaya, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh saw State-wide Internet shutdowns. Parts of Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh were also affected for the same reason

In November, Internet services in parts of U.P., Rajasthan and M.P. were curtailed following the Ayodhya judgment. Internet and mobile services were cut-off in J&K ahead of the dilution of Article 370.

3. Rising restrictions

State	'16	'17	'18	'19
J&K	11	29	78	75
Rajasthan	6	13	16	7
U.P.	2	3	8	7
W.B.	0	2	2	5
Arunachal	0	1	1	2
Assam	0	0	2	2
Odisha	0	2	1	2
Tripura	0	2	1	2
M.P.	0	1	3	1
Maharashtra	1	1	7	1
Meghalaya	0	0	3	1
Punjab	0	1	4	1
Bihar	2	3	5	0
Delhi	0	1	0	0
Gujarat	3	1	1	0
Haryana	3	8	0	0
Jharkhand	1	0	0	0
Manipur	1	0	2	0
Nagaland	0	2	0	0
T.N.	0	0	1	0
Telangana	0	1	0	0
Uttarakhand	0	0	2	0

2. Sorry state

The on-going shutdown in J&K is the second longest in India. The longest, also in J&K, was enforced following the death of Burhan Wani

Starting date	Ending date	Days	Region	Services affected
July 8, 2016	January 7, 2017	202	J&K	Internet
August 4, 2019 (ongoing)		134	J&K	Internet
July 8, 2016	November 18, 2016	133	J&K	SMS and Telephony
June 18, 2017	September 25, 2017	99	W.B.	Internet
April 17, 2017	May 27, 2017	40	J&K	Internet

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 17, 1969

Six killed in Calcutta stampede

Six persons were killed and about 100 others injured - 14 seriously - in a stampede outside the daily ticket counters at the Eden Gardens, venue of the fourth Test between Australia and India, here [Calcutta] this morning [

FROM PAGE ONE

Students erupt in nationwide protests

"Whoever gave the permission for the police to enter the Jamia campus should be brought to book and punished," he said.

He said it was not a Hindu-Muslim issue and could not be linked to religion, and asked the people not to fall prey to rumours as the Act was an affront to the Constitution."

It is the ruling party and the Government of India which are behind the violence. Had the government not brought in this law, there would not have been such violence. The Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Cabinet are responsible for this violence," Mr. Yechury alleged.

Monday also saw leaders of the All Assam Students'

Union and scores of others court arrest during a mass satyagraha against the CAA in Guwahati.

Sarma backs law

However, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed a maximum of 5.42 lakh people will benefit from the citizenship law in the State. Mr. Sarma said rumours were being spread by a certain section of people who claimed that over a crore of people will gain by the Act.

Meanwhile, over 600 students and faculty members from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, took out a rally expressing solidarity with Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University students.

Don't let 'vested interests' divide society, says PM

He termed All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi as the new "Jinnah" (Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah) and Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan as the "Delhi version of Jinnah".

"The Citizenship Amendment Act has nothing to do with people who are Indian citizens already, but political parties are shooting from the shoulders of students as they could not pre-

vent the passage of the Bill in Parliament," he said.

"The CAA is to give citizenship to religiously persecuted refugees, it is not to take away the citizenship of any Indian. Some parties are spreading rumours and inciting violence for their political interest. I request students to go through the CAA once and not fall into their trap," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at an election rally in Jharkhand on Monday.

Govt. releases ₹35,298 cr. in GST compensation

Earlier this month, the Centre had written to States voicing concern that due to lower GST collections, the compensation cess might not be enough to pay for the losses arising out of the adoption of the tax system.

The Central government has released GST compensation of ₹35,298 crore to States and Union Territories today [Monday]. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said in a tweet.

While the government had budgeted for ₹6,63,343 crore in GST collections for the current fiscal, 2019-20, it had garnered only about 50% of its budget estimate in the first eight months.

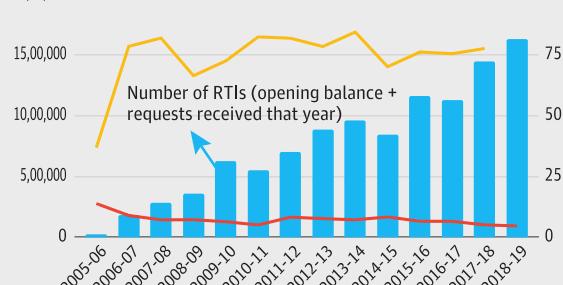
(With inputs from PTI)

RTI 'abuse' led to 'fear' among officials: CJI

Rising requests

The number of RTI requests and the backlog of unprocessed queries have been rising in the recent years. However, the share of queries answered has remained stable while rejection rates have come down.

— Requests rejected as a % of total queries (right axis)
— RTI requests answered as a % of total queries (right axis)



Guidelines should be laid down to check the locus of the RTI applicant and put a "filter" on the kind of requests made under the 2005 Act, the Chief Justice said.

He said the court was not against the exercise of the right to information.

"But it cannot be an unrivalled right. There is the serious problem of people filing RTI requests with malafide intentions, people set up by rivals," he said. The RTI Act had become a source of criminal intimidation by people with an axe to grind. "Criminal intimidation is a nice word for 'blackmail,'" Chief Justice Bobde said.

Justice B.R. Gavai, on the Bench, remarked that "people write 'RTI Consultant' on their letterheads."

"When I was in Mumbai, a government official said the Mantralaya is almost paralysed because of the kind of RTI requests made... Have you seen the kind of people seeking information. Anybody can ask. People describe themselves as RTI activists. Is that an occupation?" he asked.

Justice B.R. Gavai, on the Bench, remarked that "people write 'RTI Consultant' on their letterheads."

Chief Justice Bobde said the court was willing to hear arguments on the locus of people who filed RTIs and also about setting up a "filter which can be rightfully employed."

The spokesman said Pa-

Citizenship Act rules get ready

Ministry says no automatic grant of rights, migrants must apply online

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Monday said no migrant from the six non-Muslim communities from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh to be eligible for the Indian citizenship automatically.

A migrant should apply online and the competent authority would see whether he or she fulfilled all the qualifications for registration or naturalisation as an Indian citizen, a senior Ministry official said.

The Citizenship Amendment Act, passed by Parliament last week, proposes to grant citizenship to "persecuted" minorities from any of the three countries who entered India on or before December 31, 2014. The Centre will soon frame rules to operationalise the provisions of the Act.

Advisory to States

The Ministry on Monday issued an advisory to the States and Union Territories asking them to take all possible steps to check violence and ensure the safety of life and property.

It requested them to take action against circulation of fake news and rumours on social media having the po-

Act explained

Select provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act:

- It inserts December 31, 2014 as the cut off date for non-Muslim communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh to be eligible for the Indian citizenship
- It reduces the mandatory requirement of 12 years stay in India to five years to be eligible for citizenship
- All cases against illegal non-Muslim migrants, before any authority shall stand abated

■ The Act shall not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland

tential to incite violence.

There are apprehensions that the Act, followed by a country-wide National Register of Citizens, will benefit non-Muslims, while excluded Muslims will have to prove their citizenship.

"The CAA does not target any religious community from abroad. It only provides a mechanism for some migrants who may otherwise have been called 'illegal' depriving them of opportunity to apply for Indian citizenship provided they meet certain conditions," the official said.

The official explained that the Citizenship Act, 1955,

ables any foreigner of any class, creed, religion, category etc to apply for Indian citizenship through registration or naturalisation modes. Such a foreigner has to become eligible to apply for citizenship after fulfilling the minimum legal requirements," the official said.

"The CAA does not apply to Indian citizens and they are completely unaffected by it," the official said. In the past six years, 2,830 Pakistani citizens, 912 Afghan citizens and 172 Bangladeshi citizens were given Indian citizenship and "hundreds of them are from the majority community of these three countries".

"Such migrants continue to get Indian citizenship and shall also continue to get it if they fulfil the eligibility conditions already provided in the law for registration or naturalisation," the official said.

■ **Citizenship to Tamils**
The official said that 4.61 lakh Tamils of Indian origin were given Indian citizenship from 1964 to 2008 after the signing of bilateral agreements in 1964 and 1974. Nearly 95,000 Sri Lankan refugees are living in Tamil Nadu.

Activities on upgrade of register stayed, says govt. order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

In a major boost to the civil rights movement in West Bengal, the State government withdrew activities related to the National Population Register (NPR) on Monday. The notice issued by the Census Cell of the Home and Hill Affairs Department automatically revokes an earlier order when the government departments were instructed to list the names of junior officials to compile the NPR.

Civil rights activists welcomed the government's decision, underscoring that the NPR has "nothing to do"

with the usual Census process in 2021.

Monday's order, with a subject line "Stay on NPR process", noted that "all activities regarding the preparation and upgrade of the NPR was 'stayed' in the State. "No activity regarding NPR may be taken up without prior clearance" from the government, the order noted.

The Association For Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), which with other organisations carried on an anti-NPR campaign in the State against the government, welcomed the order.

APDR member Ranjit Sur

described the NPR as the "first step to initiate the National Register of Citizens [NRC]" in the State.

"In the NPR it was stated that doubtful citizens will be identified but it was never indicated what makes a person a doubtful citizen, which was our first objection," Mr. Sur said.

BJP criticises decision

BJP's State president Dilip Ghosh questioned the State government's move.

"The fact that she [Mamata Banerjee] is trying to prevent means how important the exercise was for West Bengal," he said.

described the NPR as the "first step to initiate the National Register of Citizens [NRC]" in the State.

The separate statements of the Union Home Ministry and the J&K administration on not extending Article 371 to the Jammu region have come in for criticism.

"The Jammu region overwhelmingly supported the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A and was being assured by the BJP leaders that a 'domicile law' was in the offing to protect their lands, properties and jobs in the form of Article 371," said J&K National Panthers Party (NPP) chairman Harsh Dev Singh. "But the same has been denied now. The

Jamiat moves SC against citizenship law

'It will lead to religious discrimination'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind on Monday moved the Supreme Court against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, saying the new law classifies immigrants without any "intelligible difference" and ignores several religiously persecuted minorities such as the Ahmadiya, Zikri, Baha'i, Kalasha and Shia sects of Pakistan.

The organisation, through its general secretary, Syed Maulana Mahmood Madani, said the new law would lead to devastating religious discrimination in Assam, where several lakh Hindus and Muslims have been excluded from the final list published on August 31.

"The consequence of the Amendment Act, 2019 would be that the Hindu migrants excluded from the final list of NRC for the residents in Assam published on August 31, 2019, would be entitled to get benefit of naturalisation under Section 6B of the Citizenship Act. However, the Muslim migrants on equal footing with the Hindu migrants, are denied the same, which

Kamal Haasan's MNM moves SC against CAA

NEW DELHI
Actor Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) on Monday moved the Supreme Court against the Citizenship Amendment Act, even as a three-judge Bench led by CJI Sharad A. Bobde agreed to list on Wednesday the petitions challenging the Act on the basis of an oral mention made by senior advocates Kapil Sibal and A.M. Singhvi, representing Congress MP Jairam Ramesh for urgent hearing.

is highly arbitrary and discriminatory," a release issued by the organisation on the contents of its petition, represented by advocate Shakil Ahmad Syed, said. It said this would be an outcome of the new law in Assam where lakhs of people have already been excluded from the NRC final list because of their illiteracy, improper leading of evidence i.e. filing photocopy of necessary and relevant documents, non-examination of witnesses, minor discrepancies in their age and spelling of name in different documents.

Bengal stops NPR work, civil rights activists welcome move

Activities on upgrade of register stayed, says govt. order

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The separate statements of the Union Home Ministry and the J&K administration on not extending Article 371 to the Jammu region have come in for criticism.

"The Jammu region overwhelmingly supported the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A and was being assured by the BJP leaders that a 'domicile law' was in the offing to protect their lands, properties and jobs in the form of Article 371," said J&K National Panthers Party (NPP) chairman Harsh Dev Singh. "But the same has been denied now. The

Centre reneging on Article 371 promise, say Jammu leaders

'No proposal under consideration for the Union Territory'



No special status: Jammu has supported the removal of Article 370.

treacherous conduct of the BJP leaders has once again come to fore as a rude shock to the people of J&K," he said.

A spokesman of the J&K

government, in a statement on Sunday, said there was "no proposal under consideration regarding extension of Article 371 to the Union Territory of J&K," echoing a statement by the Ministry.

Sources said the BJP leaders had been directed to restrict their rhetoric to restoration of statehood to J&K and avoid statements on reallotting any special status.

Congress State president G.A. Mir said the Centre should first reveal the names of those who had demanded extension of Article 371. "It seems to be a demand which was by the BJP, of the BJP and for the BJP," he said.

Congress MP for privilege proceedings against Smriti

'She misled House on Rahul's remarks'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress member of the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore has given a notice of privilege against Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani for allegedly misleading the House on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks about rape.

Mr. Tagore met the Lok Sabha Secretary General on Monday, seeking privilege proceedings against Ms. Irani. "The Minister had claimed that the Shri. Rahul Gandhi had given a clarion call to rape women in India in his speech during an election rally on December 12th. The Minister has intention-

ally misled the Parliament by falsely attributing a statement to Mr. Gandhi," he said in the notice. "The Minister's assertions on the floor of this House are absolutely false. The member has willfully misled not only members of the House, but also the entire nation," he said.

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Ms. Gopinath said the pol- icy priorities of the govern- ment should also include a credible fiscal consolidation path that is more ambitious than currently envisaged by the government.

"This is needed to reduce the high level of debt and reduce crowding out which would free up financial resources for private investment. This should be driven by subsidy-spending rationalisation and tax-base enhancing measures," she said.

Soldier killed in Gurez as Pak. Army opens fire

Ceasefire violated at Krishna Chatti too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

One soldier was killed in firing by the Pakistan Army on the Line of Control (LoC) in the Gurez Sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

An Army spokesman said Pakistani resorted to an unprovoked ceasefire violation in the afternoon. "[The Indian] Army retaliated strongly. One soldier was martyred." The Army identified him as Havildar Chougle Jotiba Ganpati. The spokesman said Pa-

kistan troops also fired with small arms and mortars in the Krishna Chatti Sector in Poonch around 9.45 a.m. The two Armies exchanged "heavy fire" at Sunderbani in Rajouri. Lt. Gen. K.J.S

Congress, AAP and the Trinamool Congress are playing vote bank politics over CAA, and are misguiding the students and creating an environment of violence in the country
AMIT SHAH
Union Minister for Home Affairs

I am very worried about the deteriorating law and order in Delhi. Peace should be restored immediately in Delhi – for this, I have asked Home Minister for an appointment
ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Delhi Chief Minister

I appeal to all students to stay away from violence and maintain peace on campuses. We should not indulge in activity which is not in the interests of the nation
RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK
Union Minister for HRD

I appeal to the protesters that such protests should not be done. I also appeal to the police that they should show some restraint and control the situation calmly
SYED GHAYORUL HASAN RIZVI
National Commission for Minorities Chairman

This has gone too far... can't stay silent any longer. This government is clearly fascist... and it makes me angry to see voices that can actually make a difference stay quiet...
ANURAG KASHYAP
Film director

Wonder if this is a start or the end. Whatever it is, this is writing new rules of the land and those who don't fit in can very well see the consequences
TAAPSEE PANNU
Actor



Won't implement CAA, NRC in Jharkhand: Soren

Hemant Soren, the chief ministerial face of the grand alliance in Jharkhand, said if voted to power, his government would review the CAA and the National Register of Citizens and not implement them if they had the potential for violence.



Mayawati seeks judicial probe into violence

LUCKNOW
Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Monday asked the Central and the Uttar Pradesh governments to call for a "high-level judicial" probe into the violence that took over the student protests in universities in Delhi and Aligarh.



JAIPOUR
Demanding an immediate repeal of the Citizenship Amendment Act, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of preparing the ground for making India a "Hindu Rashtra".

Attack on soul of the nation, says Priyanka

She sits on dharna in solidarity with Jamia varsity students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said here on Monday that "an attack on students is an attack on the soul of the nation." She was speaking after sitting on a two-hour symbolic dharna in solidarity with the students of Jamia Millia Islamia and others protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

In a separate statement, Congress president Sonia Gandhi accused the government of "declaring a war against its own people", and alleged that the writers of the "script of polarisation were Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah".

"The government has attacked the Constitution and the students have been attacked. And they are our future. This is an attack on the soul of the nation," Ms. Vadra said after her protest at the India Gate.

Right to protest

"The youth are the soul of India. They have a right to protest. They have a right to raise their voice and this right has been given by the Constitution. When the government barges into the university... I am a mother and these students would be of my children's age, it hurts the entire country. We are a democracy and not a dictatorship."

"We will fight for the Con-



On the front line: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra leaving after a protest at the India Gate on Monday. ■ AP

stitution, we will fight against dictatorship and we stand with the students," she said. "He [Prime Minister Narendra Modi] should speak about the economy and the atrocities that women face every day and what happened to the students."

Every Congress worker will fight to protect the Constitution, Ms. Vadra said while describing the CAA as "anti-Constitutional".

Senior Congress leaders, including Ahmed Patel, A.K. Antony, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Randeep Singh Surjewala and Ambika Soni, were among the leaders who reached the protest venue. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "The CAB & NRC are weapons of mass polarisation unleashed by fascists on In-

dia. The best defence against these dirty weapons is peaceful, non-violent Satyagraha. I stand in solidarity with all those protesting peacefully against the CAB & NRC."

Creator of violence
Coinciding with the party's offensive on CAA, Ms. Gandhi accused the Modi government of being the "creator of violence and divisiveness".

"A government's job is to maintain peace and harmony, deliver governance and protect the Constitution. But the BJP government has declared a war on its own people. It has become the creator of violence and divisiveness. The government has pushed the country into an abyss of hatred and made the future of youth uncertain," she said.

Mamata marches on Kolkata streets

West Bengal Chief Minister administers pledge to shun violence

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Amid reports of road and railway blockades in south Bengal districts on the fourth consecutive day, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday took to the streets here in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Appealing to people from every section of society to join the rally from the statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar on Red Road to Jorasanko Thakur Bari, Ms. Banerjee said that they should "join this people's movement in a peaceful manner within the ambit of law".

At the beginning of the rally, the Chief Minister administered a pledge to her supporters asking them to maintain peace. "We are all citizens. Harmony of all reli-



Walk the talk: Mamata Banerjee leading a rally against the citizenship law. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

gions is our principle in life. We will not allow NRC and CAA in Bengal," she said. Before starting her march on foot on the 3.5-km stretch in the heart of the city, Ms. Banerjee also condemned the

violence during the protest by the students of Jamia Millia Islamia. She reminded the protesters in Bengal that her government would take strong action against those who indulged in violence.

Protesters disrupted suburban railway services in the Sealdah Namkhana and Sealdah Diamond Harbour sections by blocking the railway tracks and putting banana leaves on overhead lines.

Ready for dialogue, says Himanta

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Finance & Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday that the government would soon talk to those protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act. There would be no action against protests by student and civil society organisations as long as they were democratic, he said.

"We have filed 136 cases against people involved in violence and arson and arrested 190. From the video footage, it was evident that most members of the violent mobs in Guwahati were from certain districts," he said.

CM

College students stage protests across T.N.

Agitators express solidarity with students who were attacked by the police



Up in arms: Members of the Students' Federation of India staging a protest in front of the railway station in Madurai.

■ S. JAMES

ion Home Minister Amit Shah, which were set afire.

The registrar, meanwhile, posted a circular on the university's website, stating that the "university was closed from today (December 16) for winter holidays".

All hostellers were asked to vacate the hostel within 24 hours.

At the IIT, Madras, over 100 students gathered at the Gajendra Circle around noon and shouted slogans condemning "police brutaliti

Governor, CM spar in West Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The relations between West Bengal Governor Jadgdeep Dhankhar and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee touched a new low on Monday when both in their official capacity sent strongly worded letters to each other. In her letter, Ms. Banerjee accused the Governor of "aggravating the situation" through provocation. Mr. Dhankar responded saying he had been "heaped indignities" by Ministers "being on the rampage with most vituperative language".

Earlier in the day, the Governor summoned the Chief Minister after senior officials of the government failed to turn up to brief him on the situation in the State.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Invitation For Pre-Qualification,
International Competitive Bidding with PQ (ICB) on behalf of
Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project (Supported by JICA),
NIT No.17/2019-2020/BCMC/MW/Trichy/Dated: 16.12.2019
FORM OF CONTRACT : Unit Price Contract (LUMPSUM)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu/ Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project (TNUHP) the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Medical Works, Trichy invites prequalification application for the following work at his Office upto 3.00 P.M on 23.01.2020 in sealed cover from the prequalify contractors / consortium / firms.

1. The Government of India has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project (TNUHP) vide Loan Agreement ID -P251, March -2016

IFP No.	Package Description	Approximate Estimate cost	Period of Completion	Cost of PQ Document remitted in favour of
1	2	3	4	5
TNUHP /PWD/ CMCH/ 2019/ CW/ ICB/ IFP-03	Construction of a Tower Block and additional facilities including furniture and furnishing excluding medical equipment at Government Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore.	USD 17.50 Million (INR 110900000/-)	18 Months	The Executive Engineer, PWD, Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Division, Medical Works, Tiruppur - 641 203 The non-refundable fee of INR 16,800 (INR 15,000 + GST (12%))

2. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information of the Prequalification Documents at the office the Superintending Engineer, Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Medical Works, Tamil Nadu Public Works Department, Trichy from 11.00 A.M to 04.00 P.M

3. The documents can also be downloaded from the websites: www.dgmarket.com (or) <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in> (or) www.intenders.gov.in. The non-refundable fees of INR 16,800/- including taxes for PQ documents shall be paid by applicants (who download the documents) along with the application as stated in column (5) above.

4. Pre-Application Meeting	: 08.01.2020 at 11.00 A.M at EIC (B) Office PWD, Chepauk, Chennai - 5.
5. Application Submission Close Date	: 23.01.2020 at 3.00 P.M.
6. Application Opening Date	: 23.01.2020 at 3.30 P.M.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD., BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE, MEDICAL WORKS, TRICHY,
E-mail: sepwdmedical@yahoo.com

DIPR / 4698 / TENDER / 2019

File No. D13/23/May/19/276833/Gen
Government of India
Ministry of Culture
Archaeological Survey of India
Bangalore circle, Bengaluru
E- TENDER NOTICE

Manual bid shall not be accepted

The Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore circle, Bengaluru, Karnataka on behalf of president of India, invites following online E-Tender through CPP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.in/>)

The Tender documents with detailed terms and conditions may be downloaded from the website ([https://www.eprocure.gov.in/procure/app](https://www.eprocure.gov.in/)).

In case of any corrigendum / addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published on the website mentioned above.

Sd/-, Superintending Archaeologist I/c

CM

y". Later, they took out a rally on the campus. They said their protest against the government did not mean they were anti-national. A similar protest was held at Mohammed Sathak College in Sholinganallur.

At Loyola College, over 50 students skipped classes and squatted near the main gate, demanding justice for those who were attacked. Students belonging to the Periyar Ambedkar Study Circle demonstrated at the University of Madras' Chepauk campus.

In Puducherry, members of the Students' Council of Pondicherry University gathered in front of Gate II of the campus, demanding the immediate release of the detained students.

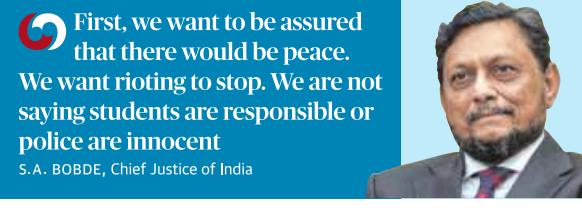
SC to hear pleas for judicial probe today

Protests can go on, but there should be no riots, violence or arson on the streets'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to *suo motu* hear on Tuesday pleas for a judicial inquiry into the police action against students of Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University, saying protests could go on but there should be no riots, violence or arson on the streets.

"First, we want to be assured that there would be peace. We want rioting to stop. We are not saying students are responsible or police are innocent



S.A. BOBBDE, Chief Justice of India

are not saying students are responsible or police are innocent... What is this? Public properties are being destroyed. We will decide it in cool frame of mind," Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde told lawyers during an oral

mentioning. In an urgent plea by senior lawyers Prashant Bhushan, Indira Jaising and Colin Gonsalves to the court to intervene and make the police accountable, Justice Bobde said the court wanted peace and could not

hear the issue hastily when tempers were high.

Ms. Jaising said 52 persons had been detained in the violence. There were news videos and pictures of burning buses, helmeted policemen lashing out with lathis, vandalised library of the university and young people paraded with both their hands held high on a cold Sunday night. Justice Bobde said the protesters could not matters into their hands though they may be students.

Centre to blame for fallout: Azad

Opposition leaders demand judicial inquiry into police action on students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government is responsible for the fallout of bringing in the Citizenship Amendment Act, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Monday in response to statements by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the Congress and its allies were behind the violence in the garb of protests against the Act.

Mr. Azad and other Opposition leaders were addressing a press conference to condemn the Delhi Police action against Jamia Millia Islamia students on Sunday.

Mr. Azad said, "We are against any type of violence. The Prime Minister is right in saying that no approval has been given, how did the police, which is under the control of the BJP-ruled Centre, enter Jamia," he asked. He demanded a judicial inquiry.

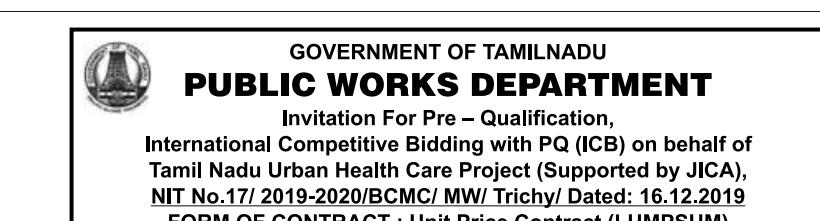
Congress leader Kapil Sibal said riots happened due to communal tensions or local issues, but when riots and violence occurred due to the government's decision, it was very dangerous.

"It means the country is against the government."

Reacting to Mr. Modi's tweets, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said, "It does not behove someone like the Prime Minister to hurl such charges". What happened in Jamia was unacceptable in a democracy. "Whose orders were it on the basis of which Delhi Police entered the university. The Home Minister is directly in charge. Where is he? We haven't seen him in the past two days."

CPI leader D. Raja said, "There is a civil war-like situation in the country".

Manoj Kumar Jha of the Rashtriya Janata Dal condemned the "dog whistle message of the Prime Minister that [protesters] could be recognised by their clothes".



United stand: Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, centre, and Kapil S

Xi vows support for Lam despite setbacks

'Govt. fully recognises courage & assumption of responsibility you displayed in these exceptional times'

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Chinese President Xi Jinping offered his support for Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam on Monday, praising her courage in governing the Chinese-ruled hub in these "most difficult times" after months of often violent anti-government protests.

His comments came after Hong Kong police fired tear gas in late night street clashes with anti-government protesters as the former British colony's worst political crisis in decades shows no signs of resolution.

"The situation in Hong Kong in 2019 was the most complex and difficult since its return to the motherland," Mr. Xi told local media in brief comments before a closed-door meeting with Ms. Lam in Beijing.

"The central government fully recognises the courage and assumption of responsi-



Full support: Carrie Lam says she feels encouraged by Xi Jinping's recognition of her efforts. ■ REUTERS

bility you have displayed in these exceptional times in Hong Kong."

Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 with the promise of wide-ranging autonomy under a "one country, two systems" formula, including a free press and independent judiciary, which the protesters say is being eroded by Communist Party

rulers in Beijing. China denies the charge.

Hong Kong media have speculated that Ms. Lam's talks with Mr. Xi could yield fresh directives on the crisis, including a possible Cabinet reshuffle.

'Uphold the law'

Mr. Xi did not go into specifics, but reiterated his sup-

port for Ms. Lam despite some previous media reports suggesting she might be replaced.

He added Beijing was "unwavering in supporting Hong Kong police in firmly upholding the law" and said Ms. Lam had continued to uphold the "one country, two systems" principle.

Mr. Xi said last month that China was "unwavering" in defending national security and sovereignty, implementing the "one country, two systems" policy and opposing foreign forces interfering in Hong Kong.

He stated on Monday that these were Beijing's basic positions on Hong Kong affairs.

Ms. Lam earlier met Premier Li Keqiang, who said Hong Kong was not yet out of the "dilemma" facing the city's ailing economy after months of sometimes violent protests.

Late on Sunday, groups of

masked youths blocked roads around the densely populated Mong Kok district of Kowloon, over the harbour from Hong Kong island, prompting police to fire multiple rounds of tear gas and baton charge crowds.

Ms. Lam said she was encouraged by Mr. Xi's recognition of her efforts.

Curbs on media

"This year is of course a rather special one because in the last six months Hong Kong has been haunted by social unrest, disturbances and violence acts," she said.

"So I spent a bit more time to give them an account of where things stand."

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said in a report on Monday that press freedom in Hong Kong has come under an accelerating squeeze despite China's pledges to maintain an open society.

Johnson set to welcome lawmakers, get Brexit rolling

Govt. plans to introduce the EU withdrawal Bill on Friday

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is ready to give a pep talk on Monday to a new group of Conservative Party lawmakers as he begins his push to secure parliamentary approval for his Brexit deal.

Mr. Johnson will welcome 109 newly elected colleagues, many of them coming from parts of the country that were once strongholds of the opposition Labour Party.

Buoyed by the Conservatives' win in last week's election, Mr. Johnson will move fast to deliver on his campaign mantra to "get Brexit done." That means ensuring the Brexit withdrawal agreement Bill is passed in time for the U.K. to complete its historic departure from the



Boris Johnson

European Union by the current deadline of January 31.

Mr. Johnson's spokesman James Slack said the government will introduce the EU withdrawal Bill on Friday. It will be up to the Speaker of the House of Commons to determine if Parliament will hold its first major vote on the Bill that same day or will wait until January after the Christmas recess.

The Brexit divorce Bill is expected to receive strong support in Parliament, where Mr. Johnson's Conservatives hold a strong majority. The party won 365 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons in Thursday's landslide election.

If the Bill passes and Britain leaves the EU on time, the country will enter a transition period when EU rules and regulations would still apply in the country and people and goods would still be able to pass freely between the U.K. and the remaining EU members.

Negotiators for the government and the EU would start trade talks with an eye toward a post-Brexit agreement.

Queen Elizabeth II will formally open Parliament on Thursday with a speech outlining legislative programme.

U.K. PM clears report on Russian role

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has cleared for publication a parliamentary report into alleged Russia interference in British politics, his spokesman said on Monday, but no date has been set for its release.

The 50-page report into Russian activity in the U.K., including possible meddling in the 2016 Brexit vote, was written by Parliament's intelligence and security committee earlier this year.

It also referenced the poisoning of former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury, which London has blamed on Moscow.

Colombo-based Swiss Embassy staffer arrested

Sri Lanka's reputation as a constitutional state at stake: Bern

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka police on Monday arrested a local employee of the Swiss Embassy in Colombo, who has been at the centre of a diplomatic controversy, for allegedly making a false accusation that she was detained and threatened.

The Sri Lankan national, working at the visa section of the Embassy, was reportedly abducted and sexually harassed on November 25, a day after a top Sri Lankan police officer, who had been probing cases involving the Rajapaksa family, sought asylum in Switzerland.

"Sri Lanka's reputation as a constitutional State is at stake in this exemplary case," Switzerland said in a statement issued Monday night. The Federal Depart-



Swiss embassy staffer, in pink shawl, being escorted to a court in Colombo. ■ AP

ment of Foreign Affairs in Bern said it was "concerned" about the arrest and that it "expects" the Sri Lankan judiciary to comply with its "own legal requirements, international standards" and to protect personal rights "better than before".

Abduction fabricated
Meanwhile, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa told local media heads on Monday that

available evidence showed the "abduction" of the staffer was "fabricated", his office said in a media release. "The Embassy official must have been compelled by some interested parties to bring myself and my government into disrepute," he was quoted as saying.

In a separate statement, the President's media division said Hanspeter Mock, Ambassador of Switzerland in Sri Lanka, called on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday morning and "assured continuous support" to Sri Lanka. President Rajapaksa "requested the Ambassador to cooperate with the government to conduct the investigation", the statement added.

The Swiss FDFA "criticised" the 30-hour interrogation of its employee over three days "despite poor

told" Sri Lankan authorities that it is looking for a "common and constructive way" to resolve the "security incident". The Swiss Ambassador to Colombo underlined this in a direct conversation with Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa," the statement from Bern said.

Testified to CID
Though the Swiss authorities had maintained that the Embassy staffer was unable to testify in person due to "deteriorating health", following a Colombo court's order last week, the employee has been testifying to the CID for several hours, in addition to presenting herself for medical examination.

The Swiss FDFA "criticised" the 30-hour interrogation of its employee over three days "despite poor

Qatar hopeful of ending rift with Saudi Arabia

Riyadh sought shutting of Al Jazeera

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DOHA

Qatar's Foreign Minister has voiced optimism over ending a bitter rift with Riyadh, saying early talks broke a "stalemate" but stressed Doha's unwillingness to downgrade ties with Turkey as a pre-condition.

Saudi Arabia along with its allies the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt cut all diplomatic and transport ties with Qatar in June 2017.

The four nations accused Doha of backing radical Islamists, including the Muslim Brotherhood, and seeking closer ties with Saudi arch-

rival Tehran – allegations Qatar vehemently denies.

"There (is) some progress... We have broken the stalemate of non-communication to starting communication with the Saudis," Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said.

The Saudi-led bloc made 13 key demands, including shutting down broadcaster AlJazeera, downgrading ties with Iran and closing a Turkish military base on its territory, to resolve the dispute. But the UAE has sought to downplay the reconciliation effort.

Democrats bolster case against Trump, say he betrayed nation

Report spelling out rationale behind impeachment released

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Bolstering its case for impeaching President Donald Trump, House panel released a report on Monday detailing its rationale for the charges and accusing Mr. Trump of betraying the nation for his own political gain.

Mr. Trump faces two articles of impeachment by House Democrats – abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. They point to Mr. Trump pressuring Ukraine to investigate his political



Donald Trump

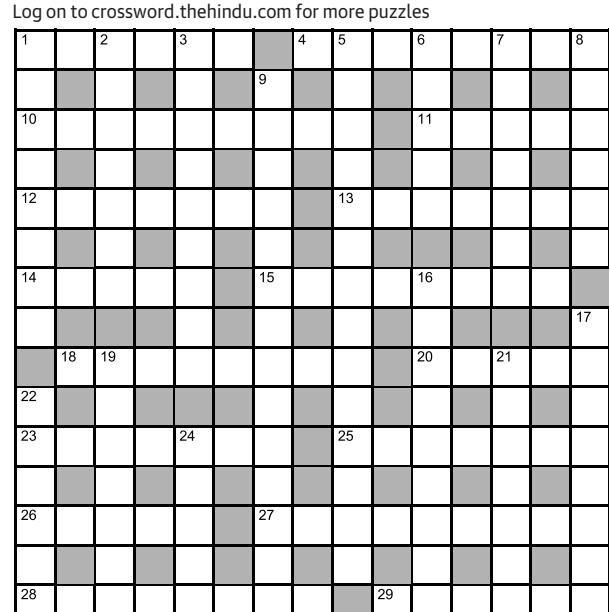
rival Joe Biden while withholding as leverage military aid the country relies to counter Russia as well as his efforts to block the House investigation.

The House will vote on Wednesday on the impeachment articles approved last week by the House Judiciary panel. The vote is all but certain to result in Mr. Trump's impeachment, though he is expected to be acquitted in a Senate trial.

Detailing its case against the 45th President, the Judiciary panel released a report after midnight. It said Mr. Trump "betrayed the nation by abusing his high office to enlist a foreign power in corrupting democratic elections."

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12808

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- Preserve jam (6)
- Married criminal reaches jail with everyone evacuated (8)
- Left that old, boring, extremely tiresome game (6-3)
- Jack escaped from work using influence (5)

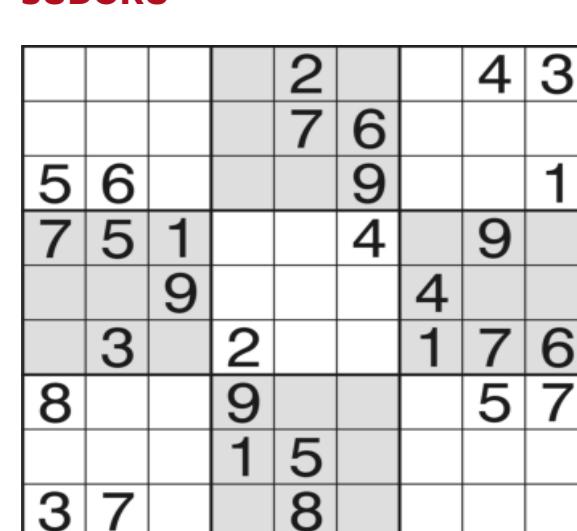
DOWN

- After work is over, proposes drinks (8)

(set by Kriskross)

- City is nice, and mostly hot – melting! (7)
- Dull love-life's starting to suffer? Charge it! (9)
- I won't allow this location of funeral service? (4,2,4,4)
- Shocks student in BITS (5)
- Craze over containers for miscellaneous items (7)
- Termination of a fly in motion (6)
- Famous people in institutions, about to apply control over North America (9,5)
- Familiar addresses to steal by illegal means (9)
- Pessimist wasted many years losing money (8)
- Old pots containing many balloons (7)
- A breathtaking passage (7)
- Queen, say, makes a shrill sound (6)
- A bit of smog possibly seen around German city (5)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12807



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Mahavishnu's patience

Once rishis who were performing yagas wanted to know to which god they should offer havis. It was decided that the one with the most sattvic qualities should be the one to receive havis, said V.S. Karunakarachar in a discourse. Sage Bhrigu was assigned the task of determining which of the gods was the most tolerant and not prone to anger, for tolerance and patience come from sattva guna.

Bhrigu first visited Satyaloka, the abode of Brahma. Brahma was not pleased with the sudden entry of Bhrigu. Angered by Brahma's attitude, Bhrigu cursed him and said that henceforth no one would build temples for Brahma. Bhrigu's next stop was Lord Siva's abode. Although Nandi tried to stop the sage, he paid no heed to Nandi. In Kailasa too, Bhrigu did not get the welcome he had expected. Angered, he next went to the milky ocean, in which Lord Vishnu reclined. He aimed a kick at Vishnu's chest, and Vishnu got up and apologised to the sage! He said that by kicking Him, the sage's foot might have been hurt. He washed the sage's foot with water. He further said that He would proudly protect the bruise on His chest, caused by the sage's kick. Astounded by this reception to a sinful act, the sage concluded that no god could be as forgiving and patient as Vishnu. So, he went back to the other sages and told them that havis should be offered to Vishnu.

In any case, it is Vishnu who resides inside everyone, and so even if havis is offered to some other devata, it reaches the Lord. There is a Subhasita, which says – AkAsAt patitam tOyam yathA gacchati sAgaram/ sarva deva namaskAr Ke- savam prati gacchati. This means all the rain water ultimately reaches the ocean. Likewise, no matter to whom a prayer is offered, it ultimately reaches Lord Kesava.

MARKET WATCH

	16-12-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,939	-0.17
US Dollar	71	-0.24
Gold	38,698	0.13
Brent oil	65.56	0.29

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	368.35	-8.60
Asian Paints	1731.45	-12.50
Axis Bank	747.25	-4.75
Bajaj Auto	3220.40	-12.50
Bajaj Finance	9288.10	77.80
Bharti Airtel	421.85	-5.95
BPCL	492.00	-4.75
Britannia Ind	3050.90	-3.50
Cipla	458.25	-3.00
Coal India	192.60	-3.65
Dr Reddys Lab	2816.35	-5.15
Eicher Motors	21651.00	-383.75
GAIL (India)	121.20	1.40
Grafix Ind	763.10	-19.20
HCL Tech	552.20	9.05
HDFC	2375.25	20.75
HDFC Bank	1257.35	-6.50
Hero MotoCorp	2308.45	-29.70
Hindalco	206.65	-1.60
Hind Unilever	1974.75	-31.45
ICICI Bank	539.25	2.20
IndusInd Bank	1493.40	8.00
Bharti Infralet	248.25	-4.15
Infosys	714.00	2.70
Indian Oil Corp	126.15	-2.10
ITC	236.90	-4.70
JSW Steel	253.10	-4.50
Kotak Bank	1703.95	11.20
L&T	1303.00	-2.30
M&M	508.85	-7.35
Maruti Suzuki	7140.05	-74.90
Nestle India Ltd.	14151.65	-149.95
NTPC	114.95	-0.70
ONGC	125.60	-0.90
PowerGrid Corp	186.95	1.25
Reliance Ind	1566.60	-16.30
State Bank	331.85	-0.70
Sun Pharma	435.15	-4.10
Tata Motors	174.95	-1.75
Tata Steel	421.00	-7.40
TCS	2126.75	55.50
Tech Mahindra	773.30	11.45
Titan	1165.65	-20.50
UltraTech Cement	4061.25	-21.35
UPL	563.70	-1.30
Vedanta	147.15	-2.25
Wipro	243.15	-0.70
YES Bank	46.80	0.15
Zee Entertainment	278.25	-1.45

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.79	71.11
Euro	78.85	79.24
British Pound	94.60	95.03
Japanese Yen (100)	64.69	64.98
Chinese Yuan	10.11	10.16
Swiss Franc	71.98	72.32
Singapore Dollar	52.25	52.49
Canadian Dollar	53.91	54.16
Malaysian Ringgit	17.08	17.25

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

	December 16 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)	47.5... (47.3)
22 ct gold (1g)	3622... (3600)

Source: Indian Bank

Future revenues critical for finance panel'

States are lulled into complacency by the assured compensation cess, says N.K. Singh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



The GST structure should be made more revenue-friendly and stakeholder-friendly, said N.K. Singh. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Future revenues are the most critical issue for the 15th Finance Commission, chairperson N.K. Singh said on Monday, adding that revenues from the Goods and Services Tax are the 'elephant in the room'. He also hinted at the need to consider an incentive structure for States in order to encourage increased tax collections.

Mr. Singh was speaking to journalists after the fifth meeting of the Economic Advisory Council of the Commission. The Commission has submitted its recommendation report for 2020-21 to the Finance Minister and is now working on a 'comprehensive' report for the five year period of 2021-26, he said.

On Jammu and Kashmir, he clarified that the erst-

while State was being treated like any other Union Territory (UT) in the 20-21 report, and would receive grants directly from the Home Ministry, along with the other newly created UT of Ladakh.

The Council discussed macro assumptions for the Commission's award period relating to real growth, the structural shift in inflation, and tax revenues and expenditure patterns at both the central and State levels.

The most critical issue was that of future revenues, especially GST revenues, said Mr. Singh, calling it the 'elephant in the room'. The

GST structure should be made more revenue-friendly and stakeholder-friendly, said N.K. Singh. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

He suggested that while the 14% rate of GST compensation to States was mandatory under law for the initial five-year transition period, he would not recommend 'a mechanical replication' in subsequent years.

'Race to the bottom'
Mr. Singh noted that while States have complained that GST revenues have been lower than expected, none of their Finance Ministers has raised protests, individually or collectively, in the GST Council of which they are a part. He said States had a collective tendency for a 'race to the bottom', accusing them of being 'lulled into a

state of complacency' due to the assured 14% compensation cess. In the pre-GST era, State revenue officials would have worked harder to ensure that their tax collections met revenue targets, said Mr. Singh, suggesting that there may be a need for an incentive structure to encourage the State machinery to improve collections and tax compliance.

His comments come two days before the GST Council meeting slated for December 18, where States are expected to push the Centre on delayed payments from GST compensation cess. There has been a shortfall of GST collections so far this year.

While the government had budgeted for ₹6,63,343 crore in GST collections for 2019-20, only about 50% of the target has been collected in the first eight months.

Growth slowdown not entirely due to global factors, says Shaktikanta Das

'RBI saw a momentum for slowdown building up, and started cutting rates'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI



Das capital: The RBI Governor called for coordinated action by advanced and emerging economies to revive growth. ■ REUTERS

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has called for greater coordination among all countries to revive growth, while observing that the growth slowdown in India was not entirely due to global factors.

"What is important is coordinated action by all advanced and emerging economies to revive growth. I am not implying that the slowdown in India is entirely due to global factors. But it does impact the growth prospects of India," he said at an event.

GDP growth slowed down to a 26-quarter low at 4.5% in the second quarter of the

current fiscal. In its monetary policy meeting held earlier this month, RBI cut growth projections to 5% from 6.1% projected in October. "For emerging market countries like India, it is im-

portant that there is quick revival of growth. Therefore, there is a need for timely and coordinated action by all countries," Mr. Das said.

Despite a forecast for lower growth, RBI held interest

rates in December due to concerns on rising prices. The CPI inflation projection was revised upwards to 5.1-4.7% for the second half of 2019-20 and 4.0-3.8% for the first half of 2020-21.

The relative emphasis between growth and inflation will depend on prevailing macroeconomic scenario, inflation and growth outlook and signals emerging from incoming data," Mr. Das said. "We acted a little bit ahead of time in terms of reducing our policy rates. As early as February this year, the RBI saw that a momentum for slowdown was building up, so started cutting rates this year," he added.

ArcelorMittal forms JV with Nippon Steel

60:40 venture to operate Essar Steel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steel maker, on Monday, completed the acquisition of Essar Steel India Ltd. Simultaneously, the firm established a joint venture with Nippon Steel Corporation (Nippon Steel) – ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited (AMNS India) – to own and operate ESIL. ArcelorMittal holds 60% of AMNS India, with Nippon Steel holding the balance," the company said in a statement, adding that Aditya Mittal, president and CEO of AMNS India, with Dilip Oommen as the CEO. Lakshmi Mittal,

chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal, said: "The acquisition of Essar Steel is an important strategic step for ArcelorMittal. We have been looking at suitable opportunities to build a meaningful production presence in the country for over a decade."

AMNS India's current level of annualised crude steel production is 7.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa). The JV aims to increase the shipments to 8.5 mtpa in the medium term and to increase the finished steel shipments to between 12-15 million tonnes through the addition of new iron and steel-making assets in the long term.

Costlier food items spur WPI to 0.58%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The wholesale price-based inflation quickened to 0.58% in November 2019 against 0.16% in October. However, year-on-year, slowed compared to 4.47% in November 2018.

A Commerce Ministry statement said the index for food articles rose 1.4% due to higher prices of urad, fish-marine, moong, rajma, jowar, egg, condiments and spices, fruits and vegetables and poultry chicken. Prices of maize, tea and ragi declined.

The index for non-food articles rose by 0.6% higher prices of items such as in floriculture, raw rubber, raw jute and fodder.

RBI asks banks to waive NEFT charges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India has asked all the banks to waive charges levied for National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) for online transactions, with a view to boost digital payments.

"To give further impetus to digital retail payments, it has now been decided that member banks shall not levy any charges from their savings bank account holders for funds transfers done through NEFT system which are initiated online (viz. Internet banking and/or mobile apps of the banks)," RBI said. The rules are effective January 1, 2020. Banks used to charge about ₹5 for NEFT transactions between ₹10,000 and ₹1 lakh, ₹15 for transactions between ₹1 lakh up to ₹2 lakh and ₹25 for the ₹2 lakh-₹5 lakh range.

The electric van, T3 MPV, will be sold through B2B channels for now. At some stage in the near future, BYD electric cars will be launched in India and the company is careful to preserve its brand image.

Electric forklifts are another key focus area where BYD aims to carve out a 15% share of the market in the next three years.

The Chinese major also plans to assemble mobile phones in the country. The company signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government two weeks ago to invest ₹2,800 crore in a phone assembly unit near Chennai that will employ 11,500 people. Mr Zhang did not confirm though if this will be to assemble the i-Phone.

(The correspondent was in Shenzhen recently at the invitation of BYD)

Legacy arms help AI in cruising through steep financial headwinds

Airline able to meet operational expenses

LALATENDU MISHRA



At a time when Air India (AI) is striving to keep the operations going despite serious financial crunch, several of its arms are helping it stay afloat.

These institutions, namely its engineering division, now called Air India Engineering Services Ltd., that runs MRO services, its security department with 3,600 personnel as well as its Aviation Security Training Institute, in-house crew training institute and simulator facility are helping it to manage operations in a cost-effective manner.

In the recent past, the government has cut the financial lifeline to the loss-making national carrier which is being sold or dis-invested through a listing.

Currently, the airline, which operates flights to 42 international and 75 domestic destinations, has been left to fend for itself and is on a hand-to-mouth existence. It is paying cash to lift off on a daily basis.

The MRO arm, apart from catering to the airline's requirement, earned ₹100 crore from other airlines.

The security department earned ₹23 crore from foreign and domestic airlines and even its headquarters at Nariman Point, with its unique fire department, is earning an annual rental income of over ₹100 crore.

All these may be small compared to the Maharaja's daily losses, but they are helping in some way, officials said.

Inherently, there are a lot of strengths in the company. The MRO and the security and crew training departments are unique to AI. Very few airlines in the world have such facilities. Since the expertise is available with AI, we are doing

Equitas Small Finance Bank files for IPO

SRAVASTI DATTA

Bengaluru-based Priya Kuriyan is one of India's noted illustrators. When we meet her in Bengaluru, where she lives, Priya is quick to dismiss any claims to greatness: "I haven't counted the number of books I have illustrated," adding: "I don't approach projects thinking they are going to be a magnum opus and that is what I teach my students too. I try to push myself to be better with every project."

However, Priya's works have consistently been of high quality, bearing a distinctive, signature style. She is a book artist, comic book illustrator and animator, and has collaborated with well-known names in the publishing industry, including Tulika Books, and authors such as Manu S Pillai.

Excerpts from an interview, in which the graduate of The National Institute of Design, talks about winning the Big Little Book Award 2019 for the best children's illustrator, instituted by Parag, which she received during the Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai Litfest 2019, and her career so far.

The jurors comments at the Big Little Book Awards were
'Priya Kuriyan has the rare ability to get inside a child's mind with her illustrations... the story emerges through her lines, textures, colours that harmonize to allow the illustrations not only to speak with the text but also read the subtext'. How did this style evolve?

● When I began illustrating children's books, I didn't consciously think about these things. Over a period of time, with experience, I felt subtext was important in terms of creating atmosphere, even making a book being politically conscious. These came out of experience.

You worked as an animator in a production house in Mumbai that made commercials and later for the Sesame Street show (Galii Galli Sim Sim) in Delhi. How did you journey into illustrating children's books?

● At the production house, they made ad films. At some point, I felt I should be doing better things with my life. The workplace was good and I had a good boss, who mentored me well. When you are working in a production house,



Wielding her illustrative PEN

there are tight deadlines, so you have to finish something well, yet on time, so those are good lessons to learn from your first job. But at the end of the day, you have to push different products and I got a bit tired of that. There was this production house in Delhi that produced the *Sesame Street* show. That is when I started working on children's content specifically. The show however didn't get good TRPs, so it wrapped up. I was also doing illustrations on the side for children's books.

Once I decided to freelance, somehow through word of mouth, I got more and more work. Even at that point of

Priya Kuriyan says what we spend on celebrity authors should be spent on children's writing as they are our future readers and need to be nurtured

time I was not looking at children's illustrations as a serious profession. Also, once you illustrate a children's book, people continue to think that you are an illustrator and you start getting similar kind of work. But I started enjoying illustrating. I think the possibilities are much more, while illustrating children's books.

How does the creative process



work between the author and illustrator?

● In some cases the publisher acts as a mediator between the author and the illustrator. Sometimes the author and illustrator don't talk, but that has become less of the case now. I prefer, especially if it is a picture book, to speak to the author from time to time. When it comes to picture books it is a collaboration, where half the work is the illustrator's and half the work is the author's. I read the script entirely to get a sense of what the story is about and send rough sketches, which the publisher and author see and get back to you.

Ammachi's Glasses is your own wordless picture book, based on your paternal grandmother?

● When I was in Delhi, I wanted to write a children's book. I was illustrating other people's stories and I thought it was time to write my own. The story was about my grandmother. I had gone to the workshop in Delhi in 2014, conducted by Anushka Ravishankar

Telling tales Priya says the idea for Ammachis Glasses was always there at the back of her mind

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and Anusuya Basu. I had developed a story there, done sketches and written the text. When I sent it to the publishers, Tulika, they suggested I remove the text, as the book works well with just illustrations.

Was the idea for Ammachis Glasses always with you or did it suddenly spring up?

● The idea was always there, not losing the glasses part, but maybe having my paternal grandmother as a character. I lived with her in Kochi for two years. She also had a cat at home. She hated the cat and thought cats should not be domesticated. Somewhere all that kind of came together.

Tell us about your collaboration with writer Devapriya Roy on *Indira, the graphic biography of Indira Gandhi*.

● *Indira* involved a lot of research. Devapriya and I travelled together to Allahabad. I would also keep visiting Delhi because I felt it was important to visit the places where certain parts of the book were set. I had visited Parliament before, but I revisited certain spaces within Parliament, where some parts of the book are located.

Devapriya started work on the project much earlier. She spent a lot of time in libraries. I went through visual archives and talked to people. It took us six months to put the book together. The book is a way to introduce Indira Gandhi to the millennial.

Since 2003, when you began illustrating for children's books, have you seen a change in the industry?

● It is definitely better than when I started out. At the time there were very few publishing houses and the established publishers weren't really bringing out picture books. But things have changed drastically over the years. Yet, I think it is not enough. Children's literature needs much more attention. I still feel it gets a bit of a stepchild treatment. I find it strange because these are your future readers, you need to nurture them. What we spend on celebrity authors should be spent on children.

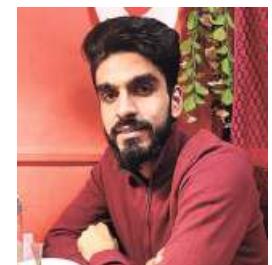
PEOPLE

Helping hands

After the violence in Jamia Millia Islamia day before yesterday, residents nearby and classmates offered refuge to students



R V MORTY
Adnan Khan, (selfie) from Lucknow, a journalism student at the Mass Communication Research Centre, and my classmate, was trapped inside the central library of Jamia Millia Islamia with tear-gas shells. When he finally escaped, he stood at Zakir Nagar Dhalan, only to encounter two familiar faces equally confused and tense. They were Imaad Ul Hassan, from Aurangabad, and Salim Javed, from Mathura, our classmates. Adnan took them to his rented room in Zakir Nagar. "We stayed together, but we couldn't sleep the entire night because one of our batchmates was detained by the police, and we were worried," said Adnan, but the fact that they were together helped them get through the night.



At the same time, Aaqib Fayaz, (in red) another classmate, and Ali Johar, from Calicut in the English department of the college hosted six fellow students, even a day scholar who lives in Faridabad and who couldn't get home, in their rented place in Batala House.

"That day when we were all escaping from campus, we were scared. But we were also happy to see so many localities helping us, asking us if we needed anything," says Aaqib, adding that the roads were empty with only a few students trying to get home. Many people living close by offered them space to stay. In fact the neighbours gave the group blankets to use for the night. Many professors and alumni living near the campus, also opened their doors to students of the University.

"A number of people reached out through social media offering their homes, but sometimes it was just difficult to reach. Also, since the network was very slow, many messages didn't reach us," says Aaqib. He and his friends went out at night to buy food. They cooked Maggi and eggs and the group ate in silence. They too were tense about the missing classmate.

It was also the day people around propped ladders against the college walls, for students to escape from the lawns. They were waiting on the other side with water and biscuits.

At about 9 p.m., we saw similar support when hundreds of people from Delhi colleges and people from civil society come out on a cold night to stand at the Delhi Police Headquarters in protest. There was even one family who came with two young children.

Aaqib is now in my house with my mother plying him with food. He is from Kashmir and while a number of students have gone back to their hometowns, he feels it isn't safe to return to his.

BHUMIKA SARASWATI

PRODUCTS

Tik tok

Hermle Clocks, the 96-year-old German family-owned clock-maker, has launched a range of its hand-crafted clocks in India. The manufacturer still makes mechanical clocks, from the classical grandfather and mantle to table and wall clocks. Their Tellurium reproduces the earth's annual orbit around the sun as well the 29.5-day moon cycle.

At hermleclocks.in, upward of ₹20,000

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



PERFORMANCE

Sitar recital
India Habitat Centre, in collaboration with Bhartiya Jnanpith, is hosting a sitar recital by Gaurav Majumdar, a disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar, this evening. Allahabad-born Mazumdar, who moved to Delhi in pursuit of music, is a Hindustani classical musician. His style of playing belongs to the Maihar-Senior tradition.

VENUE: Amaltas Hall, IHC

TIME: 7 p.m.



FILM

Asian delight
The Kimono Club, a modern Asian bar and restaurant has introduced a new menu with a live dimsum station, which serves Japanese and Chinese delicacies. The new menu includes signature dishes like, Wagarashi Prawns Almond Wasabi, Duck Carpaccio, Lobster and Truffle Dumpling, Ganno Steak Teriyaki, and more.

VENUE: The Chanakya, Chanakyapuri

TIME: 12 noon - 12:45 a.m.



EXHIBITION

Oil paintings
The ongoing painting show titled *Pinnacle* is a journey of stroke by noted artist Ramesh Anand. Dewas-born Ramesh, generally uses oil paints but his colour selection gives a new sense to his paintings. After a long journey with figures, this collection of his works depicts monuments, structures and mountains in vibrant colours.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



FOOD

Special menu
The Wine Company, a modern Indian and European cuisine at Gurugram, offers a special winter menu. Curated by its in-house chef Mirgank, the menu has Chicken Liver Pate with Pink Peppercorn Bruschetta, Fried Fish Soft Tacos, Twice Baked Crab Souffle, Jackfruit Tacos, all served with the Barley and Quinoa Salad.

VENUE: Cyber Hub, DLF Cyber City

TIME: 12:30-4 p.m. and 5 p.m.-1 a.m.



RETAIL

Winter mela
Dastkar, the society for crafts and artisans, has organised its annual winter mela. On till 23 December, the mela offers some of the warmest and vibrant of Indian crafts such as, Tussar silk, Mashru weaves, Kullu and Kinnauri shawls, Ikat weaves, Jamdani and Banarasi brocades, quilts, knitted sweaters, capes, jackets and carpets.

VENUE: Nature Bazaar, Andheri Modh

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

CMYK



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VENUE: Nature Bazaar, Andheri Modh

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

This year showed various tech ecosystems pushing themselves beyond typical barriers. Call it marketing to keep users dazzled in the long run. Apps, in particular, have made indelible marks on our quotidian routines. That said, on December 2, Apple held an experiential Best of 2019 conference, where the top apps for the year across their devices – iPhone, Mac, iPad, Apple TV – and trends, were all under the same roof in a chilly neighbourhood in Manhattan. The event aimed at letting developers rub shoulders with other developers.

The young and the restless

With mobile photography taken to a whole new level, it seemed as though DSLRs and other pricey hardware became a thing of the past this year. One of the champions of aggrandised mobile experiences is Lux Optics' Spectre Camera, which was awarded iPhone App Of The Year. This AI-fuelled app at just under 16 megabytes lets users take long-exposure photos, which means you can make crowds or traffic disappear, create light painting effects and eerie waterfalls. Expect features such as auto-stabilisation (sorry, tripod fanatics), scene detection and intelligent exposure. The app is just ₹249 with no further in-app purchases.

Co-founder Sebastiaan de With wrote in a Medium blog post on December 4, "Spectre is young – we launched the app in February, and were overwhelmed with the positive response. It was the top paid app in the United States for almost a full week... We are not done with Spectre. We think there is lot of exciting opportunities for computational photography left for us to explore. We have huge plans in 2020, and

All about the VISUAL

can't wait to show you what we have been working on."

Graphic designers had much to play with this year, too. iPad App Of 2019 is Flow By Moleskine, a digital notebook allowing users to create to their hearts' content using calligraphy pens, graphite pencils and chisel-tipped markers, mimicking the real thing. These tips have been calibrated to the millimetre too. To add to the experience, one can re-mark over previous lines to intensify colours.

Mac App Of The Year, Affinity Publisher, is a pro-level design suite – yes, suite – by Serif, tech company founded in 1987. With Affinity Publisher (₹3999), users need not switch between programmes for different tasks within a single project. With its elegant user experience and reasonable price point, Affinity Publisher makes pro-level design accessible to everyone, whether you are creating a photo-rich coffee table book or a flyer for your child's play. Managing director of Serif, Ashley Hewson, believes Affinity Publisher, which launched in June, is Serif's biggest project by far. The suite is rich in features: one being its StudioLink technology,

which allows owners of vector design app Affinity Designer and image editor Affinity Photo to use them right there in an Affinity Publisher layout, simply by clicking the relevant product icon.

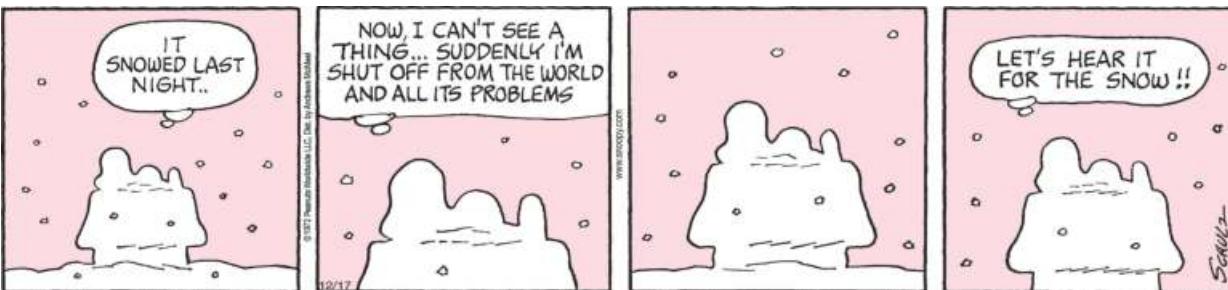
Traveller fanatics are gleeful that The Explorers takes home Apple TV App Of 2019, for its support of the community of explorers, scientists and artists, working to create a comprehensive "visual inventory" of the natural world through photo and video.

Headed by Olivier Chiabodo and Jean-Pierre Morel, the team features PhD scientists, aerial chief operators and video engineers. The Explorers is free to install but there is premium paid content within the app itself.

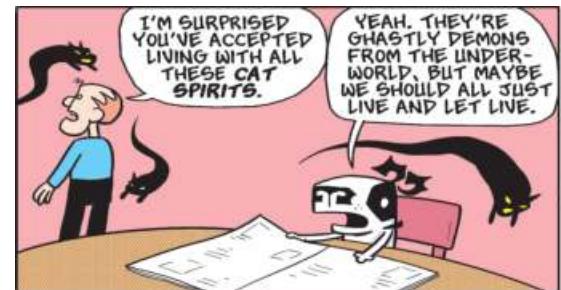
Gaming taken higher
Games this year focussed on two things: visuals and plots. Sky: Children of the Light by thatgamecompany won iPhone Game Of 2019, Hyper Light Drifter by Abylight SL won iPad Game Of 2019, GRIS by Devolver / Nomada Studio won Mac Game Of 2019 and Wonder Boy: The



PEANUTS



POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13252

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- 2 Snuggle (6)
3 Send a written message by phone (4)
4 Taking place without being made public (12)
5 Acts on what is being implied (5,3,4)
6 Avoiding close contact (2,4,6)
7 Map-maker (12)
12 Trained (8)
15 Moral standards (6)
18 Name unknown (abbr) (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated December 18, 2019.

Solution No. 13251

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WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES®

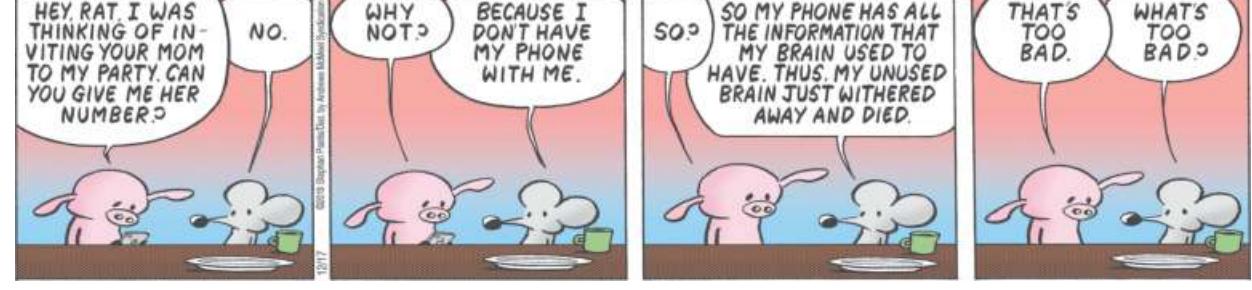
by Brian Smith
WHAT FRUIT CONTAINS THE MOST VITAMIN C?

DR KAKADU PLUM
IS ALSO USED IN THE COSMETIC INDUSTRY BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH VITAMIN C CONTENT.
THAT HONOR GOES TO THE KAKADU PLUM OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA. IT CONTAINS MORE VITAMIN C THAN ANY OTHER SOURCE IN THE WORLD, UP TO 5,300 MG PER 100 GRAMS OF FRUIT! THAT'S 100 TIMES THE VITAMIN C IN AN ORANGE! THE KAKADU PLUM IS ALSO RICH IN VITAMIN E, FOLIC ACID AND CAROTENOID.

Health Capsules is not intended to be a substitute for medical advice.

© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



England, d. 1954 (4)

- 1 Build (9)
13 Endorsed (6)
14 Burn slightly (6)
16 Test (abbr) (4)
17 Reprimand firmly (8)
19 Judaism's Hell (7)
20 Sleep on (3,2)
21 Tough and uncompromising (4-5)
■ Down
1 Dead skin on fingernails (8)

2 Snuggle (6)

3 Send a written message by phone (4)

4 Taking place without being made public (12)

5 Acts on what is being implied (5,3,4)

6 Avoiding close contact (2,4,6)

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Hetmyer's knock perfectly timed

With the IPL auction on Thursday, there will be a clamour for his signature

WI IN INDIA

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

Shimron Hetmyer showed glimpses of his talent during the five-match ODI series against India last October, making a hundred and a 94, though not in winning causes.

On Sunday, he changed all that with a career-best 139 that helped West Indies win at a canter and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The 22-year-old Guyanese batsman couldn't have timed his knock better as the IPL auction is scheduled to be held on December 19.

Last month, Royal Challengers Bangalore, led by Virat Kohli, released him after a poor run in the 2019 IPL season where he scored just 90 from five matches, 75 of those coming in his final innings. Hetmyer couldn't have chosen a better opponent than India to click again.

When asked if he wanted to prove a point, Hetmyer played it down. "To me, it's about enjoying my batting, it's cricket – sometimes you score runs and sometimes you don't. I didn't have the best IPL. But it is a nice experience, it always helps you to come back much stronger from there. I just try as much as possible to put that behind me."

In good form

The youngster came into the series on the back of some solid scores in T20Is and,



Firing on all cylinders: Shimron Hetmyer, who was promoted to the No. 3 slot during the Afghanistan series last month, played with freedom and confidence on Sunday. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

C To me, it's about enjoying my batting, it's cricket – sometimes you can score runs and sometimes you don't

SHIMRON HETMYER

along with Nicholas Pooran and Shai Hope, is seen as a vital member of the West Indies batting line-up.

Hetmyer has utilised the opportunity to bat at No. 3 – he earned promotion during the Afghanistan series last month – and at the MAC Sta-

dium on Sunday, played with freedom and confidence. This allowed Shai Hope to play second fiddle without taking any risks.

It was a crucial victory for the West Indies as it seeks to regain some momentum in the ODIs after not winning a bilateral series in five years until last month's triumph against Afghanistan.

Even after Hetmyer was dismissed, Hope and Pooran showed a calm head, not trying to hit the bowlers out of the park, seeing off Kuldeep

Yadav and targeting Mohammed Shami and debutant Shivam Dube.

For India, a huge positive was the fact that the middle-order batsmen – Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant and Kedar Jadhav – put their hands up after the top-three had a rare off-day. The trio bailed the team out from a precarious 80 for three and took it to 287.

The context of the match and the conditions – a sluggish wicket – meant that the knocks will carry more weight and give them extra confidence. However, in Hardik Pandya's absence, the team's balance is not ideal, especially with Jadhav and Dube – the latter being new to international cricket – having to share 10 overs between them.

A wake-up call
Sunday's defeat will give India a wake-up call. But the team has shown in recent times that it has the ability to bounce back. Pollard's men need to be on their toes.

Has Pant turned a corner?

S. DIPAK RAGAV

CHENNAI
No current Indian cricketer has been under such immense scrutiny as Rishabh Pant.

The 22-year-old wicket-keeper-batsman's poor run with the bat has seen him being dropped from the Test side.

And at various venues across the country Pant has received a hostile reaction from fans who chant 'Dhoni Dhoni' whenever he messes up a DRS or drops a catch.

Coming into the first ODI here on Sunday, there were even suggestions from the team management that the option of K.L. Rahul donning the gloves could be considered at some point in case

Pant's form did not improve. But the stylish batsman silenced a lot of his critics with a mature display on a difficult Chepauk wicket which was slow and where the ball was not coming on to the bat.

When Pant walked in at No. 5, India was in a spot of bother at 80 for three in the 19th over.

Usually aggressive right from the word go, he took his time to settle down before playing some of his trademark shots during his 69-ball 71.

The left-hander took six balls to get off the mark and had only eight off the first 17 balls he faced before hitting his first boundary, a flick through midwicket off Alzar-

ri Joseph. He went after off-spinner Roston Chase, pulling him through midwicket and going down on his knees to swat the bowler over midwicket for a six.

Classic shot

He then turned his attention to Holder. The first boundary came off a classic Pant shot – moving across the off-stump, crouching and shovelling it over square leg. The next was hit straight past the bowler.

As a pleasant surprise, the crowd in Dhoni's adopted home – Chennai – rooted for the youngster with chants of 'Rishabh Pant Rishabh Pant'.

The Delhi youngster may have just turned the corner with this knock.

Back in business

Rishabh Pant notched up his first ODI half-century on Sunday. His previous highest score of 48 came against Bangladesh in the 2019 World Cup

LAST 10 ODIS

Runs	Average	Highest	SR
277	28.78	71	92.33



LAST 10 INNINGS

Format	Opponent	Runs	Balls faced
Test	West Indies	31	57
Test	West Indies	27	65
T20I	South Africa	4	5
T20I	South Africa	19	20
T20I	Bangladesh	27	26
T20I	Bangladesh	6	9
T20I	West Indies	18	9
T20I	West Indies	33	22
T20I	West Indies	0	2
ODI	West Indies	71	69

IPL auction to go ahead as scheduled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The protests over the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act notwithstanding, the players' auction for the IPL will go ahead in Kolkata as scheduled on Thursday.

There have been reports of violence in West Bengal but Kolkata hasn't exactly been affected.

It is reliably learnt that the Delhi Capitals' team management, that will be representing the franchise at the auction, will reach Kolkata on Tuesday to start the final preparation.

"As of Monday evening, IPL auctions are on. Franchises will start arriving by tomorrow evening and Wednesday morning," a senior BCCI official said.

As many as 332 cricketers will go under the hammer on December 19 with Glenn Maxwell and Dale Steyn among those opting for the highest base price of ₹2 crore.

In this year's auction, 73 slots are there to be filled in eight franchises and only 29 of them can be foreign buys.

Benzema salvages draw at Valencia

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Real Madrid missed the chance to replace Barcelona at the top of La Liga ahead of Wednesday's Clasico but salvaged a 1-1 draw against Valencia as Karim Benzema scored a dramatic injury-time equaliser.

Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois ventured up for a final corner at Mestalla and it was his header that caused panic in the Valencia box, before the ball fell perfectly for Benzema to strike in the 95th minute.

"Opponents can get a little nervous if I go up," said

Courtois. "Toni (Kroos) hit the corner to the near post and I just saw the ball was at my height and I caught it well."

Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said: "He decided to go up and that shows we want more, than we never give up. The draw is a reward for the effort we made, which was a lot. This is Real Madrid, a team that never gives up."

Valencia looked set for an impressive victory after Carlos Soler had put it ahead in the second half but both sides had to settle for a point at the end of a compelling contest between two of the league's form teams.

In Serie A, Dusan Vlahovic snatched a point for Fi-

orentina two minutes into injury time to frustrate Inter Milan which had led following Borja Valero's opener after eight minutes in Tuscany on Sunday.

The results:

La Liga: Espanyol 2 (Darder 19, Bernardo 41) drew with Real Betis 2 (Iglesias 4, Bartra 67); Sevilla 1 (Munir 61) lost to Villarreal 2 (Albiol 13, Toko Ekambi 74); Valencia 1 (Soler 78) drew with Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 90+5).

Serie A: Roma 3 (Pellegrini 53, Perotti 66-pen, Mkhitarian 83) bt SPAL 1 (Petagna 44-pen); Fiorentina 1 (Vlahovic 90+2) drew with Inter Milan 1 (Borja Valero 8).

Bundesliga: Schalke 04 1 (Raman 53) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 0.



The saviour: Karim Benzema's injury time strike saves Real Madrid's blushes. ■ GETTY IMAGES

SA names six uncapped players

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JOHANNESBURG

South Africa on Monday named six uncapped players in a 17-man squad for the first two Tests against England, starting at Centurion on Dec. 26.

Five players who played in a recent 3-0 series defeat in India were dropped, while fast bowler Lungi Ngidi was not considered because of a hamstring injury.

The squad will assemble for a camp on Wednesday, with three to be released to play for South Africa A in a three-day match against England, starting Friday.

The uncapped players are opener Pieter Malan, who may get a chance if Aiden Markram has not fully recovered from injury, top-order batsman Rassie van der Dussen, all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius, fast bowlers Dane Paterson and Beuran Hendricks and wicketkeeper-batsman Ruudt Second.

Keshav Maharaj is the only spinner in the squad. **The squad:** Faf du Plessis (captain), Temba Bavuma, Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Zubayr Hamza, Beuran Hendricks, Keshav Maharaj, Pieter Malan, Aiden Markram, Anrich Nortje, Dane Paterson, Andile Phehlukwayo, Vernon Philander, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rudi Second, and Rassie van der Dussen.

Pollard – a guide for young guns

Talent needs time and patience to be nurtured'

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
VISAKHAPATNAM

For someone who missed out three to four years of international cricket, the big-hitting all-rounder, Kieron Pollard, was the most unlikely cricketer to lead West Indies as it prepares to defend the T20 World Cup next year in Australia.

And, if his body-language is any hint, Pollard seems to be enjoying the role of a leader, giving a new direction to the team which is admired by many across the world.

Apparently, Cricket West Indies had few options than to look beyond Pollard as captain for the recent limited-overs series against Afghanistan and India.

Significantly it has helped young talents like Evin Lewis, Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope to express themselves freely against India, with the last two slaming centuries to guide the team to a terrific win in the first ODI in Chennai.

The team arrived here on Monday for the second match scheduled on December 18.

The 32-year-old Pollard had missed out the 2019 World Cup when he was a reserve, has already hinted at bringing back the special



Guiding force: West Indies captain Pollard and coach Phil Simmons have hinted at bringing back the specialists playing at their best positions. ■ K. R. DEEPAK

The most important thing for the management is to have patience even while being honest with yourself

POLLARD

backing of a captain whose philosophy is simple – need to give people time in everything we do.

"The young talent need experience and we as the management want to back these guys and see how far we can go because we have seen their talent and attitude and that's some of the things we look at. So, exciting times for these youngsters," he had said in Hyderabad before the start of the T20 series.

"It's just a matter of trying to reach them and ease them into the world of international cricket, which we know is a very, very tough place. Again, the most important thing for the management is to have patience even while being honest with yourself," Pollard explained.

"Sometimes, you need to have that umbrella over them and try and protect them from the vultures that're out to take down their careers pretty quickly," Pollard said.

Will Pollard see a turnaround in the fortunes of the West Indies as it embarks on the journey to defend the T20 World Cup in Australia next year? Only time will tell.

2020 Sportstar ACES Awards

Readers will have a chance to pick their favourites for the 10 Popular

Choice Awards. The top two contenders from each category, based on popular vote, will be sent to a jury, which will decide the winner

THE NOMINEES

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR (TEAM SPORTS)



GURPREET SINGH SANDHU (FOOTBALL)

In 2019, Gurpreet showed why he is regarded as one of the top goalkeepers in Asian football. He kept seven clean-sheets for Bengaluru FC, most crucially in the final of the 2018-19 Indian Super League, where his team prevailed 1-0 to claim its maiden title. At the World Cup qualifier away to Qatar, Gurpreet made 11 saves against the Asian champion to help India earn a commendable point. He continued his excellent form in the 2019-20 ISL season, having conceded just once in four matches at the start of Bengaluru's title defence.



MANDEEP SINGH (HOCKEY)

Since making his senior debut at the age of 17 in 2011, Mandeep has established himself as an indispensable part of the Indian forwardline. The Jalandhar player's contribution of 19 goals in 24 matches were vital to the National hockey team as it

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Vijay Merchant Trophy: Star Sports 3, 9.15 a.m.
Big Bash League: Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.40 p.m.
Big Bout League: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
Bundesliga: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 11 p.m. onwards & SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Wed)

IN BRIEF



Seventh straight win for LA Lakers

LOS ANGELES
LeBron James scored 32 points as the Los Angeles Lakers won its seventh straight game with a 101-96 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday. James made 12 of 21 from the field, and added 13 rebounds, seven assists and three blocks to help the Lakers extend their road winning streak to 14 games. The Lakers also got 27 points and 13 rebounds from Anthony Davis, who picked up his 12th double-double.

The results: Pelicans 119 lost to Magic 130, Pacers 107 bt Hornets 85, Hawks 96 lost to Lakers 101, Nets 109 bt 76ers 89, Nuggets 111 bt Knicks 105, Warriors 79 lost to Kings 100. AFP



Stokes is BBC Sports Personality of the Year
LONDON All-rounder Ben Stokes has been named BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Stokes became the first cricketer since Andrew Flintoff in 2005 to win the prize. Stokes was presented with his award by the Princess Royal and former Manchester United and Scotland footballer Denis Law. In a public vote, Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton finished second while sprinter Dina Asher-Smith was third. IANS

DDCA appoints three-member CAC

IANS
NEW DELHI

The Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) on Monday appointed Robin Singh Jr, Parwinder Awana and Sumil Narwal in a new Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) for the 2019-20 season.

"We are happy to announce the constitution of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) for the domestic season 2019-20," the DDCA said in a statement.

The committee will be responsible for picking various selection panels as well as the coaching staff of the State teams.

BFC-NEUFC match to be played behind closed doors

ISL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU
Wednesday's ISL clash between Bengaluru FC and Northeast United in Guwahati will be played behind closed doors, the league has announced. The decision comes after days of protests and unrest in the region.

"The decision has been taken by Football Sports Development Limited after due consultation and guidance from the city authorities," an ISL statement read. "The League holds safety of fans, players and staff of paramount importance."

Kerala aims for a win against Bengal

The host will once again rely on spin-friendly conditions

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After failing to seize full points against Delhi in the season opener, host Kerala will be looking to maximize the home advantage when it meets Bengal in the Elite Group A & B match at the KCA-St.Xavier's College ground on Tuesday.

Taming Bengal in its own den at Eden Gardens last year was the high point of Kerala's campaign last season. If it was pace which brought the downfall of Bengal last year, this match could turn out to be a different challenge for the visiting batsmen with Kerala opting for red soil wickets for all its home matches. However, the host failed to bowl out Delhi twice on a slow turning track last week.

Kerala will not change its gameplan too much against



Big boost: The return of Sanju Samson will bolster the Kerala team. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengal and will rely on its spinners again to deliver the goods. The host will be bolstered by the return of Sanju Samson and it will present some headache for captain Sachin Baby to pick up the final eleven.

Sachin Baby kept the

cards close to his chest and said the final call would be made in the morning. However, Sanju's return may mean either Mohammed Azharuddeen or Vishnu Vinod will face the axe. Spinners Jaij Saxena, K. Monish and Sijomon Joseph will shoulder

the responsibility in the spin bowling department.

Baby happy

Sachin Baby was happy with the way he batted against Delhi and backed his side to pull off a win against Bengal. "We played well against Del-

hi. We are happy with three points against a good side. Bengal has always been a good team. They will be here in full strength and it will be a tough match for us. We will play to our strength and I expect my spinners to win the match for us," said Sachin Baby.

Bengal under Abhimanyu Easwaran will be keen to start its campaign on a positive note after an indifferent show last season. The side has the wherewithal to face the challenge posed by Kerala spinners. Captain Abhimanyu Easwaran, Wriddhiman Saha, Abhishek Raman and Manoj Tiwary will be the key players in the batting line-up.

Ashoke Dinda and Ishan Porel may not find the pitch to their liking but spinners Shahbaz Ahmed and Sudip Chatterjee will have to play a pro-active role in the match.

SECOND ROUND SCHEDULE

Group A

Andhra v Delhi (Ongole), Kerala v Bengal (Thiruvananthapuram), Punjab v Hyderabad (Patiala), Vidarbha v Rajasthan (Nagpur).

Group B

Karnataka v Uttar Pradesh (Hubballi), Madhya Pradesh v Baroda (Indore), Railways v Saurashtra (Visakhapatnam), Tamil Nadu v Himachal (Natham).

Group C

Assam v Jharkhand (Ranchi), Chhattisgarh v Uttarakhand (Raipur), Haryana v Tripura (Lahli), Maharashtra v Jammu & Kashmir (Pune), Odisha v Services (Cuttack).

Plate

Arunachal Pradesh v Mizoram (Puducherry), Chandigarh v Bihar (Chandigarh), Goa v Meghalaya (Porvorim), Manipur v Nagaland (Koktala), Pondicherry v Sikkim (Puducherry).

Karnataka, Delhi and Maharashtra post wins

SPORTS BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Delhi registered a nine-wicket victory over West Bengal in the opening match of the Samarthanam women's National T20 tournament for the blind on Monday.

Karnataka, too, opened its campaign in style, recording a seven-wicket win over Jharkhand.

In the other match of the day, Maharashtra defeated Kerala by eight wickets.

The scores: West Bengal 32 in 10.5 overs (Namita 2/3, Raksha 2/8) lost to Delhi 34/1 in 5.2 overs;

Kerala 92/7 in 20 overs lost to Maharashtra 93/2 in 10.4 overs;

Jharkhand 156/6 in 20 overs (Geeta Mahto 50) lost to Karnataka 157/3 in 16.4 overs (Varsha 32 n.o.).

It's Liverpool vs Atletico

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NYON

Holder Liverpool will return to the scene of last season's Champions League triumph after it was drawn against Atletico Madrid in the last 16 of the competition on Monday.

Jürgen Klopp's side will travel to the Wanda Metropolitano, where Liverpool lifted the trophy in June, for the first leg of its tie against three-time runner-up Atletico.

"The task is going to be difficult because we have an opponent that are the reigning

MOCA retains 4x4 Fury crown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAMBUK (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Manabbum Off-Roaders Club of Arunachal (MOCA) showed great tactical acumen and driving skills to successfully defend its JK Tyre Orange 4x4 Fury title here on Sunday.

Kerala's 4x4 Beats and Delhi's NIOC finished second and third while favourite Bengaluru's BODA took the fourth spot.

The MOCA team, which was led by drivers Aditya Mei and Chow Ujjal Namshum, and guided by co-drivers Chow Sujeewan Choutang and Chow Ing-pemg Mein, finished with a total time of 6h 47m 50s to win for the second time on home turf.

The 4x4 Beats, powered by Athul Thomas (co-driver Siraj) and Muhammed Shefin (Kalam Kutty), also came out all guns blazing, but eventually had to settle for the runner-up spot in 7h 30.12.

The NIOC 1 team of Pradeep Kumar and Harinder Singh, co-driven by Gajender Singh and Harmanpreet Singh Gill, battled their way to the third position in a time of 8:25.26.

Gonzalez's brace seals it for Mohun Bagan

I-LEAGUE

Y.B. SARANGI
KALYANI

Fran Gonzalez's second consecutive brace propelled Mohun Bagan to a 2-1 win over Gokulam Kerala FC in a closely-fought I-League match at the Kalyani Stadium here on Monday.

Bagan's second successive victory, the first ever over the Kerala side, took it from fifth to second place.

In the eventful match – which recorded plenty of bookings including home captain Gurjinder Singh's red card in closing moments because of two yellows – Bagan showed better coordination to sustain pressure early on the visiting defenders.

Gokulam goalkeeper Ubaid C.K. stayed busy and his team was lucky not to concede a penalty in the 21st minute when V.P. Suhair was felled inside the box.

However, Ubaid's foul on Ashutosh Mehta in the next minute fetched Bagan a pe-



Hero: Fran Gonzalez's second consecutive brace propelled Mohun Bagan to a win over Gokulam Kerala. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nalty. Gonzalez converted it to put the host ahead.

As Gokulam intensified attack, the match saw tussles between players of both sides. Naoya Singh earned a yellow card following his duel with defender Ashutosh yards away from the Bagan post.

Bagan regained lead soon after resumption. Gonzalez's electric header off Joseba Beitia's corner kick spread cheers among 14,000-odd fans.

In the hotly-contested second half, which witnessed a

few instances of scuffle, Gokulam pressed hard to create a few fine chances but could not find the much-needed equalizer. The best of them came from Marcus, whose kick was brilliantly palmed away by a jumping Sankar Roy. Luckily, the ball didn't enter the Bagan post.

The results: Mohun Bagan 2 (Gonzalez 22, 48) bt Gokulam Kerala 1 (Marcus 45+3). At Ludhiana: Punjab FC 1 (Dipand Dicka, 80) bt Indian Arrows 0.

PSV dismisses van Bommel

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
THE HAGUE

PSV Eindhoven axed former Dutch international Mark van Bommel as manager on Monday following a string of disappointing results.

The move comes after the southern Dutch club won just two of its last 12 games and with PSV 10 points adrift of Ajax and AZ Alkmaar in the Eredivisie title race.

"PSV's board decided this morning to end its cooperation with chief coach Mark van Bommel," the club said.

Vijays Singham pulls off spectacular win



Rewarding success: HRC chairman R. Surender Reddy, left, with Mukesh Pitti of Vijay Racing & Farms Private Limited, trainer Laxman Singh and jockey Y.S. Srinath after awarding the prizes for the Golconda 2000 Guineas won by Vijays Singham. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

Fahmed Rasheed Ali Khan, Aziz Ahmed Khan, K. Mallikarjun Rao & Mirza Ayub Baig. Trainer: Chary. Trainer: D. Netto.

5 TARAMATI CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); CITY OF BLOSSOM (Rohit Kumar) 1, Red Snaper (Jitendra Singh) 1, Green Turf (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Jo Malone (Abhay Singh) 3 and N R I Heights (Abhay Singh) 4, 3-3/4, 1m, 6-1/2, 1m, 26s, 29 (w), 6, 9 and 6 (p), SHP: 29, FP: 51, Q: 31, Tla: 106. Favourite: City Of Blossom. Owners: M/S. C. Thribhuvan Reddy & K Vivek Reddy. Trainer: Satyanarayana.

6 BAKRANANGAL PLATE (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); STORMY (Alok Singh) 1, Troubadour (Dashrath Singh) 2, Bedazzled (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Monte Rei (A. Imran) 4, 2-1/2, 3-1/4 and 3/4, Im, 6.49s, ₹10 (w), 6, 8 and 17 (p), SHP: 48, FP: 2,643, Q: 1,390, Tla: 46,427. Favourite: Tiger Of He Sea. Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: M.F. Alikhan.

7 GOLCONDA 2000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-Y-O ONLY (TERMS): VIJAYS SINGHAM (LEITH MOR-RANDJA) 1, CONSIGLIORI (Air Support-Caprese) David Allan 2, VICTORY PARADE (Top Class-Harmonica) A. Imran 3 and MAJESTIC WARRIOR (Leith Mor-On) Magic Moment Dashrath Singh 4, NK 3-1/4 and 1, Im, 37.54s, ₹38 (w), 6 and 6 (p), SHP: 13, FP: 91, Q: 40, Tla: 468. Favourite: Human Touch. Owners: M/S. Mo-

5-yo & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); GOLDEN HOPE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Human Touch (Srinath) 3 and Tamanna (Dashrath Singh) 4, 1-1/4, nk and 1-1/2, 1m, 13.76s, ₹27 (w), 12, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 91, Q: 40, Tla: 468. Favourite: Human Touch. Owners: M/S. Mo-

5-yo & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); GOLDEN HOPE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Human Touch (Srinath) 3 and Tamanna (Dashrath Singh) 4, 1-1/4, nk and 1-1/2, 1m, 13.76s, ₹27 (w), 12, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 91, Q: 40, Tla: 468. Favourite: Human Touch. Owners: M/S. Mo-

5-yo & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); GOLDEN HOPE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Human Touch (Srinath) 3 and Tamanna (Dashrath Singh) 4, 1-1/4, nk and 1-1/2, 1m, 13.76s, ₹27 (w), 12, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 91, Q: 40, Tla: 468. Favourite: Human Touch. Owners: M/S. Mo-

5-yo & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); GOLDEN HOPE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Human Touch (Srinath) 3 and Tamanna (Dashrath Singh) 4, 1-1/4, nk and 1-1/2, 1m, 13.76s, ₹27 (w), 12, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 91, Q: 40, Tla: 468. Favourite: Human Touch. Owners: M/S. Mo-

5-yo & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); GOLDEN HOPE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Human Touch (Srinath) 3 and Tamanna (Dashrath Singh) 4, 1-1/4, nk and 1-1/2, 1m, 13.76s, ₹27 (w), 12, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 91, Q: 40, Tla: 468. Favourite: Human Touch. Owners: M/S. Mo-

5-yo & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); GOLDEN HOPE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Human Touch (Srinath) 3 and Tamanna (Dashrath Singh) 4, 1-1/4, nk and 1-1/2, 1m, 13.76s, ₹27 (w), 12, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 91, Q: 40, Tla: 468. Favourite: Human Touch. Owners: M/S. Mo-

5-yo & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); GOLDEN HOPE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Human Touch (Srinath) 3 and Tamanna



Chhattisgarh

A Bright Dawn for India

**A new symbol of hope for INDIA
We are the creators of faith and belief**

It has been a year since people of Chhattisgarh displayed their unbreakable faith in us by giving us a huge mandate of more than three-fourth majority in the assembly elections, that has helped us to empower our citizens through various public welfare schemes that strengthened their utter belief in democracy, constitution and communal harmony. It gives me immense pleasure that, our state Chhattisgarh has become a new symbol of hope for the entire nation. In the midst of the extreme distressing times when the entire nation is in the grip of economic recession, the Chhattisgarhi model of socio-economic-rural development is riding over with flying colours as there's a constant and never ending wave of growth in all sectors. Our constant endeavour is for sustainable development. It is with the wide support of public participation and dialogue, that we have managed to find solutions for several prevailing problems of the state and we are determined to widen it's scope.

- Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Belief of Investors

- Egalitarian, land of peace
- Protector of Constitutional Rights
- First state to launch new Industrial Policy in the decade of recession
- Relaxation in rules



One Year of Service & Care

Belief of Farmers

- Appreciating their hard work, paddy procurement at Rs. 2500 per quintal
- A government delivering on its promises, waived off agriculture loan
- Decrease in cost of irrigation, establishment of Food Processing Units
- Village empowerment through Narva, Garva, Ghurva, Bari

Belief of Tribals

- New era of justice, returned land to villagers in Lohandiguda
- Tendupatta collectors getting Rs. 4000 per sac
- Acquiring 22 forest products at support price
- Starting various processing units
- Review of cancelled Vanadhikaar Patta, stress on Samudayik Patta
- People facing fabricated criminal charges released

Belief of Women

- Campaign to eradicate malnutrition and anaemia
- New Opportunities for education and employment
- Empowering Women by reinforcing Folk Culture

Belief of Youth

- Employment centric quality education
- Future in sports and other sectors
- Decline in unemployment rate, new opportunities in govt. sector
- Right to free education till class 12th

Belief of Public

- Electricity bill halved
- Land to landless and home to homeless
- Universal PDS
- India's first Universal Health Scheme
- Provisions for treatment upto Rs. 20 lakhs

