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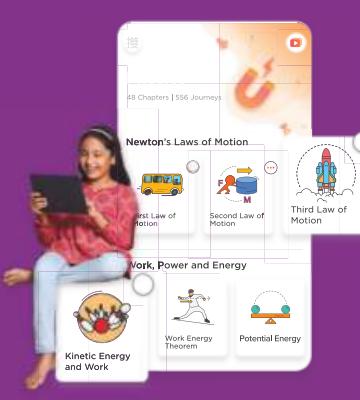
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Andhra Pradesh may have three capital cities, says Jagan Mohan Reddy
page 8



Imran's comments on Muslim citizens in India gratuitous: India
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Boris Johnson rules out any delay in Brexit trade deal with EU
page 14



Kohli's men need a win to stay alive in ODI series against West Indies
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NEARBY



CJI recuses from hearing Nirbhaya convict's plea

NEW DELHI
Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde recused from hearing the review petition of one of the four condemned men in the Nirbhaya gang rape-murder case. The reason cited by lawyers is that a relative of his had some time back been a lawyer for the victim's family.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

'Stay away from CAA protests on campus'

LUCKNOW
Amid protests by students against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in several universities nationwide, Banaras Hindu University on Tuesday advised its students not to participate in any such activities on the campus. The warning came after opposing groups of students held marches over the CAA.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 5

FREE on WORKSHOP CSAT
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(19 Dec 11:00am)
SHUBHRA RANJAN
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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 7

21 hurt as protesters clash with police in Delhi

Anti-CAA agitation takes violent turn in Seelampur; two police booths set on fire, two police bikes damaged

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Twenty-one people were injured when a protest at Seelampur in east Delhi against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the police action against students at Jamia Millia Islamia University in the capital turned violent on Tuesday.

Two police booths were set on fire and three vehicles, including two police bikes, were damaged, the police said.

"A total of 21 persons sustained injuries, including 15 security personnel and six members of the public. The injured include three Rapid Action Force officials, 12 Delhi police officials and six members of the public," Joint Commissioner of Police (Eastern Range) Alok Kumar said.

Two FIRs registered

Mr. Kumar said two FIRs had been registered in connection with the case – one at the Jaffrabad police station and the other at Seelampur – on the charges of rioting, arson and damage to public property.

The police said the protests were peaceful for four hours but towards the end, when the people were dispersing, some of them started throwing stones.

No one was lathi-charged, but tear-gas shells were used as a crowd control



Free for all: Protesters clashing with the police at Seelampur in New Delhi on Tuesday. ▶ PTI

measure," Mr. Kumar said.

Those present said the protest was peaceful when it began around 1.30 p.m., and it was only after the police lathi-charged them that they resorted to stone-throwing. The protesters also broke the windows of two buses.

"We wanted to go to the Seelampur Metro Station and block the road so that our voice will be heard," said Guddu Khan, 24, one of the protesters. "But when we reached the Seelampur red light, the police stopped us and didn't allow us to go forward. Though we tried to ne-

gotiate with them, they lathi-charged us and the people retaliated by throwing stones," he said.

Some videos, thought to be of the incident and shot by the locals, showed the police beating the protesters with lathis. Meanwhile, 10 persons were arrested in connection with Sunday's clashes; none of them was a student. All have criminal backgrounds, and were identified from CCTV footage.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

MODI DARES CONGRESS ▶ PAGE 12

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 3

No panel to probe police action at varsities, says SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to set up a fact-finding committee to probe the police action and alleged brutalities against students of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) and Aligarh Muslim University while they were protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

A Bench, led by Chief Jus-

tice of India Sharad A. Bobde, reasoned that it would be too enormous and cumbersome a task for a single committee to probe the facts and evidence of incidents that occurred in "various" States.

The Bench asked the petitioners to approach the High Courts concerned for relief.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Sonia: govt. has no compassion

The Narendra Modi government seems to have no compassion when it comes to shutting down the people's voices and implementing legislation that does not seem to be acceptable to the people, said Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who led a delegation of Opposition parties to the President to demand that he ask the government to withdraw the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. "It is a serious situation. We fear it may spread even further. We are anguished at the way in which the police have dealt with peaceful protests," she said. ▶ PAGE 12

Act will not be taken back: Shah

Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that come what may, migrants from the minority communities in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan would be granted citizenship, and the Opposition parties could protest all they wanted. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act would not be taken back, he said. The amendment to conduct the NRC was inserted in the Citizenship Act in 2004 when the Congress was in power, he said. ▶ PAGE 13

No special UNSC meet on Kashmir

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI
A special meeting of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Kashmir was not convened on Tuesday, diplomatic sources have confirmed. The meeting was sought by China to discuss India's decision to end the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Kashmir will not be discussed at the Security Council. The issue has to be treated bilaterally [between India and Pakistan]. We have highlighted this several times recently," a French diplomatic source told *The Hindu*.

China's move comes ahead of the expected meeting between the Special Representatives of India and China to discuss the border issue. It has also cast a shadow on the '2+2' meeting between India and the U.S., in which Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark T. Esper will host their counterparts S. Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh.

The UNSC met on August 16 after China insisted on reviving the 'India-Pakistan Question' at the world body's highest decision-making unit, where the issue had been dormant since it was discussed in December 1971.

DEFENCE TIES ▶ PAGE 9

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Musharraf sentenced to death for high treason

MEHMAL SARFRAZ

LAHORE

A special court in Pakistan on Tuesday awarded the death sentence to the former dictator, General Pervez Musharraf, for committing high treason.

The former President, who seized power through a

military coup in 1999, was found guilty of high treason under Article 6 of the Constitution for imposing emergency on November 3, 2007, the court said.

Gen. Musharraf, who is now in Dubai, said in a video statement that he is "being victimised". "This is abso-

lutely baseless. I have served my country for 10 years. I have fought for my country. This is the case in which I have not been heard and I have been victimised."

ARMY 'PAINED' ▶ PAGE 14
THE GENERAL IN TROUBLE ▶ EDITORIAL

Packaged foods 'breach' salt, fat limits

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI
Several packaged snacks and fast foods breach safe limits for salt and fat content, an analysis conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) says.

The agency tested salt, fat, trans-fat and carbohydrates in 33 popular "junk foods": 14 samples of chips, salted snacks, instant noodles and instant soup, and 19 samples of burgers, fries, fried chicken, pizzas, sandwiches and wraps. The samples were collected from grocery and fast food outlets in Delhi.

The CSE relied on the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) – the daily ceiling for salt, fat, carbohydrates and trans-fat. The RDA is based on scientific consensus and has been agreed upon by the World Health Organisation and the National Institute of Nutrition in India.

It says that ideally, no more than 5 g of salt, 60 g of fat, 300 g of carbohydrate and 2.2 g of trans-fat should be consumed by an adult every day. The RDA from breakfast, lunch and dinner should be no more than 25% each, and from snacks, no more than 10%.

'Over the limit'
The CSE found that per 100 g, one packet of packaged nuts, soup or noodles had salt and fat well over the limit. For instance, Haldimand Aloo Bhujia, a popular savoury snack, with a serve size of 231 g, had the equivalent of 7 gm of salt and 99 gm of total (saturated and unsaturated) fat. A serving of Nestle's Maggi Masala (70 g) exhausted 50% of composite RDA for a snack, and a serving of Haldimand's nut cracker exhausted 35% of the salt RDA and 26% of the fat RDA.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

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M ND-NDE

10 held for Jamia violence, sent to judicial custody till Dec. 31

None of them are students, charged with rioting and arson: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two days after protests outside and near Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) against the amended Citizenship Act turned violent, police have arrested 10 persons in connection with the incident. A local court has sent them to judicial custody till December 31.

Criminal backgrounds
Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) Chinmay Biswal said that persons have been arrested on charges of rioting and arson. "All of them have criminal background, and three of them are bad characters of the area," he added.

Mr. Biswal said that six of the accused are from Jamia Nagar while the rest are from Taimoor Nagar in New Friends Colony. "The three bad characters are in the age group of 20-30. They have cases like robbery, causing hurt, Arms Act and assault on public servants registered against them," he added.

Police said that the accused were identified with the help of CCTV footage and videos from the day of the incident. They were arrested with the help of local intelligence. "Nothing has been recovered from their possession," said a senior police officer.

Two FIRs lodged
The police had registered two FIRs in connection with the Sunday incident. One FIR was lodged at New Friends Colony police station and another at Jamia



Protesters set on fire effigies near Jamia Millia Islamia during a stir against the amended Citizenship Act on Sunday.

FIR lodged in Jamia Nagar police station names seven persons, including local politicians and student leaders

"Our parents support us for being here because they know the consequences; how so many Muslims will become stateless and be sent to detention camps," said an 18-year-old JMI student.

Lawyers support protest
Lawyers from Tis Hazari and Karkardooma courts also joined the protest.

An advocate who identified himself as Dalvinder addressed the crowd and said, "We are with you and will help you if you need legal assistance. Please make sure that you protest with-

out any violence."

During the hearing in the local court, the police claimed that some locals, instigated by politicians, participated in the violent protests at JMI and damaged property and injured several people. "They also set on fire three police booths," the investigating officer submitted.

The counsel for the accused said they have been falsely implicated and made a scapegoat by the Delhi Police. Another counsel appearing for an accused said he is a bike mechanic and was arrested from his house.

All of them belong from the lower income strata of society and claimed before the court that some of them were arrested from their homes, and others from their shops.

They were at home, not at protest site'

Families of two accused say they have no clue why they were arrested

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Families of two of the accused who have been arrested in connection with the violence that erupted at Jamia Millia Islamia on Sunday said that the accused were at home and that they were clueless about why they have been picked up.

Three of the accused have been identified as Jumman, Anal and Anwar, all residents of New Friends Colony's Taimoor Nagar.

The police refrained from sharing the names of the other accused for "investigation purposes".

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Anal's mother Razia Begum

said that they were all at home and watching TV when three policemen, including the beat officer, came to their residence and asked for him.

"He had just had dinner and was sleeping. We were watching TV. They came and asked for him. They told me that they are just taking him for some questioning and then will bring him back within 30 minutes. He didn't return after that," said Ms. Begum, who works as a domestic help. "I don't know why they have taken him. They didn't tell me anything. I have been going to the police station but to no avail."

Anal, she said, works at a soup and snack stall. When asked where he was on Sunday, Ms. Begum said: "He was at the stall all day."

'Was at stall all day'

She added that Anal has been picked up by police before, but claimed to be unaware of the details.

With Ms. Begum was Jumman's wife Fatima who was sure of her husband's innocence. Ms. Fatima said that Jumman runs a chicken shop outside their residence and was picked up by the police around noon on Tuesday.

"I had just asked him to have breakfast and he had set up the shop when the police came and took him.

They said they'll bring him back in 10 minutes. They didn't tell me why they were taking him," she said, adding that an official later came by to give his belongings.

Ms. Fatima said that Sunday is a busy day at the chicken shop and Jumman was at the shop all day. "You can ask anyone in the area if he was there and they'll tell you," she said, adding that he is the sole breadwinner of the family as her father and mother-in-law are ill, and her son is four years old.

The police have, however, said that the accused have been arrested after they were identified in the video footage in their possession.

Police deny entering university library

They suspect some protesters were carrying weapons and fired shots

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

An officer of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police rank, who is part of the probe into the violence that erupted during protest in and around Jamia Millia Islamia on Sunday, denied that the police entered its library and thrashed students.

"A DCP-rank officer took a video in which it is shown that students were asked to leave the library... they were then taken to a safe place with their bags on their heads so that they would not be hit by stones. Whether the library was ransacked is a matter of investigation. Our force did not enter the library," the officer said.

The official said that announcements were made from outside the building for students to evacuate the library and that they were gi-



Abandoned bags of students at JMI library on Sunday.

*R.V. MOORTHY

ven a cover.

"Tear gas shells may have entered the library as they were being thrown from a distance and that is collateral damage in a situation like this. A DCP-rank officer was leading the force and it was not like the force was without a head," he added.

The police also said that an empty cartridge has been

recovered and they have denied firing during the protest. "We strongly suspect that someone among the protesters was carrying a weapon and used it as well, but it is a matter of investigation," the officer said.

Describing the sequence of events on Sunday, the officer said that a stir was under way since morning and

the protesters were allowed till Surya Hotel where barricades were put up.

The police then got a call that the road near Mata Mandir junction had been blocked by protesters.

"As police officials were sent at the spot, we heard sound of tear gas shells. Protesters had already set ablaze a bus. Stone pelting had already started, they had brought the stones with them," the officer said.

"When Jamia university area started, stone pelting began from the lawns and from above the hostel. The protesters were chased inside to stop them from pelting stones and also for safety of students," the officer said.

During this time, police received several calls, including of firing, a bus being set on fire, cylinder blast, house trespass.

Petition seeks release of detained students

Asks for CCTV footage to be preserved

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A petition before the Delhi High Court has sought direction to release the students of Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University who were allegedly detained by security personnel during nationwide protests against the amended Citizenship Act on Sunday.

In their petition, a lawyer and two JMI sought that instant and quality medical care be provided to the students and staff who were detained and injured during the violence. The plea has arrayed the Centre and the Delhi Police as parties and sought direction to the authorities to release all the students and residents who were allegedly detained.

The plea was filed in the High Court in pursuance to the Supreme Court's direc-

JMI students continue protest, locals serve them biryani

Volunteers help guide traffic, use a rope to keep protesters from occupying the entire road near Gate No. 7 of the university

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Protests at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) went off peacefully with students working proactively to maintain order and manage traffic as sloganising against the amended Citizenship Act and the National Registry of Citizens (NRC) continued on Tuesday.

Names of detained
The petition also sought direction to authorities to declare on their website the full list, with names of JMI and AMU students as well as residents, who were allegedly detained by security personnel. It also sought to provide detained persons access to their family members and legal counsel.

The petition has also asked for CCTV footage of the areas to be preserved, and provide monetary compensation to persons who were detained or injured by the police and paramilitary forces.

They [the students] are working so hard to protest over the last few days... we thought we should get them something

MOHAMMED JAVED
Resident of Batla House

Some volunteers were seen distributing snacks, water and biryani to the protesters.

"They are working so hard to protest over the last few days... we thought we should get them something," said Mohammed Javed from Batla House, who had brought a few boxes of biryani.

"How will they stick to it if they are not fed?" asked another. Residents of nearby areas carried placards denouncing the law, the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi – all under the watchful eye of police personnel outfitted with riot gear. Barricades were also set up near Sukhdev Vihar metro station.



Going strong: Students protest against the amended Citizenship Act in front of Jamia Millia Islamia on Tuesday. ■ AP

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12	Rewinding of 3 Phase, 415V, 6 Pole induction motor inclusive of material and credit of Burnt scrap having capacity of 100 HP (960 to 1000 RPM)	Each Job	
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Volatile situation: Hundreds of people gathered in Seelampur to protest against the amended Citizenship Act; heavy police presence after the protests turned violent on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY



'All we wanted was our voice to be heard'

Protesters say government has been coming up with policies that are discriminatory towards Muslims; 'We have also sacrificed for this country'

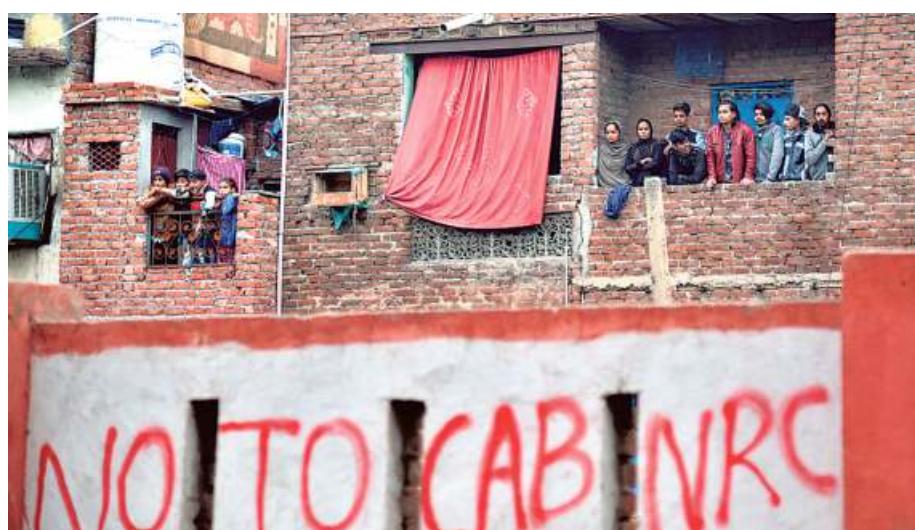
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The road leading to north-east Delhi's Seelampur was covered with red bricks, stones, and shards of glass on Tuesday as a massive protest against the amended Citizenship Act turned violent. Dozens of policemen with sticks, and some in riot gear, stood guard on several streets.

The road led to a ransacked police post, outside which two motorcycles were set alight in the evening.

At 8 p.m., the fire outside the post was still smouldering. Seventeen-year-old Mohammad Azrudeen, a rag picker, stuffed whatever little valuables he could find from the post into a yellow plastic sack. "The bikes were taken a little while ago," he said.

Some of the people who had taken part in the protest hours after the protest ended around 5 p.m. Both the people and the police said that the protest had been initially peaceful. There was a call for



Residents watch the protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act from their balconies in north-east Delhi's Seelampur; the protest site on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

a protest and most of the shops were shut from the morning. Even on Monday there were around four protests in the area," said Ovais Sultan Khan, a social activist who lives in the area.

"The protest started after prayers from Nurani Masjid Road in Chauhan Bangar and

we walked through the inner lanes and were accompanied by the police. But some of the protesters broke off and came to the main road... then there was a clash between them and the police," he added.

Many of them were not aware of the finer details of the National Register of Citi-

zens or the amended Citizenship Act, but said that the government was coming up with policies that were discriminatory towards Muslims. "We want our voice to be heard, that is why we protested," said 24-year-old Gudru Khan.

"There is no point in talk-

ing to them [media]," a man in his fifties, in the crowd, quipped. "Everything will happen. There is net [Internet] and the news has spread across the whole of India," Mr. Khan replied.

"They [police] wanted us to sit inside our house and protest. But who will hear us

then? How will others know about it?" Mr. Khan asked.

He said that he was against the NRC and the police "attack" on Jamia Millia Islamia.

"If there are 'agents' from other countries entering our country then the police should find them. Why are we being targeted?" he asked.

"Where will we go for 70-year-old records? Aren't we sons of Hindustan? We are against the NRC," another man in the crowd said, expressing fear of being excluded in the nationwide NRC, which has been announced.

"Aap India Gate jaake dekho, hamare logon ka bhi naam hai. Hamare logon ne bhi kurbhani di hai (Go and see India Gate, there is name of our people also. We have also sacrificed for this country)," said Mohammad Salman, 25, who runs a cosmetics shop in the area. "Now they [government] are targeting the Muslims [with their policies]," he added.

"Sab hasi kushi rah rahe the, ye neta log aake chaar din se hamari kushi mei ghuse ja rahe hain. (Everyone was living peacefully, but the politicians are destroying it)," another protester said.

Locals said the protesters set vehicles alight and ransacked the post after the police lathi-charged them.

Seven metro stations closed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Entry and exit gates of seven metro stations were closed on Tuesday following massive demonstrations against the amended Citizenship Act in north-east Delhi's Seelampur.

The seven stations affected were Johri Enclave, Shiv Vihar, Gokulpuri, Maupur-Babupur, Jaffrabad, Welcome on the Pink Line, and Seelampur on the Red Line, said the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Around 3 p.m., the DMRC tweeted: "Entry and exit gates of Welcome, Jaffrabad and Maupur-Babupur are closed. Trains will not be halting at these stations."

Subsequently the other four stations were also closed following violence in the area. Normal services resumed around 6 p.m., the DMRC added.



A policeman fires tear-gas shells to disperse protesters; gutted vehicles in Seelampur; an alleged protester surrounded by security personnel on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY, AP



Candlelight protest by DU teachers

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Several Delhi University teachers held a candlelight protest at Vishwavidyalaya metro station on Tuesday, demanding a one-time regulation for absorption of ad hoc teachers.

Though the Ministry of Human Resource Development has conceded to some demands, the key demand for absorption and counting of total years of service for promotions has not been heeded, the Delhi University Teachers' Association said in a statement.

The teachers have been on an indefinite strike. Many have also been holding demonstrations in front of the Vice-Chancellor's office for nearly two weeks.

Protest at UGC office
The association plans to hold demonstrations at the University Grants Commission office on Wednesday.

DU, AUD students protest against police brutality, citizenship law

Students of other universities also condemn Act



ABVP members hold a demonstration in support of the amended Citizenship Act on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tality" had on Monday boycotted exams, a representative of the Pinjra Tod campaign said.

"The ABVP had assembled at the Arts Faculty with all their anti-Muslim bigotry and in support of the use of force unleashed by the state machinery... But we will not let them deter our struggles" the group added.

ABVP state secretary Sid-

harth Yadav said that the group was against such action. Up to 200 students and alumni of the Delhi School of Economics as well as nearly 800 from Ashoka University released statements condemning the crackdown on Jamia Millia Islamia as well as the amended Citizenship Act, both terming it against constitutional values of the country.

AAP, Congress disturbing peace: Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Tuesday said that that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress are trying to disturb peace in the Capital as the parties have lost their public support. He alleged that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is using the students to vitiate the atmosphere of the city.

"The incident of arson in Seelampur has proved that AAP is hatching a conspiracy to spread violence in Delhi to save its public support. But I want to appeal to Muslim brothers and the citizens of Delhi that they should not be misled by anyone because the amended Citizenship Act does not violate the rights of any community," Mr. Tiwari said. He added that the Act is meant to give citizenship to refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Cong. condemns police action

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Tuesday condemned police lathi-charge and tear gas shelling on peaceful demonstrators at Seelampur and Jamia, and said that violence would weaken the path of peaceful agitation.

Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra said that the BJP was trying to create communal hatred in the Capital.

He also accused Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of not coming out on the streets to protest against the amended Citizenship Act.

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- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing



IN BRIEF

NGT orders demarcation of Mayapuri forest area

NEW DELHI Following a plea alleging illegal constructions by the DDA in a green belt near Mayapuri here, the NGT has directed authorities, including the forest department, to demarcate the forest area. Directing authorities to take action, an NGT Bench said, "Let a joint committee of Deputy Conservator of Forest [West], SDM [West] and a nominee of DDA demarcate the forest area. The nominee of DDA will be the nodal agency for compliance."

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

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Timings

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RISE 07:08 SET 17:28
RISE 23:49 SET 12:06
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RISE 07:08 SET 17:28
RISE 00:00 SET 12:44
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RISE 07:09 SET 17:29
RISE 00:52 SET 13:21

Delhi Weather	max min
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Safdarjung	12 10
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Delhi Palam Today
15°C Moderate fog in parts with cool morning. A cold day with partly cloudy sky to continue.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
17°C Shallow fog/mist in the morning. Rise in day temperature. A partly cloudy sky and a cool day.

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U.P. police arrest 113 over anti-CAA protests

28 arrested in Mau district; 18 FIRs lodged across State, Internet ban continues in several places

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW



Police keep a watch as people shout slogans during a protest against CAA in Mau on Monday. ■ FILE PHOTO

tional forces have been deployed there.

Mau Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said the arrests were made on the basis of identification of persons from videos and photos of the incident. The process of identifying others allegedly involved in the clashes with the police, in which three to seven motorcycles

were damaged or set ablaze and parts of a police station vandalised, would continue, the officer said. "All people involved in this, no matter what age they are, they will be identified and harshest action taken against them," Mr. Arya said.

Protesters in the Mirza Ha-dipura area of Mau allegedly pelted stones at the police

and torched some two-wheelers parked near the Dakshintola police station on Monday. The police resorted to lathi-charge and fired tear-gas shells to disperse the crowd. Some shots were also fired in the air, as per footage of the incident being shared on social media.

Serious charges

In Lucknow around 600-700 persons were booked under several serious charges like sedition for holding a protest against the Act in old Lucknow on December 13 without permission and for allegedly raising slogans against the Central government and the unity and integrity of the country.

Among those named in the FIR, lodged at Thakurganj police station, is the district head of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Mohammad Qasim. While protesters said two-

three of their colleagues had been arrested, there was no official word from the police.

Amid the protests in Mau, Azamgarh, Lucknow and Aligarh districts among others, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday instructed the State police force to "keep an eye on those spreading rumours" about the CAA.

CM's instructions

He, however, did not mention any particular incident. The CM passed on the instructions to top police officers and administrative officials of the ranks of ADG, Commissioner, IG and DIG through videoconferencing.

The officials have also been asked to communicate with religious heads and intellectuals of various religions and tell them that the CAA is not against any caste or religion, the government spokesperson said.

'Stay away from CAA protests on campus'

BHU issues advisory to its students

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

informed it that dharnas and demonstrations and marches in favour of and against the CAA could take place on a large scale.

Others could join these marches and dharnas with the intention of spoiling the communal atmosphere and could "commit any serious criminal incident", the varsity registrar said in an appeal.

Section 144 imposed
Section 144 has been imposed by the police, the university said.

BHU directed its various department and faculty heads to "advise" their students to "stay away" from any kind of protest and support the district administration and varsity to keep the academic atmosphere normal, the university said in a statement.

Undertrial shot dead inside courtroom in U.P.'s Bijnor

Three accused nabbed by police as they tried to flee

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

An undertrial accused of murder was shot dead inside a courtroom in Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh by three persons, police said on Tuesday.

All three accused were nabbed by the police while they tried to flee the scene.

The SP of Bijnor said the three persons shot the undertrial, Shah Nawaz Ansari, inside the courtroom of the

Chief Judicial Magistrate during a hearing.

Double murder case

Ansari was brought to the court by Delhi police for a hearing in a double murder case in which he was the main accused. Around six months ago, BSP leader Haji Ehsan Khan and his nephew were murdered in the Najibabad area of Bijnor, said Mr. Tyagi.

The main accused in the

murder of Ehsan Khan, Ansari had surrendered in the case in Delhi, the SP said.

He was allegedly shot by Ehsan Khan's son and his two friends, said Mr. Tyagi.

"All three accused were chased by the police and arrested from the scene," he said.

A policeman and a court clerk were also injured in the firing, said the SP. It is being investigated how many rounds the accused fired.

'Stun grenades were used to disperse students in AMU'

Team of social activists, led by Harsh Mander, visits campus to find out about police excesses

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

A fact-finding team led by social activist Harsh Mander visited Aligarh Muslim University on Tuesday to look into police excesses on Sunday night during the clash between students and police.

The university Registrar, who is an IPS officer, has admitted that apart from tear-gas shells, stun grenades were used by the police to disperse the students," said John Dayal, a member of the team which met the staff union and the injured students.

He said the use of stun grenades was a clear indication that the police used excessive force against students.

Stun grenades create a loud sound-and-light effect which deafens and blinds a person for a few seconds. "They are not meant to be used in a civilian situation, involving students. The palm of one of the students was blown off because one of the grenades exploded in his hand. It might require amputation. Another one was hit by a blunt object in the upper abdomen," he said.



Silent protest by students in AMU on Tuesday. ■

administration said only seven were students," added Mr. Dayal. "They have been released but there are charges that they were beaten up in custody."

He was joined by social activists Nandini Sundar, Natasha Badhwar and other members of the Karwan-e-Mohabbat team.

"What we have seen in Jamia Millia Islamia and AMU is a clear indication that the Modi government doesn't want Indians to protest as citizens. They want to label them as Muslims or antisocial ele-

ments. For the record, one of the 26 detained was a Hindu," said Mr. Dayal, adding they would put out a report in two-three days.

The team wanted to meet the Vice Chancellor but was told he was in Delhi.

Protests on Tuesday
Some female students of the university organised a silent protest on Tuesday.

Aligarh city also saw protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. The busy Dodhpur market remained closed for the second day.

M.P. govt. creating new jobs, says Manmohan

Focus on socio-economic development

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday said the Madhya Pradesh government was focusing on both the economic and social development of the State by creating fresh employment in collaboration with industries besides dealing with health and education-related issues.

Vision document

Releasing the 'Madhya Pradesh Vision to Delivery Roadmap 2020-2025' in Bhopal on the occasion of the Congress government's a year in power, he said, "The plan in its design and implementation reflects peoples' priorities, sustainable development goals and macro and micro level economic conditions prevailing in the State."

Pointing to the first theme

of the document on economic prosperity, Dr. Singh said this illustrated the State's focus on strengthening the industrial sector and agro processing activities.

"The activities are designed as a major vehicle of economic growth of the State. Initiatives related to promotion of investment in the manufacturing and services sector including food processing will create more jobs in the organised sector and ensure better price realisation to farmers," he said.

To be effective, he added, these investments would need to be backed by adequate investments in energy and infrastructure sectors.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Kamal Nath said although the government had to bear empty coffers and fiscal burden, it had kept 365 promises made in the manifesto in 365 days.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person
Named: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Approx. 60 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'8", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** Brown Colour Sweater & Red Colour Jacket, he was found dead Near Just Chill Resort, Singhu Border, Alipur, Delhi on 05.12.2019 at 10:07 am.

In this regard a FIR/DD No.13-A, dated 05.12.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Alipur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
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Ph.: 011-27202265, 8750870325

Azam's son moves SC against verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan's son Abdullah Khan on Tuesday approached the Supreme Court challenging the Allahabad High Court verdict which annulled his election as an Uttar Pradesh MLA on the grounds that he was underage and not qualified to fight the polls in 2017.

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BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

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Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.

In the Matter of OA 454/2018/DRT-III

CORPORATION BANK Vs Applicant

SH. PRADIP KUMAR SUR & ORS. Defendants

To - D-1 MR. PRADIP KUMAR SUR, SIO SH. SUSHIL KUMAR SUR, 78-C, Arawali Apartments, Sector-52, Noida U.P.-201301. Also At: 47-Fardipur, Burdwan, Durgapur (West Bengal)-71213. Also At: Senior Architect, ADI Designs Pvt. Ltd., A-25, 1st Floor, Sector-52, Noida U.P.-201301.

D-2 MRS. NANDITA SUR, WO SH. PRADIP KUMAR SUR, 78-C, Arawali Apartments, Sector-52, Noida U.P.-201301. Also At: 47-Fardipur, Burdwan, Durgapur (West Bengal)-71213.

D-3 M/S AMRAPALI SMART CITY DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD, 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Towers, Plot No. 15, Karkardooma Community Centre Delhi-110092 Also At: Corporate Office at: C-56/40, Sector-62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 11.03.2020 At 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 20th day of Nov., 2019.

By Order of the Tribunal

Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** about 30/35 years of age was found dead near KM Pole No. 1524/9, opposite Sarita Vihar Police Station, New Delhi on 12.12.2019 at 7:11 AM. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 2A, dated 12.12.2019 has been registered at Police Station Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, New Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 30-35 years, Height: 5'5" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Injury Marks: Two Part Body, Wearing: Green Printed T-Shirt, Brown Pant & Barefooted.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

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OPPORTUNITIES

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HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Top 15 emerging jobs for 2020

Blockchain Developer, Artificial Intelligence Specialist and JavaScript Developer are the top three jobs for Indians in 2020 as per a LinkedIn report.

According to a press release, others in the top 15 emerging jobs for 2020 include Robotic Process Automation Consultant, Backend Developer, Growth Manager, Site Reliability Engineer, Customer Success Specialist, Full Stack Engineer, Robotics Engineer (Software), Cybersecurity Specialist, Python Developer, Digital Marketing Specialist, Front-end Engineer and Lead Generation Specialist. While tech jobs rule the list, jobs such as account management and customer retention that require a high degree of soft skills are also becoming critical, signifying the importance of human

intervention at every level of digitisation, says the release.

As per HardFork, India stands 6th in the world when it comes to Blockchain patents. Half of the Indian states are showing enthusiasm for Blockchain adoption, as per the NASSCOM Avasant India Blockchain Report 2019.

Information Technology and Services, Computer Software, Financial Services, Hospital and Healthcare are top industries using the technology. Among the tech hubs, Bengaluru tops the list for creation of jobs, followed by Hyderabad.

The report highlights 19 key industries that are hiring for these emerging jobs, of which Information Technology and Services, Computer Software, and Internet are the top three industries.

GENERAL

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IN BRIEF



Actor Raajashekhar's driving licence cancelled

HYDERABAD Tollywood actor Varadarajan Raajashekhar will be prosecuted for 'driving without a valid licence', the police said, adding, the actor lacks driving skills and his knowledge of traffic rules is 'very dismal'. On November 13, he rammed a SUV into the median. The RTA officials have suspended his licence.

D.K. Shivakumar case: High Court poser to ED

BENGALURU The Karnataka High Court asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) whether it can record statement of Gowramma, mother of former Minister D.K. Shivakumar, at her residence as she is aged around 85 years and whether her representatives could submit documents on her behalf.

Showdown likely at GST Council meet today

Kerala to take lead in forcing Centre to pay full compensation

N.J. NAIR
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The Finance Ministers of non-Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States are gearing up for a showdown at the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting on Wednesday at the behest of Kerala to force the Centre wipe out the entire GST compensation due to the States.

From a tranche of ₹35,298 crore released on Monday, Kerala received ₹1,600 crore as its share for August and September, but the State still remains clueless on securing the arrears for October and November.

Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac, who held consultations with his counterparts in other States on Monday, resolved to put the Centre under duress for



T.M. Thomas Isaac

clearing the entire dues.

Dr. Isaac will have a breakfast session with the Ministers of Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Puducherry, ahead of the Council meeting, and iron out a strategy.

He had written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday expressing his resentment on

the Centre failing to include the compensation issue as a priority item on the Council meeting's agenda. The financial situation of the States is precarious and hence it should be included as the second item, he had said.

To move SC

The Centre's decision to release a component of the arrears ahead of the Council meeting is being projected as the outcome of the pressure mounted by the Opposition States, and a collective decision made by them to move the Supreme Court after the Council meeting, sources said.

Funds crunch has seriously affected project execution and contractors are shying away from taking the tenders floated for new works, sources said.

Another suspected snakebite case reported in Kerala school

STAFF REPORTER

KALPETTA

A seven-year-old student of Government High School at Beemanchi, near Sultan Bathery, was admitted to a private hospital in Kalpetta district of Kerala on Tuesday following a suspected snakebite on the campus.

Muhammad Raihan, a Class 2 student, was reportedly bitten by a snake near a drinking water tap on the school ground. The child told his sister Amina, a Class 4 student, about the incident while they were returning home after attending the half-yearly exam around 1 p.m., K.P. Sabu, headmaster

in charge of the school, said. Sulaiman, Raihan's father, informed the school authorities and they admitted the child to the Taluk Hospital, Sultan Bathery, and later to a private medical college hospital at Mepadi. There were two red spots on the second toe of the left leg, Mr. Sabu added.

Manoj Narayanan, Medical Superintendent of the D.M. Wayanad Institute of Medical Sciences, told *The Hindu* that the condition of the child was stable and he was shifted to the paediatric intensive care unit.

"We have started to administer minimal dose of anti-

venom to the child as early symptoms of envenomation are visible," said Dr. Manoj. However, blood clotting was normal and no neurological paralysis was seen, he added.

A few weeks ago Shehala Sherin, a 10-year-old girl of Government Sarvajana High School, Sultan Bathery, died after she was reportedly bitten by a snake in her classroom.

The incident sparked outrage across the State following allegations of negligence against the school authorities and the doctors who treated the child at four hospitals.

TDP leader hacked to death in Kurnool

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ANANTAPUR

Manjula Subba Rao, 45, a Telugu Desam Party leader, granite trader and transporter from Tadipatri in the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, was hacked to death with a pickaxe while he was having tea near the Belum Caves in Kurnool district on Tuesday.

Eyewitnesses, who took a video of the murder, told the police that 12 persons known to the victim had come to the tea stall and greeted him initially. "Seconds later, they took out a pickaxe and hacked him to death," they alleged.

Mr. Subba Rao, who was a

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister hints at three Capitals for State

South African model most viable; balanced development is the goal, says Jagan

STAFF REPORTER

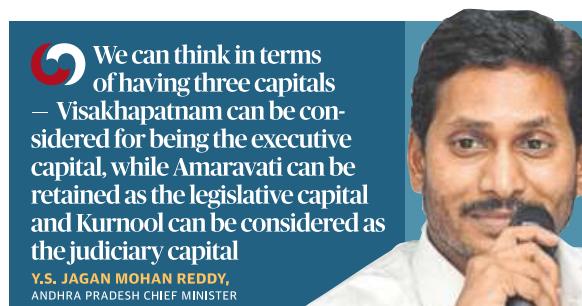
AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday hinted that Andhra Pradesh could have three Capitals on the lines of the ones in the Republic of South Africa.

Addressing the Assembly after an intense debate on the Capital issue, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy spoke his mind, and advocated decentralised development of the State.

"We can think in terms of having three capitals – legislative, executive and judicial.

Visakhapatnam can be considered for being the executive capital, while Amaravati can be retained as the legislative capital and Kurnool can be considered as the judiciary capital



Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY, ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

considered for the judiciary capital. A reputed consultancy firm will give its report and a decision will be taken after discussing the details and logistics," Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said.

The RSA has three capitals – Pretoria, the administrative Capital, Cape Town, a legislative capital, and Bloemfontein, the judicial capital.

Earlier, the House wit-

nessed an animated discussion between the YSRCP and TDP members.

Finance Minister Buggana Rajendran Reddy accused the previous TDP government of "insider trading." He said the party leaders and their supporters had bought huge tracts of land in Amaravati during June–December 2014, before the announcement of the Capital was made.

The Chief Minister said the previous government had set upon a grandiose plan of developing 53,000 acres at a whopping cost of ₹1.09 lakh crore.

His priorities would be to provide adequate drinking water, irrigation facilities and implementing welfare schemes, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said. "We need ₹60,000 crore to provide water to the Rayalseema region, ₹16,000 crore for taking Polavaram water to north Andhra and ₹40,000 crore for the drinking water grid. For the Naadu-Nedu programme, we need ₹29,000 crore. Since our priorities are so different and aimed at welfare, we have to consider if spending ₹1.09 lakh crore is necessary for Capital formation."

Class 10, 12 CBSE examinations to begin on February 15, 2020

Early schedule to give students more time for preparations'

STAFF REPORTER

CHENNAI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that board examinations for Classes 10 and 12 will begin on February 15, 2020.

For Class 12, the exams will go on till March 30 and for Class 10, the students will have exams till March 20.

For the first time this year, students of Class 10 were given an option to choose between basic and standard mathematics. In a

public notice, Sanyam Bhardwaj, controller of examinations of the CBSE, said data indicated that there were nearly 30,000 different combinations of subjects that students of Classes 10 and 12 have opted for.

"As these exams will be conducted from mid-February 2020, efforts have been taken to release the date sheets at the earliest," he said. The board has taken steps for the early release of the exam schedule to ensure that students get more time for preparations.

The CBSE has further taken care to ensure that students get sufficient time between exams of main subjects and that the dates of competitive exams do not coincide with their board exams, the notice said. They have also kept in mind the distribution of students in such a way that a large number of them do not reach the examination centre on any particular date.

Telangana party leaders arrested for 'Maoist links'

STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD

The Jogulamba-Gadwal district police on Tuesday arrested Telangana Praja Front (TPF) State general secretary Menchu Ramesh and Chaitanya Mahila Sangam (CMS) State general secretary Chukkala Shilpa from Hyderabad for their alleged Maoist links.

The Gadwal police along with the State Intelligence's anti-Naxal Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) conducted searches at the residences of Ramesh and Shilpa in Nacharam and Keesara respectively and took them into custody in connection with the case registered against them in October. While Shilpa is accused number 5, Ramesh is number 7.

The duo along with six others, including Telangana Vidyarthi Vedika State president Bandari Maddileti and TPF vice-president Nalamasa Krishna were booked under Sections 18, 18-B and 20 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), Section 120-B (Conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 8 (I)(II) of the Telangana State Public Security Act.

Police officials confirmed that the two were accused of having links with the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) and were actively working for it by recruiting new cadre and collecting funds. "They were covertly working as sympathisers-cum-couriers of the party as per the directions of top cadre to attract innocent youth into the banned organisation by injecting revolutionary ideology into their minds," said Gadwal Superintendent of Police K. Apoorva Rao.

She said the accused were secretly carrying recruitment operations to re-strengthen the party.

Safety on wheels



Lined up: Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa (not in picture) launching highway patrol vehicles at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

Why Deputy CMs when BSY is strong, asks Renukacharya

Sriramulu a contender amid lobbying for more such posts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU/SHIVAMOGGA

While lobbying continues for the creation of more posts of Deputy Chief Minister, with Health Minister B. Sriramulu being a strong contender, Chief Minister's political adviser M.P. Renukacharya has thrown a basic question into the debate by asking why the State needs such a position at all.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Mr. Renukacharya, a close aide of Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, argued that the post was redundant "when the Chief Minister is strong".

Karnataka has three Deputy Chief Ministers as of now – Laxman Savadi, C.N. Ashwath Narayan and Govind Karjol. Mr. Yediyurappa was initially reluctant about the creation of the posts, but it was at the insistence of the



central leaders that they were created and the three leaders inducted.

A source in the party said it was now up to the central leaders to set the situation right. These were created as counter-forces to Mr. Yediyurappa, but he has emerged stronger after the bypoll results, the source added. "If the post is scrapped, he will be the sole power centre," said the source.

State president Nalin Kumar Kateel said Mr. Yediyurappa would take a call on the issue and on Cabinet expansion after consulting the national leadership.

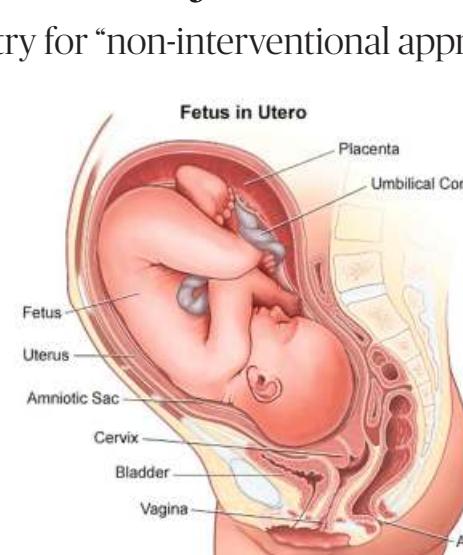
Reacting strongly to the line of argument by Mr. Renukacharya, Dr. Narayan told reporters that creation of the post was the prerogative of the party and the Chief Minister. "If anyone has an objection, they would do well to discuss in the party forum rather than air it in public. It creates unnecessary confusion," he said.

A somewhat chastised Mr. Renukacharya later said he was only articulating the opinion expressed by many people. "I am not in any way going against what the party or the Chief Minister decides," he said.

State president Nalin Kumar Kateel said Mr. Yediyurappa would take a call on the issue and on Cabinet expansion after consulting the national leadership.

Obstetricians say the advisory runs contrary to WHO recommendations and the best of proven international advisories and this can undo all their efforts to reduce PPH and prevent mothers bleeding to death.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) leadership demands that the Centre leave



clinical decision-making to doctors and that the advisory be withdrawn as it sends out contradictory messages to nurses and birthing assistants.

Kerala managed to bring

adopted is the WHO-recommended strategy of "active management of third stage of labour" (AMTSL).

The third stage is the time between the delivery of the baby and the expulsion of the placenta and its duration could be approximately six to 30 minutes. The volume of blood loss during this time depends on how long it takes the placenta to separate from the uterine wall and how effectively the uterine muscle contracts in the immediate post-partum period. This can be quite tricky. So in 2012, the WHO reaffirmed AMTSL, with the use of uterotonic drugs to contract uterus and reduce bleeding as the best critical measure.

The WHO-recommended protocol of delaying cord clamping after birth is enough to allow the foetus more blood from placenta, Dr. Paily says. The Ministry's advisory is meant to make childbirth a "natural and positive experience" for women.

ing the third stage of labour.

"Our concern is about the delayed administration of oxytocin. Uterine atony (failure of uterus to contract), followed by massive haemorrhage, occurs in the third and fourth stage. Immediate administration of oxytocin as soon as foetus is delivered contracts the uterus and helps the expulsion of placenta without blood loss," says V. P. Paily, an obstetrician and State coordinator, Confidential Review of Maternal Deaths.

The WHO-recommended protocol of delaying cord clamping after birth is enough to allow the foetus more blood from placenta, Dr. Paily says. The Ministry's advisory is meant to make childbirth a "natural and positive experience" for women.

HC dismisses plea of vehicle owners

Says cannot allow 27-seaters to Pampa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by a few vehicle owners for allowing 27-seater light vehicles to carry Sabarimala pilgrims up to Pampa.

The petitioners, K. Balachandran Pillai and two other vehicle owners from Kotayam, sought a modification of the court's earlier order allowing 15-seater vehicles to drop pilgrims up to Pampa.

If their vehicles were not allowed to ply up to Pampa, they would incur great loss. In fact, the welfare of the devotees was paramount and there was no justification for restricting the entry of vehicles from Nilakkal to Pampa, they said.

tract carriage owners. Therefore, their pleas could not be allowed. The petitioners pointed out that there was little difference in size between a vehicle with a capacity to seat 15 and those with a capacity to seat 27.

'Will incur loss' In fact, they were paying huge amount as vehicle tax every three months. They had taken loans for purchasing 27-seater vehicles.

The Bench comprising Justice C.T. Ravikumar and Justice N. Nagaresh said it had issued the order to minimise inconvenience to pilgrims and not to safeguard the interests of con-



The General in trouble

The judiciary in Pakistan is providing an opportunity to redraw civil-military relations

A Pakistani special court's decision on Tuesday to hand down the death penalty to former dictator Pervez Musharraf is perhaps one of the most consequential decisions by the country's judiciary in recent years. Mr. Musharraf, who captured power through a bloodless coup in 1999, was found guilty, under Article 6, of high treason for declaring a state of emergency in 2007. Then, Mr. Musharraf, faced with massive protests against his regime, suspended rights, carried out a nationwide purge against rivals and placed key figures under house arrest. The high treason case was filed by the Nawaz Sharif government in 2013. The court, in a 2-1 verdict, stated that Mr. Musharraf was guilty of violating and subverting the Constitution and gave him the highest punishment under the High Treason (Punishment) Act of 1973. Mr. Musharraf, currently in Dubai, can appeal. If the Supreme Court upholds the death penalty, he could still seek presidential pardon. While the legal battle can continue, what is clear is that the ruling is a setback to the military and the government. The Imran Khan government had earlier moved the Islamabad High Court, asking it to restrain the special court from passing the final judgment in the Musharraf trial. The High Court delayed the verdict and allowed the government's prosecution team to present fresh arguments. But none of these came to his rescue.

This is the first time in Pakistan's history that a military chief has been found guilty of treason and given the death sentence. It is significant given the complex institutional power dynamics in which the military has always held great sway. In a country that has seen coups and was ruled directly by the military for over three decades in total, it is not easy to stand up to the interests of the establishment. Still, that is what the judiciary is doing in recent days. Last month, the Supreme Court cut to six months the Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's three-year extension given by the government. If he has to continue beyond the six-month period, Parliament has to pass new legislation in that regard, according to the court. If that was a challenge to the military-government nexus, the death penalty awarded to Mr. Musharraf, the once-all-powerful leader, has struck a blow against the establishment. It could act as a legal deterrent against any military intervention in civilian affairs. It also strengthens the judiciary as an institution further, redrawing the institutional equilibrium in Pakistan's power dynamics. The civilian authorities should seize the moment to alter the balance in civil-military relations. What Mr. Musharraf's fate should be is up to the higher courts to decide. But the spirit of the special court's judgment is to hold the men in uniform accountable for their actions and enforce the primacy of the Constitution. That is good news for democracy.

Justice for the Rohingya

Myanmar must guarantee immediate protection for its Muslim minority

Last week's preliminary hearings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) seeking guarantees of basic protection for Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims arguably offer only symbolic hope to this long-suffering community. Yet, the lengthy legal process at the Hague Court on the plight of thousands forcibly exiled in refugee camps in Bangladesh is key to forcing accountability on Yangon. The case brought by Gambia, a tiny west African state, on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, pertains to alleged genocide in 2017 committed by the Myanmarese military. The forces have insisted that their actions were merely in response to the armed insurgency, notably by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army. The UN and several rights groups have documented orchestrated incidents of torched villages, mass rape and other atrocities by the military, forcing over 700,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh. Rendering the lot of the Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine state particularly vulnerable is the denial of citizenship and the reference by nationalist sections to them as illegal Bengali immigrants. Oddly enough, arguing the defence of the junta's actions at the ICJ was Nobel Peace Laureate and Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy swept to power in 2015. She asserted that the Army had acted proportionately in countering the rebels and accused Gambia of misrepresenting the situation, while critics point out that she downplayed the extent of the violence and official failure to intervene. Observers highlight the absence of an explicit reference to the Rohingya in her testimony, much like her equivocation after the 2017 carnage and claims of fake news. She has even been accused of choosing to argue the defence in person with an eye on the 2020 general election.

Lawyers representing Myanmar insisted that while violent crimes were committed during the conflict, motives of genocide against the community could not be imputed against the authorities. The ICJ, which adjudicates disputes between countries, has handed down guilty verdicts in a few cases relating to crimes of genocide. But crucially, it has stopped short of pinning the blame directly upon states as in the 2007 ruling on the Bosnian war of the preceding decade, relying on a differentiation between ethnic cleansing and genocide. The challenges of establishing conclusive proof of the intention to extirpate entire communities underlies this caution. A decision regarding genocide relating to the atrocities against the Rohingya is not expected any time soon. The more urgent concern before the court is Gambia's petition seeking an injunction that the violence against the community cease forthwith and the government guarantee immediate protection. Ms. Suu Kyi must heed that call without reservations.

Time to defend India's secularism

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act has imperilled the nation's constitutional values, and no one can afford to be silent



PINARAYI VIJAYAN

India's secular structure faces a profound crisis. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, must be rejected for three reasons. First, it is against the letter and spirit of our Constitution. Second, it is divisive, deeply discriminatory and violative of human rights. Third, it seeks to impose the politics and philosophy of Hindutva, with its vision of a "Hindu nation", on our entire people and on the basic structure of our polity. Our constitutional values are in peril, and no person who has faith in our democracy can afford to be silent and uninvolved in what is happening around us.

Against common citizenship

Let us understand each of these three points. The first is that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is against the letter and spirit of our Constitution. Articles 5 to 11 of the Constitution deal with citizenship, and the Citizenship Act, 1955, lays down criteria for citizenship based on birth, descent, registration, naturalisation, and citizenship by incorporation of territory. By setting new criteria, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act goes against the premise of common citizenship regardless of differences of caste, creed, gender, ethnicity and culture. Further, Article 14 of the Constitution lays down that the "State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India". It bears emphasis

that Article 14 applies not only to citizens but to "all persons within the territory of India".

What do we mean by the spirit of the Constitution? We associate the drafting of our Constitution with the rich debates of the Constituent Assembly, and the wisdom of its members, amongst whom Babasaheb Ambedkar stands tall. It is often not recognised, however, that it was the heroism of millions of unsung freedom fighters that made our Constitution a reality. These men and women, who came from the working class, peasantry, and socially marginalised groups – whatever their religious persuasion – challenged the colonial authorities in their struggle for human rights and economic justice. This struggle had broader aims than the overthrow of colonial rule. These torchbearers of modern Indian history played a crucial role in creating the demand for social justice, and a Constitution with democratic and secular values in a society in which discrimination and inequality were deeply ingrained. Although the framing of the Constitution did not mark the end of the struggle for civil liberties and for an egalitarian society, it, nevertheless, was a milestone in our history.

Our freedom fighters were also conscious that theirs was a struggle for a society free of caste and religious deprivation and discrimination, and free of the deep social and economic inequalities that characterise Indian society. This was true of the manifestos of the Left from the early 1920s; this aspiration was also reflected in the resolution of the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress in 1931, held after the execution of Bhagat Singh and his comrades. Confronted by the radical mass



upsurge of the time, the Congress passed resolutions on the freedom of speech, press, freedom of assembly, freedom of association, and equality before the law.

The national movement in British India was further strengthened by movements in the erstwhile princely States. Our forebears dreamt of an independent India where communal prejudice would be alien to the polity. It is not surprising that the threat to those parts of our Constitution that defend secularism, democracy, social equality, federalism, and individual and social diversity, should come from that section of the polity that did not participate in the freedom struggle. The surrender to British imperialism by the precursors of today's forces of Hindutva, is a chapter of India's history that is cast in stone. No amount of denial can change that unheroic past.

Violative of rights

Our second point is that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is divisive, deeply discriminatory and violative of human rights. As I have written before, our national unity was won through struggle; the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is one of the many threats to its survival.

Our hard-won Constitution recognises individual and social differences, and that we must weave the cord of unity by creating a sense of belonging and inclusiveness for all.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act attempts to create and deepen communal division and social polarisation in the country. The Act gives eligibility for citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, and specifically excludes Muslims from that list. In granting citizenship on the basis of religion, it discriminates against Muslims and rejects the basic concept of secularism.

That the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is discriminatory and violative of human rights has been recognised by those who have come out on the streets in many States, in opposition to the Act. It is noteworthy that university and college students figure prominently in the upsurge against the Act. Though pushed through in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies, these young citizens of India have come together – much as students did during the anti-colonial struggle – to reject the attempt to divide India along religious lines. They have denounced this Act as discriminatory and violative of human rights.

The Right's agenda

Our final point is that the agenda of Hindutva and its ultimate goal of establishing a "Hindu Nation" underlie the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, well established both by past experience and the present actions of the BJP-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. We men-

tioned earlier the absence of the forces of Hindutva from the freedom movement. It was in this period that M.S. Golwalkar propounded his theory of India as a "Hindu Nation," where other religious communities had no rights of citizenship. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act is the latest blow by the BJP to the secular nature of our polity.

When the Left has been in Government we have made every effort to use the machinery at our command to preserve communal harmony; elsewhere, we have organised the masses to ensure such harmony.

Notes from Kerala

Kerala's struggle for secularism and social equality has much to teach us. Historically, the different strands of Kerala's social renaissance and, subsequently, the forces of the Left and other progressive sections, fought hard against social discrimination and communalism, and for social and economic equality.

All political parties and social groupings of different types in Kerala, other than the parties and organisations of Hindutva, have come together against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. The peaceful satyagraha held in Thiruvananthapuram on December 16, attended by political parties, religious leaders, and cultural leaders is a symbol of our united determination to uphold constitutional values and basic human rights, and to oppose discrimination.

We cannot postpone our protest and united resistance against this assault on secularism and democracy.

Pinarayi Vijayan is the Chief Minister of Kerala

Bearing the brunt of slack laws

The tweaking of labour laws on safety and minimum wage has left a large section of workers in India without rights



MAYA JOHN

The huge fire that engulfed a residential-cum-production unit in a congested part of Delhi in the early hours of December 8, killing over 40 people, has exposed the precariousness of the everyday life of workers in this country. Their unfortunate deaths have merely caused the authorities responsible to indulge in a blame game, without shame, while conveniently sidestepping the larger question of systemic labour rights violation.

It is evident that numerous industrial clusters have mushroomed in the bylanes of residential localities and slums in our big cities, not merely due to a handful of erring officials of civic agencies but also due to the wider structure of episodic or literally, non-existent regulation of labour conditions in micro-, small- and medium-sized industrial and commercial establishments. In these scores of smaller establishments, the workers are mostly mi-

grants, and tend to work long hours for meagre wages. Often, they are crowded into living quarters inside the production unit itself. Such pervasive informality stems from the limited coverage of labour laws, indicating that the hapless victims of the recent fire were victims of a much greater catastrophe – the lack of state regulation of several kinds of work relations and workplaces.

Out of reach laws

Indeed, key labour laws in India consistently elude a large section of workers who are denied rights and benefits on the pretext of less regular work contracts, length of employment, nature of establishment (seasonal or perennial), size of the workforce, etc. It is only a minuscule section of organised workers who have actually been granted the same.

Nevertheless, the present conjuncture is characterised by a new and more offensive attack on labour by capital. A dominant discourse on the "ease of business" aggressively projects India's labour laws as a fetter on the development of the free market. Utilising the image of protection extended by the law to organised workers of mostly large industrial establishments, employers' lob-

bies have successfully projected India's labour laws as cumbersome, a hindrance to employment generation, and, thus, intrinsically "anti-labour". Any regulation or interventionist approaches to industrial relations have increasingly become a thing of the past.

Employers' claims about the lack of labour market flexibility in India are of course unsustainable, given the high levels of employment of contract labour in all kinds of industrial and commercial establishments, steady growth of the informal sector, high labour turnover, the pattern of extended overtime put in by a majority of workers, the growing presence of apprentices and "fixed term" workers in industrial enterprises, the pattern of deskilling or high-skilled workers entering lower-skill segment jobs, as well as the presence of a weak trade union movement which is unable to prevent retrenchment.

If we focus on the phenomenal

growth of India's informal sector and informal work relations, it is worth noting the specific context in which this development has unfolded. The context is one of deregulation of a large number of work relations; this is most evident in the watering down of the provisions of labour inspection, the growing paradigm of self-certification by employers of their compliance with labour laws, and the tweaking of many statutory labour laws on occupational safety standards, work hours, minimum wage, compensation, industrial disputes, etc. by successive governments, both at the State and Central level.

Retreat of the state

Taken together, the exemptions provided to smaller industrial and commercial establishments from furnishing proof of their compliance with statutory labour laws, as well as labour law amendments aimed at diluting the authority of the labour inspectorate, have greatly enhanced the power of employers across the board. The "private power" of employers to unilaterally fix wages, extract overtime, manage leaves, determine compensation, etc. has substantially increased with the steady withdrawal of the state from

regulation of labour-capital relations that exist in myriad workplaces – from an Anaj Mandi in bustling north Delhi, to a real-estate construction site in Borivali, Mumbai to a garment factory in Tirupur, Tamil Nadu, to a brick kiln in Gaya, Bihar.

Like it or not, promotion of the self-certification system, the continuous weakening of the labour inspectorate by successive governments and persistent dilution of labour laws pose uncomfortable questions, especially when we recognise the intense exploitation of labour by employers, who to stay competitive, consistently push down labour costs by circumventing labour rights. How can employers, who often tend to violate labour rights, themselves become law enforcers/certifiers in the new framework of deregulated industrial relations?

The brutal reality is that workers contribute their sweat and blood in the making of this economy, and in return the economy gives them a pittance. How many more workers' lives have to go up in flames before our conscience is awakened?

Maya John is Assistant Professor, Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi, and a social activist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

CAA protests

Protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, have gained momentum and spread to other areas in India. With students from prestigious institutes such as the Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institutes of Management as well as several universities having now come out to protest, this seems to be turning into a nationwide movement. Much of the violence appears to be in the form of disproportionate use of force by those in charge of law and order. The Central government is wrong if it thinks it can contain these protests with strong-arm measures such as police firing, curfews and cutting off communication facilities like the Internet. And it will be wrong and unwise on the government's part to counter such protests, with force, misinformation and accusations of anti-national conduct, arising out of concerns over the threat to citizenship rules and the

Constitution that the CAA poses. Citizens of all classes have the right and the reasons to protest against the CAA because it affects all of them. But it must be ensured that the protests are peaceful so as not to give the Central government any reason to malign them.

SERAJ ALI,
Bengaluru

■ Most Opposition parties seem to lack a clear concept of "citizenship". No nation, large or small, can afford to accept all refugees, migrants and other groups and offer citizenship. In India, a lenient approach has always been taken on humanitarian considerations and a number of amendments to rules have been made at different points in time. The present one should be considered as a measure solely to help those experiencing religious persecution in Muslim countries in the neighbourhood. The cases of Tamil refugees and the Rohingya need not be mixed

up with it. The cases of Sri Lanka and Myanmar should be taken up separately. The unity among the Opposition parties is more a political game than it being about a national outlook.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

■ It is not as if the BJP surreptitiously brought in the CAA. Nor was it the case with the annulment of Article 370 on Kashmir. Both were articles of faith for the party and formed part of the election manifesto on which it fought the 2019 elections, and won squarely and decisively. Due diligence was followed in passing the CAB in Parliament. If the Opposition was and is still bent on stalling its implementation, it has the recourse to carry the fight to the courts of the land including the Supreme Court of India. Instead it is sad to see the Opposition firing from the shoulders of students and giving the issue an unmistakable slant of religious victimhood. Moreover, it is highly

imprudent and unconstitutional on the part of responsible rulers in Kerala and West Bengal threatening not to implement the CAA in their States, forgetting the consequences of their actions on the democratic polity of the nation, its functioning and the wider interests of all the people. Why should the Opposition be afraid of the wisdom, impartiality and measured judgment of courts in the first instance, failing which approaching the people in the next elections is the final resort? Surely the die is never cast irreversibly in any democracy.

SRIKANTH SUBRAHMANYAM,
Hyderabad

■ It is amusing to note that at a time when the economy of the country is nearing rock bottom, the Home Minister, while addressing an election rally in Jharkhand, has said that a "sky-high temple would come up in four months in Ayodhya" (Inside pages, December 17). The

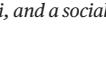
interest and haste shown in the matters connected with Hindutva is absent in the issues related to people's welfare. Further, the Home Minister's strong statement, that "we will not tolerate anybody meddling with country" is even funnier; it is the BJP which is meddling with the Constitution, making a complete mess of things. As pointed out by the former Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, the people, fortunately, have not given a two-thirds majority to the BJP (Tamil Nadu pages, "BJP wrecking Constitution through the backdoor", December 17).

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

More constituencies
Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee's suggestion to raise the number of Lok Sabha constituencies to 1,000 is quite unwise (Inside pages, December 17). Even at the present level of 543 Lok Sabha and 245 Rajya Sabha MPs, the Central government spends crores of money

towards their pay and other unlimited perks such as free telephones, cars, free air and rail travel, etc. An increase will only impose a heavy burden on the government exchequer. What is required instead is a cut in their existing pay and reduction in perks and amounts made under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Schemes, or MPLADS. The bifurcation of States and creation of districts does take care of the welfare of people without the need to increase the strength of MPs. It will also be a cumbersome task to hold polls for a revised number of constituencies. It could also have a cascading effect, of States too asking for an increase in MLA constituencies. Instead, attention should be paid to increasing the productivity of MPs in highlighting and finding answers to the real problems and issues.

MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY,
Nabadip, Nadia, West Bengal



Left to the whims of the executive

The Citizenship Act is a mere skeleton, whose flesh and blood is left to be dictated by executive action



MALAVIKA PRASAD

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 tells us who, in the eyes of the Indian government, has a right to be considered for citizenship. So far, no illegal migrant could be considered for citizenship. Now, the government can grant citizenship to persons with certain religious identities (Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Christians, Buddhists) and from certain countries (Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan) who entered India after fleeing religious persecution – and are thus presumably “illegal migrants” – on or before December 31, 2014. Much has been written about the classification of the Act’s beneficiaries reinforcing a pre-existing inequality in the Indian context, while also being under-inclusive: it singles out Muslims who face other kinds of persecution in these very countries and ignores religious minorities of other countries such as Sri Lanka and Myanmar. This is the first of many questions that the government must answer in the Supreme Court. There are some other questions that also need answering.

Eligibility for citizenship

The Act does not itself state that its beneficiaries must be fleeing religious persecution. Instead, it refers to persons from certain groups and from certain countries who were exempted under a prior notification and order issued under the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, and Foreigners Act, 1946, respectively. The relevant notifications, the first issued in 2015 and the second in 2016 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, exempt Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan from provisions of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, and the Foreigners Act, 1946, if they were “compelled to seek shelter in India due to religious persecution or fear of religious persecution”. All such persons were then allowed to obtain five-year Long Term Visas under a 2011 Standard Operating Procedure (in comparison with other refugees who could seek



“As a democratic republic, India is committed to having elected legislators deliberate and collectively reason the necessity and soundness of legislative policy.” Protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Kolkata. ■ AFP

asylum by applying for a shorter Long Term Visa) on treatment of refugees. Now, the 2019 Act will protect these very persons by offering a right to be considered for citizenship.

Doing the work of legislature

The first question that arises is whether the targeted exclusion of certain classes of migrants from the rigours of immigration law, based in part on their religious identity, can be done through notifications and Standard Operating Procedures. Does this mean that a future notification can altogether drop the religious persecution requirement and offer a blanket exemption to everyone except Muslims? As a democratic republic, India is committed to having elected legislators deliberate and collectively reason the necessity and soundness of legislative policy. The executive government, when acting as a delegate of the legislature, can only execute the latter’s legislative policy. Instead, the notifications exempt a class of migrants based on their identity, a factor which is not at all germane to the legislative policy of regulating the entry of foreigners into India under the Foreigners Act and Passport Act.

This should not have been done. Such power to execute includes the power to decide whether to “apply the law to an area or to determine the time and manner of carrying it into effect” in the words of a 1960 Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in *Hamard Dawakhana v. Union of India*. In short, the executive may make conditions as to the time, place, or manner of a law’s application, even if the ultimate effect of such conditional legislation is that a class of migrants, defined by their fleeing within the conditions, end up becoming exempt. What would not be permissible is if the executive applied the legislative policy to a class of migrants defined only by their identity. Such a class may only be defined by the legislature.

Similarly, the classes of beneficiaries of the 2019 Act who will pursue registration and not naturalisation is also left to the decision of the executive (through Rules yet to be noti-

fied). This crucial matter was expressly stipulated so far in the Citizenship Act itself – in Sections 5 and 6 – and thus clearly a matter of core legislative policy. Since the 2019 Act expressly states that the class of migrants earlier described shall no longer be considered “illegal migrants”, theoretically such migrants should be entitled to apply for both registration and for naturalisation, if they fulfil the conditions in Sections 5 and 6 of the Act, respectively. Yet, the discretion to decide which of these beneficiaries can pursue each route has also been left to the executive.

Who detects ‘illegal migrants’?

Second, the bedrock of this Act is that persons from certain religious identities who are fleeing religious persecution in certain countries will not to be considered “illegal migrants” under the citizenship law. Yet, neither the Act nor the 2015 notifications tell us how, by whom, and under what guidelines people’s claims to a religious identity, and to fleeing a certain religious persecution, will be determined. How then are we to know “illegal migrants” apart from persons who can rightly claim citizenship under the Act?

In the past, the law itself entrusted this task to an authority. In the Assam context, the Citizenship Act states that the Foreigners’ Tribunals will “detect foreigners” who entered India in a certain period between 1966 and 1971. In the 2019 Act, no such authority is named. The Tribunal is unlikely to be empowered to determine claims under the 2019 Act, so long as the 2015 and 2016 notification and order exclude the Foreigners Act under which the Tribunal operates. Without legislative clarity on this, it appears that the task will fall to an executive body once again through executive fiat – if the Standard Operating Procedure is anything to go by.

As it turns out, the Citizenship Amendment Act is a mere skeleton, whose flesh and blood is left to be dictated by executive action. To decide the membership of a polity through mere executive action is a dangerous path to walk – and one that Indians must be alarmed by.

Malavika Prasad is a lawyer and doctoral fellow at the Nalsar University of Law

Fish in troubled waters

India needs studies on the threat posed by invasive alien species to ecosystems and a policy to address the problem



S. SANDILYAN

Climate change and unprecedented floods resulting from cloud bursts have facilitated the introduction of aquatic invasive alien species into new habitats in India. This phenomenon threatens ecosystems, habitats and native species. Recently, a study by Biju Kumar and others from the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala, revealed the role of the 2018 floods in introducing the most dangerous fish species into Kerala’s wetlands. The authors said that exotic fishes such as arapaima and alligator gar were reported or caught by the residents after the floods. These are illegally imported fish that are reared by ornamental and commercial fish traders across India.

Researchers say that during heavy floods, invasive alien fishes which are illegally farmed in fragile systems, including domestic aquarium tanks, ponds, lakes and abandoned quarries, effortlessly escape from captivity and enter nearby wetlands. After a while, they slowly begin to wipe out local diversity and the economy by altering the functions of the ecosystem. And yet no State or Union Territory has any strong policy or law on the illegal rearing, breeding and trading of such invasive ornamental and commercially important fish species. And it is not as though they are completely unaware of the phenomenon and its impact.

Illegal stocking

In Tamil Nadu, for instance, stocking illegally imported ornamental and commercially important fish species is good business. Kolathur in north Chennai is known for its ornamental fish trade (with more than 80 shops) and most of the residents in the area are involved in breeding and selling 150-200 exotic ornamental fish species. People mostly use small cement cisterns, earthen ponds, plastic-lined pools, homestead ponds and the Rettai lake for breeding these species. And then the seasonal monsoon floods in the area wash away the exotic breeding stocks and adult fishes into freshwater bodies.

During the monsoon, government officials release details about the amount of rainfall, water level in reservoirs, and how the flood paralysed essential services including transport, communication and electricity. But there is no information about biodiversity loss and the impact of the flood on

freshwater diversity.

India is endowed with 2,319 species of finfish. Studies from several parts of the country show that the diversity of freshwater fish is depleting at an alarming pace due to the invasion of commercially important and ornamental exotic fish species. Many native species, especially Indian major carps in various riverine systems, have been affected because of the invasion of exotic fish species such as Nile tilapia, African catfish, Thai pangasius and common carp. Apart from commercially important exotic species, ornamental fishes such as guppy, piranha, suckermouth, blue perch, goldfish and platy have been recorded in rivers, lakes, traditional village ponds and other inland freshwater bodies. These also accelerate the extinction of natural varieties from local water bodies.

No commercial value

A team of researchers from Madurai Kamaraj University found that the exotic ornamental Amazon sailfin catfish poses a serious threat to the native fish species of Vandiyur Lake, Madurai. They reported that the biomass of the Amazon sailfin catfish is statistically significant compared to the indigenous varieties. This clearly shows the negative impact of this exotic aquarium fish on inland aquaculture in terms of diminished production/catch of edible fish. Further, sailfin catfish species do not hold any commercial value; therefore, people discard the species on the banks of the lake where it is not even scavenged by other animals and birds. Thus more than 15 exotic ornamental species have successfully established a reproductive population in our freshwater bodies and we still don’t know the magnitude of the impact of this species on the native diversity of fish.

On September 23, 2019, the Tamil Nadu government sanctioned ₹38.52 crore to purchase special equipment to strengthen the state disaster response force to tackle the possible impacts of the northeast monsoon. Further, 4,399 places were identified as vulnerable sites and 6,000 trained personnel were positioned across the State.

There is, however, no information on the aquatic biodiversity conservation policy. We can only infer that the State government has not yet framed any policy to control and manage the escape of invasive alien fish species during the monsoon season. It is time to draft a policy in consultation with experts. The State government would also do well to establish a unique research centre to address this issue.

S. Sandilyan is a former Fellow on Invasive Alien Species, Centre for Biodiversity Policy and Law, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai

In pursuit of structural reforms

Economic freedom should become the guiding principle of the nation’s policymaking

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

The economic slowdown has pushed many people to demand more structural reforms from the government. But what exactly counts as a structural reform? Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram stated that the government does not understand what structural reforms mean. He also said that only a handful of reforms in the last few decades can really be classified as major structural reforms. Few critics of the government, however, care to elaborate on what they mean by structural reforms and why such reforms are so important. At best, they spell out land and labour reforms without offering a broader framework for a structural reform programme. This has led not only to the portrayal of incremental reforms as radical structural reforms that will improve growth, but also to the adoption of bad reforms that only benefit special interest groups at the cost of the overall economy as actual structural reforms.

Free from government control
When economists talk about structural reforms, what they mean are reforms that free the economy from the control of the government and allow markets to allocate resources. The classical liberal economists of the 19th century believed that a minimalist ‘night-watchman’ state that limited its role strictly to the efficient provision of police, and courts that protected people’s property rights and enforced contracts, could bring economic prosperity. Some even argued that the marketplace, in which multiple businesses compete to provide goods and services to consumers, can also offer better policing and legal services than an inefficient monopoly like the government. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised “minimum government, maximum governance” before he assumed power in 2014, the expectation was that he would turn India into a free market paradise. But in the last five and a half years, the role of the government in the economy has only increased significantly with measures such as demonetisation and GST severely undermining people’s economic right to own what

they earn.

A minimalist or limited government, in the classical sense, however, would allow private individuals to own and exploit all economic resources. No sector of the economy would be shielded from private ownership and there would be an active attempt to disinvest almost all the assets that are under the control of the government. It would allow individuals to freely buy and sell anything they wish at whatever price they deem fit through voluntary trade. People will also be allowed to keep almost all of what they earn from such free trade, and private contracts rather than onerous government regulations would be allowed to regulate commerce. Such unfettered free trade, while it benefits consumers, will likely create winners and losers among producers. A minimalist government, however, will have no legal powers to save any business, whether small or large, from failure. People will be allowed to freely enter or exit a market as they wish and compete against anyone they want. Such genuine free market competition would ensure that the production of goods and services rises, prices fall, and the standard of living of the masses increases many-fold as a result. It was through such a drastic cut-down in the role of the government in the economy that countries such as Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand and China managed to achieve great economic prosperity.

A poor ranking

The government has flaunted its performance in the World Bank’s ‘Ease of Doing Business’ ranking to prove its commitment to reforming the economy. But India’s performance in the ‘Index of Economic Freedom’ ranking (129 out of 180 countries), which cannot be easily influenced by cosmetic changes to a few laws, should be of concern. The ranking, which measures the degree to which an economy is market-oriented, also classifies India as a “mostly unfree” economy. If genuine structural reforms are to be expected, economic freedom should become the guiding principle of policymaking.

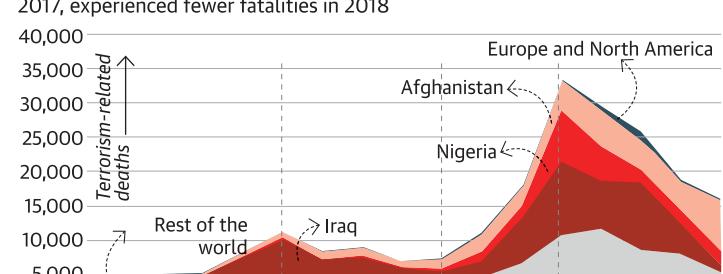
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DATA POINT

Changing face of terror

1. Less lethal | In 2018, terrorism-related deaths decreased to 15,952 from 33,555 in 2014. Iraq, the nation most affected by terrorism between 2004 and 2017, experienced fewer fatalities in 2018



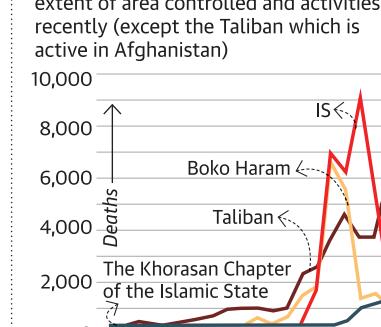
3. More nations affected | Though the number of deaths went down, more countries witnessed terrorist activities in recent years. The number of countries where at least one fatality due to terrorism was recorded rose from 48 in 2011 to 71 in 2018



SOURCE: GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2019, INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE

Deaths due to terrorism have reduced substantially in recent years following the decline of the Islamic State (IS). The Taliban has replaced IS as the organisation responsible for most deaths in 2018, which also resulted in Afghanistan becoming the country most targeted by terror. By Sumant Sen and Sayan Ghosh

2. Less effective | Most terror groups have weakened in terms of both the extent of area controlled and activities (except the Taliban which is active in Afghanistan)



4. Terror scores | India’s Global Terrorism Index score worsened from 2002 to 2018. The higher the score, the more terrorist-affected the nation. The table shows scores for select nations

Country	Score (2018)	Change (2002-2018)
Afghanistan	9.603	+4.058
Pakistan	7.889	+1.866
India	7.518	+0.175
Bangladesh	5.208	-0.026
Nepal	5.093	-1.004
Sri Lanka	3.569	-2.068
Bhutan	0.01	+0.01

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 18, 1969

Moon responsible for life on earth

The moon may be responsible for life on earth, an Interior Department geophysicist suggested yesterday [December 17]. Dr. S. Fred Singer said cataclysmic changes inside the earth four billion years ago when the planet “captured” the moon as its satellite could have started the evolutionary processes which led to man. Dr. Singer outlined his theory on the moon’s origin and its link with the beginning of life at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union. Dr. Singer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Scientific Programmes in the Interior Department, said the moon was originally a “sister planet” of the earth which circled the sun in a similar orbit. At some time shortly after the formation of the two planets - more than four billion years ago - the moon passed the earth, was captured by its gravitational attraction and pulled into orbit around it, Dr. Singer said

FROM PAGE ONE

21 hurt as protesters clash with police in Delhi

Multiple protesters said the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens are against Muslims. They said they will continue to raise their voice against them.

According to the locals, some of the protesters who withdrew from the main road, due to the lathi

No panel to probe police action at varsities: SC

The court refused to even entertain an oral plea to stop any arrests until the High Courts take up the issue.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, for petitioners who include three former JMI students, said, "FIRs are being filed against students one after the other all over the country... If Your Lordship wants peace, as you said yesterday, you cannot file FIRs against hundreds of students."

The CJI responded, "You may be innocent or guilty, but what if the police think you are guilty, an FIR is filed."

Ms. Jaising urged the court, "At the end of the day, we are looking for a resolution. That cannot be done if FIRs are filed. How will students sitting in jails help? Universities are private property. How could police enter university grounds without permission? In the dead of winter, you close the hostels. Are students going to sleep out in the cold? Please intervene and send a message to the country."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the Centre, said "not a single person is in prison."

Only two AMU students were injured in the police action. One of them had tried to grab a tear gas shell. They were taken to the hospital. Whereas over 20 buses and private cars were burnt and 37 policemen injured besides damage caused to property. Senior police officials who were at the scene were in court "to provide factual assistance to Your Lordships", he said.

But Ms. Jaising said, "The moment we come out of this court, there will be more arrests". She told the CJI, "The Supreme Court said it wants peace to return. Well, it's not enough to just say that,

Packaged foods 'breach' salt, fat limits: CSE

The proposed draft Food Safety and Standards (Labeling and Display) Regulations say companies must declare nutritional information such as calories (energy), saturated fat, trans-fat, added sugar and sodium per

serve on the front of the pack. Labels must show the per serve share of the RDA on the pack.

Though discussed since 2015 in many drafts – the latest in July – the rules have yet to become law.

'Missing' posters of Nitish surface over CAA

JD(U) chief has been silent on issue

Amid continuing outrage over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens across the country, posters declaring Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) chief Nitish Kumar as "missing" sprang up on Tuesday in Patna over his silence on these issues.

"Look carefully at this face which hasn't been seen or heard from last few days... Bihar will be grateful to those who would find him," says one of the posters on Beerchand Patel Marg near the Rashtriya Janata Dal's office in Patna.

The poster with a big size picture of Mr. Kumar has also "#silent on CAB_NRC"



A poster in Patna saying Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has gone missing.

written on top. The other poster on the road leading to Patna airport calls Mr. Kumar as "dumb, deaf and blind CM".

However, no political party, individual or organisation has taken responsibility for the posters.

Modi dares Congress on CAA

PM asks the party and its allies to accord citizenship to all citizens of Pakistan

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BARTAHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday dared the Congress and its allies to accord citizenship to all the citizens of Pakistan, and restore the provisions under Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, diluted by his government.

Sharpening his attack on the Opposition over the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019 at an election rally at Barhati in Sahebganj district of Jharkhand, Mr. Modi said, "I challenge the Congress and all its allies that if they have guts, they should make an open announcement that they are ready to accord citizenship to all citizens of Pakistan."

On Article 370

"Moreover, if the Congress has the courage, it should announce it will restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Modi has abrogated Article 370. Bring the provisions back if you can," he said.

"The Congress is misleading people. Further, if they have the guts, they should al-



Poser to Opposition: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a rally at Sahebganj in Jharkhand on Tuesday. ■ PTI

so make a declaration on removing the law enacted against triple talaq. The Congress should accept the challenge," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister accused the Congress and its allies of spreading lies about the CAA and instilling fear in Indian Muslims.

"I want to assure you that the CAA will not affect any citizen of India of any religion. Nobody should worry about it. This Act is only for those who have faced years of persecution outside and have

no other place to go except India," Mr. Modi said.

Guerrilla politics'

Winding up his campaign for the Jharkhand election, he said the Congress should stop "guerrilla politics" by spreading lies.

On the issue of the student agitation against the CAA, Mr. Modi said: "I also want to tell the Congress and its allies to stop the conspiracy of spoiling the future of youth. It will not help anyone. The Congress

In the probability that the petitioners approach High Courts in future, these courts would use their discretion to consider the need to appoint fact-finding committees with former apex court or High Court judges to probe the police action against students. The apex court said the High Courts would pass orders only after hearing what the Centre and the respective governments have to say in this regard. It had confidence in the Chief Justices of the High Courts concerned to do the right thing by law.

The Bench dismissed a comparison made by Ms. Jaising about the way it had intervened with alacrity in the Hyderabad encounter case to appoint a commission of inquiry.

The CJI reasoned that unlike the Hyderabad police 'encounter', the incidents post-CAA were spread across vast areas in various States. One committee appointed by the apex court would hardly be able to perform such an enormous task.

A delegation of Opposition parties, led by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, petitioned President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday to advise the Union government to withdraw the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and accused the government of having no "compassion as it shuts down people's voices".

"All of us, representatives of 12 different political parties, have met the President to plead with him to intervene in the situation in the Northeast, which is now spreading throughout the country, including the capital in the Jamia university, because of the Act," Ms. Gandhi told presspersons after handing over the memo-

randum, signed by leaders of 12 Opposition parties, including the CPI(M), the CPI, the DMK, the SP, the Trinamool, the RJD, the National Conference, the IUML and the AIUDF.

'Not acceptable'

"I think you all have seen that the BJP government, that is, the Modi government seems to have no compassion when it comes to shutting down people's voices and implement a legislation, which do not seem to be acceptable to the people and to us in a democracy," she said.

"It is a very serious situation. We fear that it may spread even further. We are anguished at the manner in which the police have dealt with peaceful demonstrations across India".

The Opposition leaders urged President Kovind to intervene on the issue of violence in Central universities in his capacity as their Chancellor. The Congress chief mentioned the 'high-handedness' of the Delhi Police in dealing with the students of Jamia Millia Islamia.

"We have the example in Delhi, where the police entered the Jamia Millia women's hostel and dragged women out. They mercilessly thrashed students not only here in Delhi, who were demonstrating, which is their democratic right," Ms. Gandhi said. CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury said the President was the custodian of the Constitution and he "cannot allow his government to violate the Constitution in this brazen manner".

We don't know whether any have been left out of NRC, says Hasina's adviser

SUVIJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

If India can establish the citizenship of Bangladeshi, allegedly residing in India illegally, Dhaka will take them back. However, New Delhi has not informed Dhaka of anything about the Bangladeshi living in India, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's foreign policy adviser Gowher Rizvi has said.

Mr. Rizvi was here to open a three-day celebration of Bangladesh's victory in the 1971 Liberation War at the office of the Deputy High Commission here on Tuesday.

Answering a question on the National Register of Citizens (NRC), he said that while the two countries are in touch with each other, "no one from the government of India has indicated



GOWHER RIZVI
Foreign policy adviser to Bangladesh PM

whether there is any Bangladeshi citizen [who has been left out of the NRC].

"Our policy is clear. If any Bangladeshi citizen is illegally staying in India, we will

take the person back, like India is expected to take its [illegal] citizens back. But it has to be proved that the person is a Bangladeshi citizen. First, we have to know whether a person [residing illegally] is from Pakistan or some other country and only then can we comment," Mr. Rizvi said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had assured Bangladesh that there was "no reasons to worry", he said.

Cancelled trips

His comments came after the visits of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister and Home Minister to India were cancelled in the wake of the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. However, Mr. Rizvi did not say anything about the measure. "The

should not shatter the dreams of parents who sent their wards for higher education by toiling hard in the field."

"I appeal to all college and university students that they should understand their responsibilities and precious time, and also value the importance of the institutions in which they are studying. They should debate on the decisions taken by government. If they feel [there is] something wrong in it, they should stage demonstrations democratically and make themselves heard. This government acknowledges every issue raised by students," the Prime Minister said.

"Students also need to understand that some political parties and the so-called 'urban Naxals' in the garb of intellectuals should not train guns over their [the students] shoulder for reaping political benefits," he said, adding "these people only hate Modi".

"The Congress, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Left parties are different only in their names, but their philosophy and deeds are alike," the Prime Minister said.

Jharkhand polls: Santhal Pargana holds the key

It is a traditional stronghold of JMM

STAFF REPORTER
DUMKA

With the intensely-fought Jharkhand Assembly elections drawing to a close, Santhal Pargana, a traditional stronghold of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, holds the key to the poll outcome.

Sixteen of the 18 constituencies in six districts such as Deoghar, Godda, Sahebganj, Pakur, Dumka and Jamtara, bracketed as Santhal Pargana, will vote in the last phase on December 20.

Both the BJP and the JMM-led Opposition alliance are squared up to corner as much seats as they could for an edge in the 81-member Assembly. Top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, JMM executive president Hemant Soren and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi are on a whirlwind tour of the tribal heartland for one final push in the last phase election. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is scheduled to address a rally at Pakur on Wednesday.

In 2014, the BJP had won seven seats in Santhal Pargana in 2014 because the JMM and the Congress contested separately. In the last election, the contest was between the Congress and the JMM, while the BJP came third in the Pakur seat. Now, when two parties have come together, there is no doubt that the alliance would do well," said Shahbaz Alam, a JMM supporter.



seats were won by the Congress, while the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik), led by former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi, captured two seats. Five years down the line, the scenario has changed. The JMM and the Congress, which fought separately, have joined hands this time. The JMM has since lost the steam. "The BJP had

won seven seats in Santhal Pargana in 2014 because the JMM and the Congress contested separately. In the last election, the contest was between the Congress and the JMM, while the BJP came third in the Pakur seat. Now, when two parties have come together, there is no doubt that the alliance would do well," said Shahbaz Alam, a JMM supporter.

We have proof of Cong., PFI hand: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

As peaceful protests against Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, continued in Assam, the State's Finance and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday that the government had video evidence of the involvement of the Congress and Popular Front of India (PFI) in the violence that left six people dead last week. The Congress trashed the allegation.

Protests rocked several districts of Brahmaputra Valley soon after Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was tabled in the Rajya Sabha on December 12. Four people, including a school student, died in police firing in Guwahati. Two others were burnt alive by mobs elsewhere in Assam.

"Unless he is a lookalike, videos show State Youth Congress leader Khairel Islam at an arson site," Mr. Sarma said.

The Minister said a Special Investigation Team had been formed to probe the violence and that the Centre had been asked to depute a CBI or NIA officer to assist in the investigation for six months.

Hundreds of protesters courted arrest in Guwahati on the second day of "mass Satyagraha" against the "jaatidhwani (race-destroying) Act" on Tuesday. The protesters, who included doctors and lawyers, were released after token arrests.

‘Imran peddled lies at World Refugee Forum’

India flays his comments on Muslims

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

world that this is an established pattern of his habitual and compulsive abuse of global forums," said Raveesh Kumar, Ministry spokesman in a response.

Speaking at the World Refugee Forum in Geneva on Tuesday, Mr. Khan had criticised India for the developments in Kashmir and for the Citizenship Amendment Act.

"The professed aim in Kashmir is to change the Muslim majority to Muslim minority. If this is the professed aim, then we are likely to have another refugee crisis," Mr. Khan said.

"Prevention is better than cure," said Mr. Khan urging the world to intervene in Kashmir.

‘We will take Bangladesh citizens back’

We don't know whether any have been left out of NRC, says Hasina's adviser

SUVIJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

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GOWHER RIZVI
Foreign policy adviser to Bangladesh PM

whether there is any Bangladeshi citizen [who has been left out of the NRC].

"Our policy is clear. If any Bangladeshi citizen is illegally staying in India, we will

Citizenship (Amendment) Act has now gone to the Supreme Court and it is premature to comment without [knowing] the court's decision."

He underscored that Bangladesh is a "secular and pluralistic society" where no one is discriminated against on the basis of religion.

"We are a deeply secular and pluralistic society, and barring one or two incidents, we remained so over 50 years. We do not create any difference among the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians and the Buddhists," he said. It recently emerged that India is charging at least 200 times more penalty for visa overstays from the majority community of Bangladesh than from the minority community.

"Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has once again peddled familiar falsehoods at a multilateral platform to advocate his narrow political agenda by making gratuitous and unwarranted remarks on matters entirely internal to India. It should now be clear to the entire

IN BRIEF



'Those damaging railway assets should be shot'

HUBBALLI
Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi has kicked up a controversy with his remark that those damaging railway property during protests should be shot at sight, if need be. "Such anti-social elements should be dealt with strictly and if there is a need, a shoot-at-sight order should be issued," he told reporters on Tuesday.

U.S. students ask Shah to curb 'police brutality'

NEW DELHI
More than 400 students and alumni from American institutions – including Harvard, Columbia, Yale, Stanford and Tufts – have expressed their solidarity with students of Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University who faced a police crackdown over the weekend. The students and alumni asked Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take immediate steps to curb 'police brutality' or resign.

Driver helps save student from bus vandalism

NEW DELHI
The decision of a quick-thinking driver to drop the last student a few metres before the designated stop ensured that the child escaped unhurt when the school bus was vandalised minutes later during Tuesday's Seelampur violence. The driver anticipated that the situation might turn tense and called up the parents of the student who was inside the bus.

Action will be taken against miscreants'

LUCKNOW
The Uttar Pradesh police on Tuesday said it arrested 19 persons on charges of arson, a day after a protest march against the Citizenship Amendment Act. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed police to take "strict action against those who play with law." "Those who indulged in arson are not students but 'upadrav' [miscreants]," a government spokesperson quoted Mr. Adityanath as saying.

Madras University students join stir against Citizenship Act

Protesters condemn 'police brutality' against students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Students of the University of Madras and colleges across the city held a demonstration on Tuesday against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens. This marked the second day of protests by college and university students in Chennai.

On Monday, students of IIT-Madras, Loyola College and other educational institutions in the State had staged protests.

Around 100 students from various parts of the city gathered at the University of Madras campus on the Marina, and resorted to a demonstration. They shouted slogans against the Union government for having enacted the "discriminatory



University of Madras students staging a protest against Citizenship (Amendment) Act • THE HINDU

and divisive" legislation.

The protesters said the amendment to the Citizenship Act was unwarranted and threatened their social, economic and cultural identity.

"We oppose the CAA and the NRC tooth and nail, and condemn the brutality unleashed on agitating stu-

dents," said a spokesperson of the agitators. The protesters condemned the "police brutality" against the students of Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi and Aligarh Muslim University.

The Chennai City Police tightened security around the campus in view of the agitation.

No State-wise minority classification, says SC

Bobde says religion is beyond borders

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Religion has no borders, Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde said on Wednesday, as the Supreme Court dismissed a petition to recognise Hindus as minorities in the States where they are low in population.

The petition asked the court to frame guidelines to "identify and define" religious minorities in every State, especially where Hindus are in a minority, to protect their culture and interests. "The States have been carved language-wise. But religion is beyond all borders, especially political borders. It has to be taken on a pan-India basis," the Chief Justice observed.

The observation came on a petition from advocate A.K. Upadhyay that said the Hindus were not declared a minority community in several States, and they were



deprived of the benefits of the status. Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, for the government, submitted that Hindus were a minority in eight States.

For the purposes of Articles 29 (protection of the interests of minorities) and 30 (the right of minorities to administer educational institutions) of the Constitution, it was necessary that the religious and linguistic minorities be determined State-wise on the basis of the numeric proportions of various communities in each State, Mr. Upadhyay said.

Supreme Court to hear pleas against citizenship law today

Petitions say the law is against secularism, right to equality

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde is scheduled to hear 59 petitions challenging the validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on Wednesday.

Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant are on the Bench. December 18 is the last working day for the court before it closes for the winter vacation till January 1. The petitioners cut across political party lines and come from all walks of life. They include parliamentarians like Jairam Ramesh, Mahua Moitra and Asaduddin Owaisi to the Asom Gana Parishad, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, an association of lawyers from Assam, Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam and the Indian Union Muslim League.



The petitions have argued that the law welcomes "illegal migrants" into India selectively on the basis of their religion and pointedly exclude Muslims. It has an "un-holy nexus" with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise and is against the principles of secularism and the right to equality and dignity of life enshrined in the Basic Structure of the Constitution, a petition said.

"While the NRC exercise

Citizenship law will not be withdrawn, says Amit Shah

Home Ministry told that students were not shot at

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that come what may, migrants from the minority communities in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan will be granted citizenship and Opposition parties could protest all they want.

Speaking to a television channel, Mr. Shah said there was not an iota of chance that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act would be taken back. He said the amendment to conduct the NRC was inserted in the Citizenship Act in 2004 when a Congress government was in power.

He said every country ought to have a citizen's register, and Aadhaar and passport were not enough to determine citizenship.

The Delhi police told the Union Home Ministry that not a single bullet was fired at protesters on December 15. They said 10 persons were arrested for the violence and arson that occurred near Jamia Millia Islamia, but none of them were students. "Most of them have previous criminal re-



Amit Shah

cord, none of them were students of JMI. No bullet was fired, police only used tear gas shells," said a senior government official.

The official said the JMI University administration has not sought a formal enquiry into the police action against students.

JMI V-C Najma Akhtar also sent a report to the HRD Ministry detailing the sequence of events in the campus.

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is on the website, read it, and if you think this does injustice to anyone then let us know. Politics happening on CAA. Entire Opposition is misleading the people. This has provision to not snatch but grant citizenship," Mr. Shah said at an event in Delhi.

Mamata slams Modi's comment on 'attire'

West Bengal CM takes out rally again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday took out a rally on the streets of south Kolkata for the second consecutive day in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). She criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his comment that those indulging in violence could be "identified by their clothes".



"Can you comment on basis of their dress whether they are good or bad... Can you make such a comment looking at my saree whether it is good or bad. Or is it [a problem] when you see someone wearing a cap, you start thinking it is their attire," she asked.

Police injured

An IPS personnel and two other police personnel were injured during an anti-CAA

procession in Sankrail of West Bengal's Howrah district on Tuesday. The police personnel were trying to disperse a mob of protesters demonstrating against the new citizenship law in Purba Para of South Sankrail when they suffered injuries in a crude bomb explosion.

Deputy Commissioner of Howrah Commissionerate Ajit Singh Yadav was among the injured.

'Sense of fear, humiliation among Muslims'

Irfan Habib says discriminatory law, talk of a pan-India NRC fuelling apprehensions

ANUJ KUMAR
ALIGARH

Professor Irfan Habib has said that the "discriminatory" Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and talk of a nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC) had filled Muslims with a "sense of fear".

"Yes, there is a sense of humiliation apart from fear, especially among the poor that they would be subjected to discrimination and repression because any citizens' register after this Bill will concentrate on Muslims,



and perhaps Nepali Hindus or Sri Lankan Tamils, but basically against Muslims," the eminent historian said in an interview.

"My sense is the BJP government would not have a

any sanction from the Constitution just because it is a Muslim-majority State," he said. This, he said, had become clearer in the recent elections in Britain, where Hindus did not vote for the Labour Party, which they traditionally supported, because the party had criticised the BJP government on the dilution of Article 370.

He said, "I saw a newspaper headline which said 'Hindus bring about the defeat of Labour because of Kashmir'."

On the assertions by Un-

CAA is good for Christians, says NCM Vice-Chairman

But major church groups say the Act is unconstitutional

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Although the sole Christian member on the National Commission for Minorities claimed that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is being welcomed by the community, some major church groups disagreed, saying that the Act contravenes the secular ethos of the Constitution and has "roused fears" among all minorities, Dalits and tribal people.

Christians are among the six communities which are included under the law, as eligible for expedited citizenship if they are refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh. Muslims are the only major religious community left out of the Act.



"Citizenship Amendment Act is good for Christians and should be welcomed by all," said George Kurian, the NCM Vice-Chairman, who has been a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Kerala.

In a statement on Monday, he said the Commission had been flooded with messages from Christian leaders of all denominations across the country welcoming the

new legislation. "They tell me 'justice has finally been done to Christians who are victims of draconian blasphemy laws, religious conversions and abductions,'" he said.

The National Council of Churches in India, an ecumenical forum of Protestant and Orthodox churches which represents 1.4 crore Indians, said it opposed the legislation, though it gave a preference to Christians.

The Evangelical Fellowship of India said it "shared the nation's concern" it will impact a large number of Indian citizens.

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E-TENDER NOTICE No.M_M_W271_PFTR_MS Dated 16.12.2019
The Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch/Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003, for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the e-tender Portal www.reps.gov.in. The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for Mechanical works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.reps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of tender form & EMD can be made online gateway payment through multiple bank, net banking, debit card and credit card in favour of "FA& CAO/SR/MAS".
Description : Contract for En-route Cleaning (Pass through trains) and Platforms Turn around trains at Chennai Egmore Platform under SBD for a period of 4 years.
Location : Chennai Egmore
Advertised Tender Value : Rs.3,81,69,926/-
Earnest Money Deposit : Rs.3,40,900/-
Similar nature of work : Applicable
Period of Completion : 04 years
Tender closing date and time : 08.01.2020 @ 11:00 hrs. Details of value of tender, tender form cost, EMD are given in e-tender portal www.reps.gov.in. For details of bid submission, please refer to web portal www.reps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical)/Chennai

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Re-tenders are invited for procurement of Annual Requirement of Miscellaneous Materials to TTD Press, Tirupati. The intending participants may participate in e-tender by log-in to www.epprourement.gov.in in secure mode only by signing with Digital Certificate OR by downloading the Bid Document from TTD Website : www.tirumala.org. Contact for further details are: 0877-2264929.

Ref.No:PR4/13913/Adv.347/PRO/19, Dated:17-12-2019 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: 35/19-20/SE/PHC/PKD AMRUT-16-17-Aug. of WSS to Palakkad Municipality Phase II Package II - Construction of 45MLD WTP and Booster Station . EMD: ₹5,00,000/-.. Tender fee: ₹16,800/- Last Date for submitting Tender: 18-01-2020, 3.00 pm Phone: 0491 2544927, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer PH Circle Palakkad

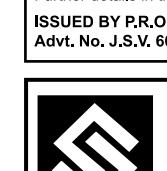
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III Sector-VII, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022 Phone No.011-26167618 N.I.T. No. 58(2019-20)SW III

S. No.	Description	Amount Put to tender, Earnest Money and tender fee	Date of release of tender in E-Procurement Solution	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender through E-Procurement Solution
1	Providing and Laying water line for improvement of water supply at East and west Meham Nagar village in Cantonment area under EE (SW)-III	Rs.1,36,93,989/- Rs. 2,74,000/- and Rs. 500/-	16.12.2019 Tender I.D. No. 2019_DJB_185605_1	30.12.2019 at 2:00 P.M
2	Providing and Laying water line for improvement of water supply at Nangal Village in Cantonment area under EE (SW)-III	Rs.1,18,15,179/- Rs. 2,36,500/- and Rs. 500/-	16.12.2019 Tender I.D. No. 2019_DJB_185605_2	30.12.2019 at 2:00 P.M
3	Providing and Laying water line for improvement of water supply at Prahladpur village in Cantonment area under EE (SW)-III	Rs.1,51,63,129/- Rs. 3,03,500/- and Rs. 500/-	16.12.2019 Tender I.D. No. 2019_DJB_185605_3	30.12.2019 at 2:00 P.M

Further details in this regard can be seen at ([https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in](http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in))

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फ

Musharraf can never be a traitor: Army

ISPR says the ruling was received with a lot of pain and anguish by the rank and file of the military

MEHMAL SARFRAZ

LAHORE

The Pakistani military on Tuesday said former dictator Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who has been sentenced to death by a special court for high treason, "can surely never be a traitor".

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the armed forces, said in a statement that the decision by the special court "has been received with a lot of pain and anguish by the rank and file of the Pakistan Armed Forces".

"An ex-Army Chief, Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee and President of Pakistan, who has served the country for over 40 years, fought wars for the defence of the country can surely never be a traitor," the ISPR added.

The former President, who seized power through a military coup in 1999, was found guilty of high treason as per Article 6 of the Constitution for imposing emergency on November 3, 2007, the court said.

The military statement said due legal process "seems to have been ignored" and the fundamental right of self defence was denied in the treason trial. And the case was concluded in haste, it added. "[The] Armed Forces of Pakistan expect that justice will be dispensed in line with the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan."

In hospital

The court ruling comes more than a week after Mr. Musharraf, who is currently in Dubai, slammed the treason case against him in a video message showing the former general in a hospital bed appearing ill, while complaining of dizziness and blackouts.



Supporters of Pervez Musharraf's party APML in Karachi on Tuesday. ■ AFP

spirit of our independence was tarnished."

Today, this principle has been established, said Mr. Rashid. "It will not be possible after today's verdict that anyone can climb the walls of the Prime Minister's House, capture the PTV [state TV] building and start broadcasting their own announcements that challenge and curb the freedoms of the Pakistani nation. The wall that this verdict has erected is stronger and higher than the walls of the PM House. This verdict has saved our future generations from dictatorships. Whatever we suffered will not be repeated again."

Mr. Musharraf was booked for treason by the PML-N government of Nawaz Sharif in 2013. The former dictator was indicted on March 31, 2014, and the entire evidence against him was tabled before the special court in September the same year.

Azam Nazeer Tarar, a senior advocate at the Supreme Court and member of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), said this is "a landmark judgement". "This judgment recognises the supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law in Pakistan."

Pakistan has seen repeated incidents of constitutional breaches in the past. "This court decision has practically stopped further interventions by anyone through extra-constitutional measures. If the Constitution cannot be protected, we cannot run the affairs of the state in an honourable manner," Mr. Tarar said.

While judicial inaction or judicial restraint had paved the way for repeated martial laws in the past, the Musharraf treason verdict "would stand as a block for future endeavours", he added.

(With inputs from AFP)

ELSEWHERE



'Pontifical secrecy' for sex abuse cases lifted

VATICAN CITY
Pope Francis on Tuesday abolished the rule of "pontifical secrecy" in cases of sexual abuse of minors. The reform now removes any excuse to not cooperate with legal requests from the police, prosecutors or civil authorities. AP

49 journalists were murdered in 2019: report

PARIS
Forty-nine journalists were killed globally in 2019, Reporters Without Borders has said in a report, the lowest toll in 16 years. Most died covering conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan. AFP

Ex-Trump campaign official gets 45 days in jail

He was charged in Mueller's probe

REUTERS
WASHINGTON



Rick Gates

A judge sentenced U.S. President Donald Trump's former deputy campaign chairman Rick Gates to serve an intermittent term of 45 days in jail and 36 months of probation. Gates was one of several former Trump aides to be charged in Mueller's investigation that documented Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

Gates, 47, initially pleaded not guilty but reversed himself in February 2018, and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors.

U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson said she had struggled for some time

with how to sentence Gates, who met with investigators over 50 times and helped the government secure convictions of Republican operatives Paul Manafort and Roger Stone after he pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI and the special counsel's office and conspiring against the U.S.

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uses a type of shot (5)

13 Adorable object, an ornament with a hole in the middle (9)

14 Secure place at border (6)

16 Gorge shown in USA teleconference (4)

19 End of Usain Bolt; primarily chasing last in the second half (4)

20 Academy to back doctor (specialist) who's spirited (6)

25 British people hire school bands (9)

26 Enable bear to cross road (5)

27 College to take steps to procure international open source software (5)

28 Train loses one second at harbour entrance (9)

29 Breakthrough Andrea dynamically demonstrated is imperfect (5,3,5)

DOWN

2 Reports suggest that an arrest is botched (8)

3 Inject some insulin on bum, massage little at the end (5)

4 Being drunk and having large Edward sang cheerfully (6)

5 Second class food has vital force? Silly (8)

6 Harry brews tea, adding some milk for site administrator, perhaps (5)

11 Originally, Bassets are intelligent, tenacious scent hounds (5)

12 Car wreck on cinema essentially (5)



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

CM YK

1 Wine cocktails? Throw it in the opposite direction (13)

10 Italian general Giorgio's primarily a foul-mouthed one (9)

11 Originally, Bassets are intelligent, tenacious scent hounds (5)

12 Car wreck on cinema essentially (5)

Fall of a General

Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf, who held power for nine years after a 1999 coup, was on Tuesday sentenced to death for treason. A few key dates from his life:

EMERGENCY

August 11, 1943: Born in Old Delhi, British India. His family moved to Pakistan after independence

1964: Joins an artillery regiment after graduating from a military academy

October 1998: Appointed Army Chief of Staff by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

December 15: Musharraf lifts the emergency and revives a Constitution amended through presidential decrees

IN EXILE

August 2008: Resigns over impeachment proceedings by the governing coalition. Goes into exile in London and Dubai

March 2013: Returns to Pakistan intending to run in presidential elections but is barred from the polls and from leaving the country

August 2013: Formally charged with three counts over the 2007 killing of his political rival Benazir Bhutto

March 2016: Travels to Dubai for treatment after ban lifted

DEATH

October 2007: Wins presidential elections boycotted by almost the entire opposition

December 17, 2019: Sentenced to death in absentia for treason related to his 2007 imposition of emergency rule

What the death sentence means for Pakistan

Verdict raises critical questions for the current Army chief

AMIT BARUAH
NEW DELHI

A civilian court in Pakistan sentencing the former Army Chief and coup leader, Pervez Musharraf, to death is nothing short of an earth-shaking moment for a country that has had a long history of legitimising rule-by-khaki.

Whatever be the merits or demerits of the judgment, the fact remains that a special court comprising Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth, Justice Nazar Akbar of the Sindh High Court and Justice Shahid Karim of the Lahore High Court, in a 2-1 verdict, have created history.

The three military dictators who preceded Pervez Musharraf – Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, Zia-ul-Haq faced no problems from the judiciary – the Pakistani Supreme Court conveniently unleashed the "doctrine of necessity" to dismiss challenges to martial law imposed by them.

State of emergency

Interestingly, the trial and sentence was not for the original coup against civilian Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif but when Mr. Musharraf, who is

currently in Dubai, imposed a state of emergency in November 2007. At the time, Mr. Musharraf held twin jobs – that of President and Army chief.

It's clear that the Pakistani establishment – military and civil – were aware that something was cooking and had moved the Islamabad High Court in a bid to ensure that the special court did not pass a verdict in Mr. Musharraf's case.

NEWS ANALYSIS

This sudden change in position by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was much commented upon in the country since Prime Minister Imran Khan was a die-hard opponent of any compromise on the issue of Mr. Musharraf's trial.

It could also explain the sudden tough line taken by the Chief Justice of Pakistan in the matter of current Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa getting an extension from Mr. Khan for a period of three years.

Given that the Army has always been an untouchable institution for civilians – both executive and judiciary – this sign of independence displayed by the special

court is extraordinary.

As we know, the Pakistani Army, in a quiet and unseen way, can easily sway judicial verdicts one way or the other in the country. With this special court, the Army may have run into a wall.

For the current Army chief and the institution, this verdict raises an existential question – what happens if the military has to stage another coup? And what happens when you are unable to protect even your former chief? Simple: you look weak and just like any other frayed Pakistani civilian institution.

In 1979, Pakistani dictator Zia-ul-Haq sent former (Sindh) Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to the gallows in a murder case, while deposed (Punjabi) Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif escaped with life imprisonment in 2000 on terrorism and hijacking charges. Eventually, Mr. Sharif went to Saudi Arabia as part of a deal with Mr. Musharraf.

Mr. Musharraf is a *mohajir* from Daryaganj in Delhi and not an influential Punjabi like Mr. Sharif. Usually, the military holds court to sentence civilians. But the roles have been reversed in Pakistan.

Rehman has been vocal critic of Pakistani security agencies and has also represented several people detained by the country's military-backed spy agency in recent years.

Mr. Rehman, a lawyer and a retired military officer, was never a threat to anyone, said the son, Husnain Inam.

He has previously reported being harassed by security agencies.

Boris Johnson seeks to rule out delay in Brexit trade deal

No extension in U.K.'s negotiations with EU beyond 2020-end

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Buoyed by a Conservative majority in Parliament, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson signalled on Tuesday he won't soften his Brexit stance, ruling out any extension beyond the end of 2020 to strike a trade deal with the European Union.

Mr. Johnson's office said the government would insert a clause into its Withdrawal Agreement Bill – which ratifies the country's departure from the EU – to rule out extending Britain's trade deal with the EU beyond 2020.

Without a deal on trade terms at the start of 2021, a prospect that alarms many U.K. businesses.

The pound plunged on the news, falling 1% to less than \$1.32.



Boris Johnson

U.K. lawmakers met in Parliament on Tuesday for the first time since the election, to begin swearing in scores of newly elected legislators.

The Brexit Bill is due to get its first vote in the House of Commons on Friday.

The Brexit divorce Bill will see the U.K. leave the 28-nation bloc on January 31 and enter a transition period until the end of 2020 while a new trade deal with the EU is being negotiated.

During the transition period, Britain will effectively remain member of the EU, though without voting rights.

U.S. firms sued for death of children in DR Congo

They were working in cobalt mines

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Five U.S. tech giants, including Apple, Microsoft and Google parent Alphabet, have been named in a lawsuit over the death of child labourers in cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Impoverished but mineral-rich DR Congo is the world's largest producer of the rare metal, which is crucial for making batteries used in mobile phones and electric vehicles.

The case was lodged on Sunday in the name of 14 unidentified victims, who are members of the families of children killed in tunnel collapses, as well as children

maimed as they worked.

It lists Apple, Google's parent company Alphabet, Dell, Microsoft and Tesla as defendants and was submitted by the International Rights Advocates campaign group to a Washington tribunal.

Child miners work for \$2-3 a day "under stone age conditions for paltry wages and at immense personal risk," it said.

BMW, BASF and Samsung announced a joint project to ensure "responsible" cobalt mining in DR Congo earlier this year.

The mining industry said it wants to adopt standards of good governance to improve working conditions.

SUDOKU

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MARKET WATCH

	17-12-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	41,352	1.01
US Dollar	70.98	0.03
Gold	38,771	0.03
Brent oil	65.71	0.23

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	371.25	2.90
Asian Paints	1745.40	13.95
Axia Bank	745.65	-1.60
Bajaj Auto	3199.10	-21.20
Bajaj Finserv	9361.75	73.65
Bajaj Finance	4135.75	56.30
Bharti Airtel	439.95	18.10
BPCL	496.05	4.05
Britannia Ind	3071.95	21.05
Cipla	463.95	5.70
Coal India	196.20	3.60
Dr Reddy's Lab	2826.90	10.55
Eicher Motors	21704.95	53.95
GAIL (India)	119.80	-1.40
Grasim Ind	768.80	5.70
HCL Tech	557.75	5.55
HDFC	2430.10	54.85
HDFC Bank	1271.10	13.75
Hero MotoCorp	2304.95	-3.50
Hindalco	213.70	7.05
Hind Unilever	1961.35	-13.40
ICICI Bank	541.15	1.90
IndusInd Bank	1492.75	-0.65
Bharti Infratel	248.20	-0.05
Infosys	729.70	15.70
Indian Oil Corp	125.65	-0.50
ITC	241.05	4.15
JSW Steel	258.95	5.85
Kotak Bank	1713.30	9.35
L&T	1317.95	14.95
M&M	505.85	-3.00
Maruti Suzuki	7195.15	55.10
Nestle India Ltd.	14149.15	-2.50
NTPC	115.55	0.60
ONGC	125.30	-0.30
PowerGrid Corp	188.05	1.10
Reliance Ind	1562.70	-3.90
State Bank	332.90	1.05
Sun Pharma	429.05	-6.10
Tata Motors	180.20	5.25
Tata Steel	439.40	18.40
TCS	2164.95	38.20
Tech Mahindra	777.35	4.05
Titan	1157.35	-8.30
UltraTech Cement	4119.55	58.30
UPL	564.10	0.40
Vedanta	152.35	5.20
Wipro	244.75	1.60
YES Bank	47.60	0.80
Zee Entertainment	279.75	1.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 17		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.77	71.09
Euro	79.00	79.36
British Pound	93.45	93.88
Japanese Yen (100)	64.59	64.89
Chinese Yuan	10.11	10.16
Swiss Franc	72.09	72.42
Singapore Dollar	52.24	52.48
Canadian Dollar	53.73	53.98
Malaysian Ringgit	17.08	17.17

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

December 17 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	47.7	(47.5)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3627	(3622)

Karvy: SAT asks SEBI to hear Axis plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Tuesday asked SEBI to pass an order within 15 days in Karvy Broking matter on Axis Bank's plea, which said the regulator's ruling is preventing the lender from accessing securities pledged by the broking firm through another account.

The order follows a SEBI directive to the National Securities Depository Ltd. in November that prevented Axis Bank from accessing the securities pledged with the lender by Karvy Stock Broking Limited (KSBL).

The case pertains to the securities held by KSBL, which were used by the brokerage for borrowing, courtesy the power of attorneys (PoA) that they held.

Elgi acquires Michigan Air Solutions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Elgi Compressors USA, a subsidiary of Elgi Equipments, has acquired Michigan Air Solutions in a move to expand its presence in the U.S. According to Jai Ram Varadaraj, MD of Elgi Equipments, this is an important step for the company to strengthen its position as a leading player in the global compressed air industry. The cost of acquisition is estimated to be approximately \$6 million.

Michigan Air Solutions in Michigan is an independent air compressor distributor and was selling Elgi's products for the last one year.

Michigan Air Solutions has an annual business of nearly \$10 million.

Telecom body defers zero IUC by a year

Regulator seeks stakeholders' views on fixing minimum tariff for mobile voice calls and data services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

In a major relief for telcos, particularly Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Tuesday deferred implementation of zero-interconnect usage charge regime by a year, besides kick-starting a consultation on the need to fix minimum tariff for mobile calls and data.

"For wireless to wireless domestic calls, termination charge would continue to remain as ₹0.06 per minute up to December 31, 2020... From January 1, 2021 onwards the termination charge for wireless to wireless domestic calls shall be zero," the regulator said.

The BAK (bill and keep) or zero IUC regime was to come into effect from January 1, 2020. The deferment by a



The deferment is a big relief for Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, which had pitched for postponing it. ■REUTERS

year will be a huge relief for Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, who had pitched for postponing the implementation. However, Reliance Jio was in not in favour of deferring it. "Implementation of BAK from 1.1.2020, with present inadequate adoption of 4G technologies by consumers and asymmetries in traf-

fic, may affect level playing field amongst service providers and in turn the effective competition in the market," TRAI said in the regulation.

It added that in such capital-intensive sector, which had long gestation period and where entry of new service providers in the short run was difficult, maintain-

ing effective competition among service providers was necessary for ensuring the affordable services to consumers.

Floor price for tariffs

In its new consultation, the regulator has sought stakeholders' view on issues related to fixing a minimum tariff for mobile voice calls and data services. TRAI has also sought answers on whether there is need for "price ceiling" as well to safeguard consumer interest along with ensuring the orderly growth of the sector.

The authority is also raised a question on whether floor prices need to be set, given that the three private telcos had recently announced price hike in the range of 15-50%. "In the last few months, many concerns have been raised about the

health of the Indian telecom sector and the need to fix a floor price for telecom services," TRAI said, adding that the DoT recently forwarded to the regulator representations received from the telcos, including a plea seeking floor tariff fixation.

"Most economists also advise against the fixation of price controls as it leads to economic inefficiencies, consumer harm, market distortions and reduced innovation," it said.

However, it added, ensuring the provision of ever-increasing data consumption and a good quality of service required a lot of investment in maintaining and improving telecom infrastructure.

Comments on the issues raised in the consultation paper are invited by January 15, 2020 and counter-comments by January 31, 2020.

Retail loans to double to ₹96 lakh cr. by 2024, shows ICICI Bank-Crisil study

Higher demand for private consumption, data availability to drive growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The retail loan book of Indian financiers is expected to double in the next five years to ₹96 lakh crore, according to a study conducted by ICICI Bank and rating agency Crisil.

All the components of retail loans – mortgage, unsecured loans and vehicle loans – are projected to record similar growth.

Loans to micro, medium, and small enterprises (MSMEs) are likely to more than double to ₹13.2 lakh crore

against property – are expected to double to ₹46.1 lakh crore in FY24. Unsecured loans – which are personal loans and credit cards – are expected to more than double to ₹3.8 lakh crore in FY24

CV loans
Commercial vehicle, four and two-wheeler loans are tipped to nearly double to ₹7.5 lakh crore.

"India's GDP per capita in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) is now \$7,762.

Our analysis predicts that this junction will prove to be an inflection point for the country, as it was with another large economy a few years ago.

"We foresee that in the next five years, the domestic retail loans market is poised to double to ₹96 trillion," said Anup Bagchi, executive director, ICICI Bank.

The report says that this rapid growth will take place on the back of increased demand for private consumption, willingness of consumers to take loans, increased availability of various consumer data, improved usage

of data analytics and regulatory initiatives propelling growth in low cost housing loans and MSME loans.

Amish Mehta, chief operating officer and president, Crisil, said growth is expected to be higher in smaller cities outside the top 50 cities.

"The top five players are foreseen continuing their dominance of the market, across asset classes.

For example, in housing loans, despite the market having over 100 players, the top five players alone have a cumulative market share of over 50%," Mr. Mehta said. The report is based on interviews with 200 experts from the retail loans industry.

With VRS, BSNL to save ₹1,300 crore in wage bills

As on date, no recruitments: CMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

With as many as 78,569 of its employees opting for the voluntary retirement scheme (VRS), State-run telco BSNL expects to save about ₹1,300 crore in wage bills during the current financial year.

"Our goal is that people who have applied for VRS, their application should be considered and approved... VRS will take place from January 31, 2020. So, there will be two months – February and March, where the savings will come to us... BSNL is likely to save ₹1,300 crore in this financial year," VRS, State-run telco BSNL expects to save about ₹1,300 crore in wage bills during the current financial year.

Asked about the headway made in merger of BSNL and MTNL, Mr. Purwar said, "The discussion for merger has started. Both the boards have met on a common platform to take stock on how to move forward".



ble number." As on date, BSNL will not make any recruitment, except where it is required as per current policy," he said.

Asked about the headway made in merger of BSNL and MTNL, Mr. Purwar said, "The discussion for merger has started. Both the boards have met on a common platform to take stock on how to move forward".

LIC expects to achieve policy sale, first premium targets

Corporation has already sold 1 crore policies till October

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA

COIMBATORE

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is expecting to cross its targets in the number of policies sold and premium revenue this financial year.

T.C. Suseel Kumar, MD, LIC, told *The Hindu* here recently that the corporation was focusing this year on the number of policies sold and the strategy was working.

"We have fixed a target of 2.5 crore policies this year and first year premium collection of ₹56,500 crore.

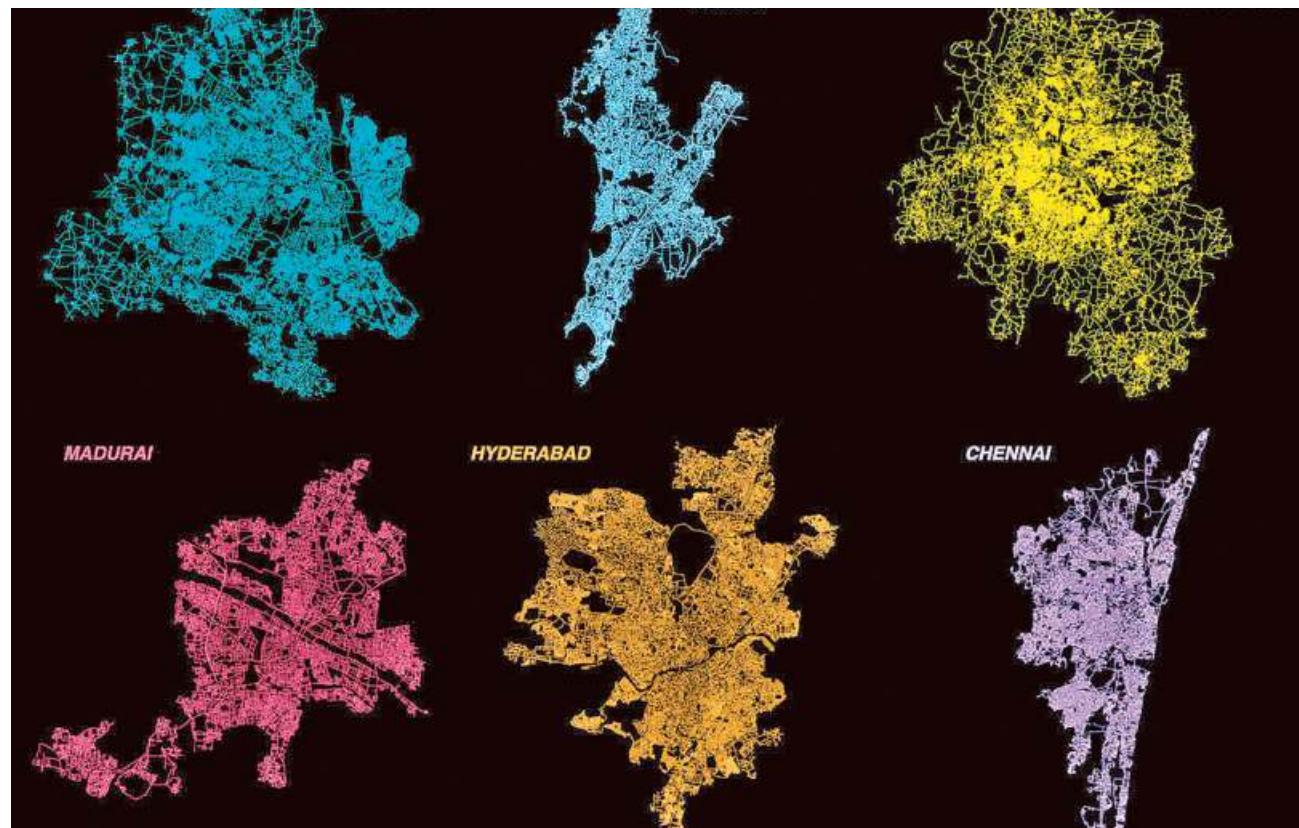
"We have reached almost 60% in all the parameters.

We will cross the target," he said.

The corporation started



vember, a total of 40 lakh life policies were sold in the market and of them, 34 lakh was by the LIC.



In radium, he visualises India

This California-based artist and data scientist is taking Big Data and visualisations to another level — and he is using India's socio-economic history to do it

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Shriphani Palakodety likes Big Data and he cannot lie — and it shows in his Instagram account @IndiaViz, a collection of his visual representations of various aspects of India's geographies, across changes in literacy rates, street networks of cities, population densities and more. One can distinguish Shriphani's creations for their radium-tinted graphics against a solid black background, making the information more confronting.

Over the phone from California, the 28-

year-old chuckles occasionally when he describes the various conundrums data scientists face around Artificial Intelligence and Big Data. Shriphani worked for Microsoft as an intern, and at Yelp and Kimo Labs. He was a PhD student at Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh) too, so he is definitely a numbers guy. While the Instagram account, with close to 2,500 followers, is a solo project, the IndiaViz website has work from his friends and collaborators.

"I began looking at Indian problems which I could address using AI, and I ventured into maps," he recalls, "Surprisingly, you can produce stunning imagery with maps; people liked it and I decided to do more. My audience on



AWAY WITH THE FAKE

How does Shriphani discern which bodies are giving out truthful datasets? "Surveys from the Indian Government are ones I take at face value... others are usually estimates by third party academics and you have to dig a little into peer reviews and so on." There is also a responsibility aspect in which creators like him should not take too much of a creative license and wind up putting across a misinformed image.

Instagram would request some projects and I would follow through."

While it takes just one or two evenings worth of work to complete these visualisations, the results can be mind-blowing. Think crazy comparisons; it is no secret India has a long-on-going population boom. When people see the population maps in comparison to Europe or the United States, it is a little scary how congested India really is.

"We have been doing this series

Into the urbane Shriphani Palakodety (below) uses Open Street Maps tools to breathe life into these unique maps (left) ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of small cities and their streets," he recalls, "for example, Mumbai and Hyderabad are iconic cities so you will recognise their shapes... but the streets alone have their own stories and this has attracted a lot of urban planners who say 'if you have these maps, we'd like to use them.' I had no idea these people needed these resources but some do ask for population maps of Madurai or Hyderabad and I'll go get them." Shriphani mentions the Jammu and Kashmir border disputes and that most people were not aware of the extent of the land seizing, and the visualisations that came of the data drew quite a lot of understanding. "The big surprise for me is how much is tracked now; they put out the Economic Survey before the budget is announced and it is such a detailed assessment of the country, and a serious endeavour." But he chuckles, "I feel like an alien species studying humanity!"

It has been the decade of Big Data and Shriphani agrees that 2019 is the right time to pursue a project like IndiaViz because this year saw a huge rise in Internet availability across societies. "It's a natural fit because Indians are interested in the trajectory of their country," he points out, "and maps are visually stimulating." It is also worth pointing out that examining maps now is second nature to most people so deciphering them is easy.

Tools of the trade are given their due credit too. Shriphani uses OSM (Open Street Maps) to bring these datasets to life. "Open Street Maps is a collaborative community effort or geographic resource to produce these high quality rasters (a type of graphics) but then there is a lot of human annotation too, such as infrastructure, which is labelled by hand. It is very grass roots and highlights how the community effort is exceptional when the organisation of some government resources is not."

Shriphani is one of the growing breed of data scientists turning a numbers game into an art, for a reason beyond easy consumption. "The tooling has got better. You can do a lot with minimal effort from your end." At the end of the day, these maps provide a different dimension to storytelling. "I believe high quality imagery can cause a shift in consciousness about an issue and is more effective than a table or prose. You can tell a great story about how far a nation has come after a natural disaster or a conflict. Once you appreciate that, you can even see some gaps."

POP-UP Jamun jam



Jamun, the regional cuisine eatery and bar, is hosting the Black & White Platter, a five-course meal paired with blended Scotch cocktails. This is the last in the year's Black & White country-wide experiences that brought together 18 chefs, who put together menus to go with the 12-year-old whisky. The menu takes guests from Bharwan Gucchi and Karuveppilai Prawns to Nolen Gur Rosogolla Date Palm Jaggery and Black & White 12 Year Old infused Cottage Cheese Dumplings has Chef Rahul Gomes Pereira's stamp on it.

Speaking of the challenge of pairing food with cocktails, and not wine, the chef says, "...The complexity of wines call for a celebration of a singular ingredient that complements its flavour notes, however the balance of a cocktail is king and the key to pairing food with cocktails is maintaining the balance and ensuring that you are complimenting the base spirit in it."

Guests can also experience a DIY cocktail-making session, where they'll learn to make The Mandarin, with orange juice, passion fruit syrup and more.

At Jamun, Lodhi Colony; December 18; 8 p.m.; tickets available on Insider.in; ₹2,000

PRODUCTS

Christmassy care



Maaté, a natural baby care brand has just launched its signature Maaté Comfort Box, which the brand says is designed to protect a baby's skin during the harsh winter. The products in the box include a body butter and face butter, in addition to a handmade cotton knotted unicorn and an unscented Christmas candle. They also have a 'Nourish Box', which comes with oils.

Available on Maate.in; upward of ₹4,599

For sustainability's sake



Greendigo, an organic clothing line, is the brainchild of two sisters, Meghna Kishore and Barkha Bhattacharya, who recognise the need for sustainable alternatives to production processes and claim to follow the same principles in their new line for kids. Their garments are certified by the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). Plastic use is minimal in the packaging process and is mostly replaced by recycled materials. Some of the trends on their site include an A-line dress in lime, leggings in a floral print, a Polo T-shirt with half sleeves in blush pink.

Available at Greendigo.in; Upward of ₹1,300

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

FOOD REVIEW

Let it rain



Unique flavours, textures and dishes, served unpretentiously

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

The last few years have seen a revolution on the Delhi food scene. With modern Indian cuisine taking centre stage, it has paved the way for several regional food restaurants to set up shop and thrive. Gone are the days when it was either Mughlai or Idli-dosas — today, you have some real gems: Yeti for Nepalese and Tibetan food, Sana-Di-Ge for coastal cuisine with an emphasis on seafood, Chor Bizarre for Kashmiri food and Bagundi for finger lickin' Andhra cuisine.

Joining this star-studded list is Monsoon by Café Lota at Aerocity. Those of you who have eaten at Café Lota at the Crafts Museum will be familiar with their concept — regional dishes, using different cereals and unusual combina-



Eye and belly pleasing (Left) Tamarind Fish with Moilee Sauce, Lemon Ginger Chicken ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tions, served without any fuss. Monsoon is its 'grown up' version and is open for both lunch and dinner. In addition to absolutely novel and delicious food, it also serves mocktails (which deserve a separate review) and alcohol. Most dishes on the menu are things you've not had, but you want to order immediately. Luckily, the kitchen delivered, and how! Absolutely delicious stuff and I cannot wait to go back.

The vibe: Concrete floor, louvered windows, potted plants, yellow stucco walls — it is old-fashioned, simple and charming. Completely different to its OTT neighbours!

Do try: The Khapli

(considering vegetarianism is gripping the country) then the Jau (barley) and Meat Stew is divine — a big bowl of hot dal with generous amounts of well marinated goat meat. Eating this, I understood the name of the restaurant, Monsoon. I wanted to be transported to a hill station, be under a blanket, watching the rain fall, with a bucket full of the stew.

The Tamarind Fish with a Moilee Sauce was beautifully delicate and I mopped it up with appams (which unfortunately felt like hybrid pitas).

Skip: The Tinda Mattar Curry and the Coorgi Jackfruit Stir Fry — both were pleasant but not wow. I would give the desserts a skip too: the Kheer was terrible, poor texture and way too sweet. The chocolate torte with mango leather was also disappointing: The texture was perfect, but it again was extremely sweet.

Go with: An empty stomach and bladder.

Spacebar: 42 covers spread over 1,165 sq feet

How much: ₹2,250 for two excluding drinks

Getting there: Worldmark I, Aerocity. By now you know how to get to the food hub that is Aerocity — cab it.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CARNIVAL

Winter sale

Tamana Winter Carnival 2019, a one-day event showcasing lifestyle products, will be held at the British High Commissioner's residence today. The fair will witness participation of around 150 exhibitors including established and upcoming designers and artisans. On display will be products ranging from footwear to home decor.

VENUE: 2 Rajaji Marg

TIME: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



F&B

Winter special

Vibe: The Sky Bar, a multi-cuisine restaurant and bar at Hilton Garden Inn, has introduced a new winter menu. Curated by chef Manoj Rawat, the menu features Tawa Kathi Rolls, Chicken Tikka Masala, Char Roasted Prime Lamb Chops, Hyderabadi Tala Gosht, Butter Garlic Prawns, Mutton Seekh Kebabs and Olive Samosa.

VENUE: Baani Square, Gurugram

TIME: 6 p.m. - 12 midnight



MUSIC

Gurbani sangeet

Guru Sangeet Festival 2019, an annual event dedicated to Indian classical music and Gurbani sangeet, will be held this evening. Organised by Guru Sangeet Academy and Ustad Baljit Singh Namdhari, the festival is an effort to promote Gurbani Kirtan and to encourage a younger generation to appreciate traditional ragas.

VENUE: Kaman Auditorium, Mandi House

TIME: 5:30 p.m.



FAIR

Christmas market

Select Citiwalk has organised its annual Christmas market for the festival season. On until 22nd December, the market offers a variety of Christmas decorations and gift items, a wide range of Christmas cakes, cookies and pots, candles and packaging, as well as winter apparel and accessories.

TIME: 12 noon - 10 p.m.

VENUE: The Plaza, Saket



FILM

Israeli drama

IHC, in association with the Embassy of Israel, will screen *Scaffolding*, a Hebrew film, this evening as part of the ongoing mini festival of Israeli films. Written and directed by Matan Yair, the film focuses on the life of a 17-year-old turbulent Israeli student whose life is upended by an inspirational school teacher.

VENUE: Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.



Bentley Flying Spur

Bentley says that the new Flying Spur shares little with its predecessor, considering the car is now underpinned by VW's MSB platform and features an all-new suspension set-up, an 8-speed DCT gearbox, four-wheel steering and a thoroughly reworked 635hp, 6.0-litre W12 engine. Styling is in line with other newer Bentleys – the cabin is loaded with plenty of tech and finished in a blend of leather, chrome and wood. Needless to say, Bentley will also offer a comprehensive list of options so as to tailor the car to the user's preference. Coming: Mid-2020; Expected Price: From ₹4.06 crore

New sedans to launch in 2020

There are quite a few sedans set to arrive on our shores in 2020, ranging from easily accessible mass market models to exclusive and uber-luxurious limousines. Here we take a look at what you can expect to arrive in showrooms from now up to the end of 2020

Audi A8 L

In the luxury car market, the A8 has been a notable absentee from Audi's line-up in India for a while now, with the previous model officially discontinued a while back. Now the A8 is back, with the launch of the all-new model expected this month. Expect plenty of tech to be on offer inside the cabin, and a special focus on rear-seat occupants' comfort. Under the hood, a 3.0-litre, mild-hybrid V6 turbo-petrol will be the sole engine on offer, for now.

Coming: Late 2019
Expected Price: From ₹1.1 crore



Mercedes-Benz A-class sedan

The new Mercedes A-class sedan will sit below the C-class in India. The model will most likely replace the first-gen CLA and rival the A3 sedan as well as the BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe. This new sedan features a conventional roof design, as opposed to the CLA's coupé-like styling. The model gets the latest Mercedes-Benz styling cues and will also feature top-quality interiors along with the brand's advanced MBUX infotainment system. Engine options will comprise the Mercedes 2.0-litre petrol and diesel engines.

Coming: Late 2020
Expected Price: From ₹32 lakh

BMW 8 Series Gran Coupe

BMW's latest four-door coupé will replace the 6 Series Gran Coupe in a segment that also includes the Audi A7 and Mercedes-Benz CLS. Styling and cabin are in line with its coupé and convertible siblings, though with a longer cabin and two additional doors for rear occupants. Engine options in international markets include a choice of six-cylinder petrol and diesel engine options – in the standard 840i and 840d respectively – along with a 4.4-litre twin-turbo V8 petrol offered in the more performance-oriented M850i and the full-fat M8. Initially, though, we're only likely to get the six-cylinder models.

Coming: Mid-2020
Expected Price: From ₹1.4 crore



Volvo S60

The new S60 is based on Volvo's modular SPA platform, with looks and cabin now in line with the larger S90. The international-spec model gets a choice of four petrol engines, including two plug-in hybrids. No diesel engines are being offered. The model is loaded with tech and gizmos, including the Pilot Assist system and City Safety autonomous braking tech. Its key rivals in the Indian market include the Mercedes C-class, Audi A4, BMW's new 3 Series and the Jaguar XE. Coming: Late 2020; Expected Price: From ₹45 lakh



Honda City

The new fifth-gen City will arrive in India in the second half of 2020. Armed with a new look, a sportier cabin and new engines, the new City is larger than the car it replaces, though the wheelbase has shrunk by 1mm. On the inside, it gets an all-new dashboard layout that looks simple, yet upmarket. While the model revealed had an all-black cabin, expect the India-spec car to get a beige-on-black theme to appeal to Indian tastes. A fresh 1.5-litre petrol engine with also join the City line-up, coupled with Honda's compact i-MMD mild-hybrid tech that recently debuted on the new Jazz. Also on the cards is a BS6-compliant iteration of the current car's 1.5-litre diesel engine. Both units are expected to get manual and automatic gearbox options.

Coming End 2020; Expected Price: From ₹ 9 lakh



AKBAR MERCHANT



Hyundai Aura

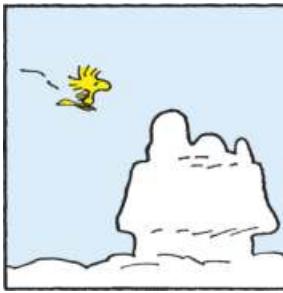
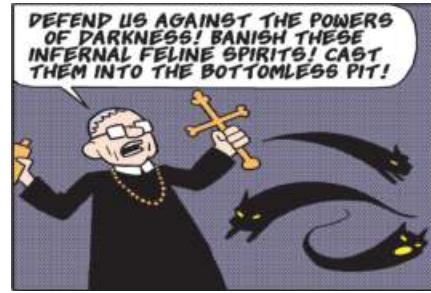
Skoda is set to bring back the Octavia RS. However, this time, it will be in the more powerful RS245 guise, which means it will make 15hp more than the 230hp variant that was sold here earlier. The Octavia RS245 will come to India as a CBU and be limited to just 200 units. The car heading to India will be the fully loaded European-spec model, replete with a 15mm lower ride height, 18-inch alloys and adjustable dampers, along with plenty of bells and whistles inside the cabin. Coming: Early 2020; Expected Price: From ₹34 lakh



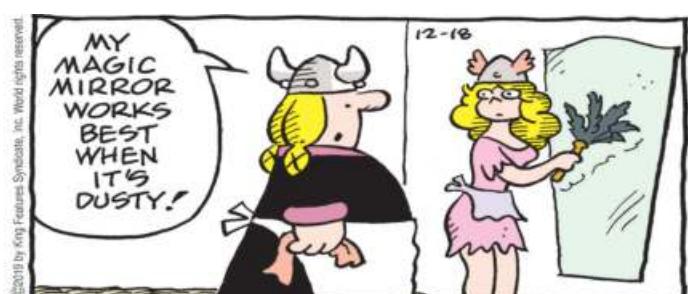
PEANUTS



POOCH CAFE



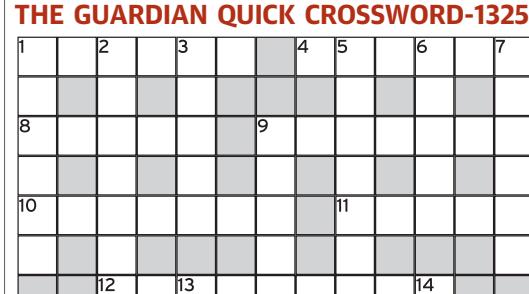
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES

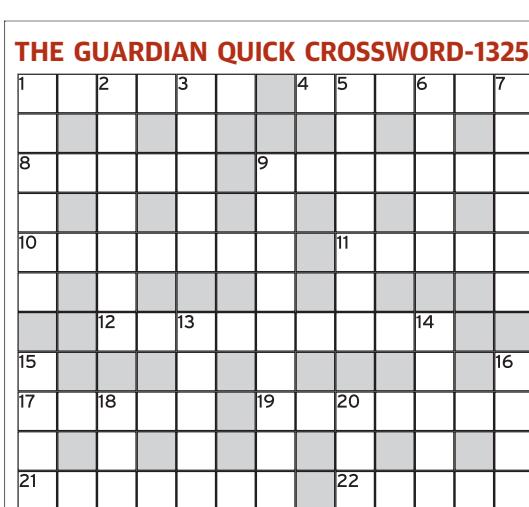
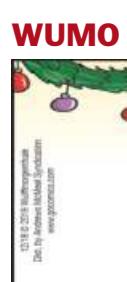


TIGER



- Down
- 1 Condition involving impaired social interaction (6)
- 2 Made to order (7)
- 3 Quarrel (3-2)
- 5 Of a sweet and friendly disposition (7)
- 6 Lustful woodland god – stray (anag) (5)
- 7 Finale (6)
- 9 Take back property because mortgage payments due have not been paid (9)
- 13 Offering fun and gaiety (7)
- 14 Parched (7)
- 15 Moses' successor, victor of the Battle of Jericho (6)
- 16 Taking place within a building (6)
- 18 Through the nose? (5)
- 20 Medium to dark brownish-yellow colour (5)

Solution will appear in
The Hindu dated
December 19, 2019.
Solution No. 13252



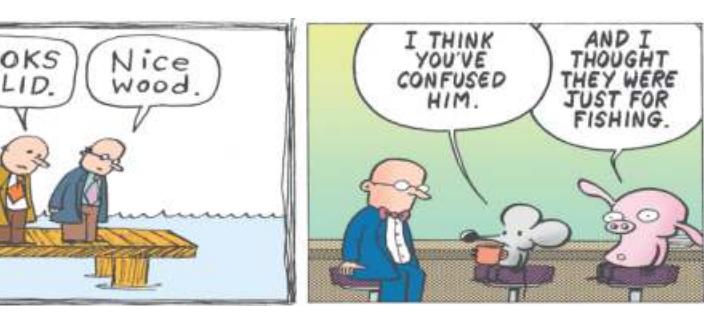
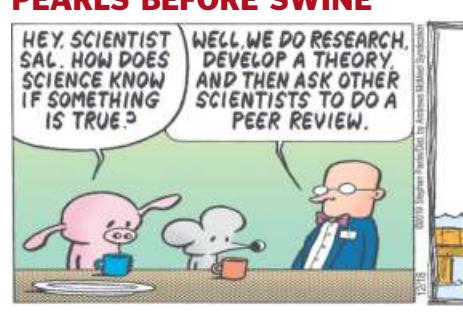
HEALTH CAPSULES

WHAT ARE THE TOP SOURCES OF VITAMIN C?
CAMU CAMU
Brazilian cherry (Myrciaria
epicarpa)
THE HIGHEST KNOWN SOURCE OF VITAMIN C IS THE KAKADU PLUM FROM NORTHERN AUSTRALIA, CONTAINING UP TO 106 TIMES THE VITAMIN C FOUND IN AN ORANGE. NEXT, THE AMARICAYA BERRY FROM INDIA CONTAINS UP TO 100 TIMES THE VITAMIN C OF AN ORANGE. ALSO, THE CAMU CAMU BERRY FROM THE AMAZON RAINFOREST. Health Canada is not interested to know if this is true.

- Across
- 1 Kind of watch chain (6)
- 4 Annoy persistently (6)
- 8 US world heavyweight boxing champion, b. 1966 – English fast bowler, d. 2015 (5)
- 9 Passed out (7)
- 10 Oxford academic notable for mixing up his syllables when talking, d. 1930 (7)
- 12 Working in a well-organised and competent way (9)
- 17 Piggy noises (5)
- 19 Enthusiastic and loud applause (sometimes standing) (7)
- 21 Home providing care for the sick (7)
- 22 Lowest male singing voice (sometimes 'profundo') (5)
- 23 Stella (anag) – waiting to go (3,3)
- 24 Petition to a deity (6)

M ND-NDE

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



I THINK YOU'VE CONFUSED HIM.
AND I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST FOR FISHING.

- Across
- 1 Kind of watch chain (6)
- 4 Annoy persistently (6)
- 8 US world heavyweight boxing champion, b. 1966 – English fast bowler, d. 2015 (5)
- 9 Passed out (7)
- 10 Oxford academic notable for mixing up his syllables when talking, d. 1930 (7)
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- 23 Stella (anag) – waiting to go (3,3)
- 24 Petition to a deity (6)

M ND-NDE

Kohli's men must fire to keep the series alive

Shreyas and Pant came up with fighting knocks, but nothing else went right for India in the first ODI in Chennai



Finding some answers: Rishabh Pant's innings in the Chennai ODI has momentarily eased the pressure off him as well as coach Ravi Shastri. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

WI IN INDIA

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
VISAKHAPATNAM

The West Indians are on a high after the resounding win over India in the first ODI in Chennai on Sunday. Captain Kieron Pollard has reasons to hope for a repeat show but would be conscious that the Virat Kohli-led Indian team will be in the mood to settle scores when the two teams clash in the second ODI of the three-match series at the Dr. YSR ACA-VDCA Stadium here on Wednesday.

West Indies will be wary of Kohli, who stands out as an exceptional leader, invariably leading from the front, especially when the chips are down. His teammates need to back him with an improved display in all departments of the game in order to keep the series alive.

India's fortunes revolve around the top three – openers Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul, and Kohli at No.3.

The positives

Though the Men in Blue suffered a reverse in the opening game, there were some positives. Shreyas Iyer showed yet again that he was a reliable No. 4 while Rishabh Pant answered his critics with a responsible half-century, putting his head down and batting according to the needs of the situation.

■ India's fortunes revolve around the Big Three: Rohit, Rahul and Kohli

■ The Indian bowlers wilted under pressure, especially against Hetmyer and Hope, in the opening game

■ Pollard's men have proved equal to the task in the 50-over format

What would be of concern to Kohli, however, would be the failure of the spinners, Kuleep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja, to take a single wicket in Chennai, especially on a pitch where they were expected to put up a better show.

Calculated assault

In fact, the entire Indian bowling unit, including pacer Mohammed Shami, seamers Deepak Chahar and Shivam Dube, struggled in the face of a calculated assault by Shai Hope and Shimron Hetmyer who both went on to slam centuries.

It is imperative for the Indian team – Kohli and Rohit preferred to skip the optional practice session on Tuesday – to make amends against a team that has proved to be no push-over.

With the pitch expected to be full of runs and the bowlers likely to face a big challenge, it will be interesting to see what options the Indian think-tank will go for in what

is a must-win game.

It will be interesting to see how the young guns in both teams handle pressure in a big game in front of an expected sell-out crowd.

Bumrah bowls in nets

Interestingly, Jasprit Bumrah, who has been out of action since the start of the home series against South Africa due to a stress fracture and is recovering fast, had a long stint in the nets. Head coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharat Arun had a close look at him.

It is learnt that the Indian team management is looking to bring Bumrah back for the next home series against Sri Lanka.

The teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Kedar Jadhav, Manish Pandey, Shreyas Iyer, Mayank Agarwal, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Deepak Chahar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

West Indies: Kieron Pollard (Capt.), Sunil Ambris, Shai Hope, Khary Pierre, Roston Chase, Alzarri Joseph, Sheldon Cottrell, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran, Shimron Hetmyer, Evin Lewis, Romario Shepherd, Jason Holder, Keemo Paul and Hayden Walsh Jr.

Match officials: On-field umpires

Rod Tucker & Anil Choudhary. **TV umpire:** Shaun George;

Fourth umpire: Nitin Menon.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

Bowling in ODIs a bigger challenge: Chahar

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
VISAKHAPATNAM

Indian pacer Deepak Chahar says that bowling with a white ball is always a bigger challenge irrespective of whether bowling first or second in any condition.

"Definitely, we should have defended the total in Chennai. It was a par score. We didn't bowl well there and fielded badly too," he told the media here on Tuesday.

"But, again, it is not that we will not be able to defend such totals in the coming games. No doubt, they (West Indians) are big-hitters and the mistimed strokes should be taken with improved fielding performance," he said.

Chahar says it is far more tougher to bowl in a ODI compared to a T20 as he has to mix economy and wicket-

taking ability as per the team's requirements.

"I have put in lot of efforts after missing out cricket for long because of injury."

"Sacrificed pace for swing and accuracy and hopefully looking to play as much cricket as possible in the run-up to the T20 World Cup in Australia next year."

"It has been a good journey so far and hope it will continue to be good by staying fit and keep improving," he said.

Chahar says any bowling unit's performance depends on the kind of wickets on the given day rather than on the size of the ground.

"We should be able to defend any total, though given the choice I would prefer to bowl first," he said. "As a bowling unit we need to win the matches for India," he concluded.



Conscious decision: Deepak Chahar says he has sacrificed pace for swing and accuracy. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

I pace my innings according to the situation: Hope

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

VISAKHAPATNAM

Shai Hope, one of the centurions along with Shimron Hetmyer in the first ODI for West Indies in Chennai, says his role is to hold one end up and step up the pace of the game whenever the team requires.

The in-form top-order batsman, who is the third highest run-getter in ODIs in 2019 behind Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, says he is happy to contribute to the team's success. "Hopefully, I will score a few more runs to get to the top of the table at the end of this year," he said.

"We are here to win the series against India, IPL auction is secondary thought it is at the back of the mind. I am sure some of the guys are looking forward for the IPL auction," he said.

"It is not necessary that for me also to step up the



Shai Hope. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

RCB will cover all bases: Kohli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU

Virat Kohli on Tuesday said Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) will have all its bases covered heading into Thursday's IPL auction.

RCB fans have endured a difficult few years since the side finished second in 2016. In the three years since RCB have finished last in the league table twice.

"We've had a few discussions to build a team around, strong core that we already have and we assure you that we are going to cover all the bases that are required and build a very strong team to have a really good season in 2020," Kohli said in a video uploaded by his franchise.

Kohli urged fans to keep backing the team. "As you all know for the upcoming season, the auction is coming up and I want all of you to rally behind the team. The management group, Mike (Hesson) and Simon (Katich) are doing a tremendous job."

■ K.R. DEEPAK

Despite their value, teams wary of going for Aussies

The tendency of players to pull out late makes it tough for the franchises

IPL

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

To go big or be conservative? That's the question that would be plaguing multiple Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise managements with regard to chasing established Australian cricketers during Thursday's Player Auction in Kolkata.

As a result, despite the Australians being set to be the second biggest draw – as has been the case in most auctions – many franchises are confused on how to punt on Down Under's top stars.

Barring Dale Steyn and Angelo Mathews, all the other cricketers with highest base price of ₹2 crore are Australians. While the likes of Glenn Maxwell (who hit the headlines for taking a sabbatical citing mental health issues) and Chris Lynn, the T20 specialist who has been released by the Kolkata Knight Riders, are set to fetch big bucks, it's the all-format specialists in Australia's national set-up who have made the franchises jittery ahead of the auction.

Pa Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Marsh all fall in the top bracket and the trio tick the wishlist of at least three IPL outfits. But,

past experience with the Australians has made the franchises unsure of going big on them at the auction table.

Last-minute decision

The coaching staff and executive members of at least two franchises told *The Hindu* that they may wait till the last minute to decide on

Getting into the groove



Back in action: Jasprit Bumrah, who has been out of action due to a stress fracture, had a long stint in the nets.

■ K.R. DEEPAK

Poor planning led to WC downfall: Yuvraj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Yuvraj Singh, on Tuesday, slammed the Indian team management for the World Cup semifinal exit, saying its planning for the tournament was "completely wrong."

"For the World Cup, they dropped (Ambati) Rayudu and then they had Vijay Shankar who had some injury. Rishabh Pant then came in. I have nothing against them, but both had played just five ODI games. How do you expect guys with such less experience to win big matches?" asked Yuvraj.

"My issue is what the think-tank was doing. Dinesh Karthik suddenly plays in the semifinal and someone like Dhoni bats at No. 7.

It was all hotchpotch. You can't do that in such big matches. The No. 4 batsman had a highest score of 48, so I thought the planning was

really poor, because they were thinking that Rohit and Virat were in good form. If you look at Australia in 2003, 2007 and 2015, they had settled batsmen," said Yuvraj.

Yuvraj was disappointed with the way the team management handled Rayudu's case in the lead-up to the World Cup.

"I was very disappointed at what happened with Rayudu. He was our No. 4 batsman for more than a year but didn't find a place."

Reds will put best foot forward, says Klopp

CLUB WORLD CUP

AYON SENGUPTA
DOHA

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, while expressing discomfort over the cramped winter schedule plaguing his team, assured the fans of his team's full commitment to the FIFA Club World Cup here. Klopp's team will end up playing nine games in December if it reaches the final of this tournament.

Liverpool, which is set to miss versatile midfielder Ginny Wijnaldum in the semifinal clash against Monterrey, will play two games in two days across two continents. A team of academy players will look to keep the team's Carabao Cup (English League Cup) campaign running when they take on Aston Villa at Villa Park 24 hours ahead of the semifinal clash here.

"I'll be watching the Villa game on television. We have said everything about that already. It's not how we wished it would be, but the solution (playing with two different teams) is the most practical for us. Big chance for the kids to play. Are they favourites? Of course, not. But it's exciting opportunities," Klopp said.

Asserting that his team

Labuschagne called up

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
SYDNEY

In-form Australian batsman Marnus Labuschagne will make his One-Day International debut in India as part of a radically overhauled 14-man squad for a three-match tour next month.

Labuschagne has averaged 58.05 since earning his first Test cap last year, scoring centuries in his last three matches.

All-rounder Sean Abbott returns after five years in the ODI wilderness, spinner Ashton Agar gets another chance 18 months after his last one-dayer and paceman Josh Hazlewood has also been recalled.

The squad: Aaron Finch (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Ashton Turner, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

Among the seven cricketers who have opted for the highest reserve price of ₹2 crore, five are Australians. It would be interesting to see if all five – Glenn Maxwell, Pat Cummins, Chris Lynn, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Marsh – sign fat contracts come Thursday.

The auction countdown

With just a day to go for the IPL auction, a look at some significant numbers:

4 Among the seven cricketers who have opted for the highest reserve price of ₹2 crore, five are Australians. It would be interesting to see if all five – Glenn Maxwell, Pat Cummins, Chris Lynn, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Marsh – sign fat contracts come Thursday.

35 Australians in the auction list, the most from a country other than India (186). In fact, one out of every four overseas player in the list is an Aussie

2 Chennai Super Kings **2** Mumbai Indians **2** Sunrisers Hyderabad **4** Kings XI Punjab **4** Kolkata Knight Riders **4** Rajasthan Royals **5** Delhi Capitals **6** Royal Challengers Bangalore

their auction strategy vis-a-vis Australians.

"Haven't we seen in the past of a team revolving one of its units around an Australian star and he pulls out at the eleventh hour, so we have to be cautious," said one of them, preferring anonymity. Mitchell Starc's commitment – or the lack of it – to Royal Challengers Bangalore

ed out of IPL 2020, none of Australia's World Cup regulars featured in the 2019 edition. However, the franchises are optimistic of a more liberal approach this time around. "With the T20 World Cup approaching, the Australian selectors would be closely monitoring how their players fare," said a team management official.

Asserting that his team



would put its best foot forward at the FIFA event, Klopp said: "We are here. We don't fly that distance to not show up. We will be prepared. We don't see ourselves as favourites, we see ourselves as challengers. Is it the most important competition? I don't know."

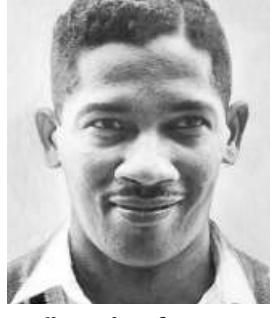
Will watch semifinal

The German refused to be drawn into a battle between South American and European football over a possible summit clash with Brazilian champion Flamengo. "We are representing our own club, we don't have the burden of showing South America how we play football," he said. "I haven't thought about Flamengo yet, just about Monterrey. We will watch the semifinal, both teams are potential final opponents."

TV PICKS

Vijay Merchant Trophy: Final, Star Sports 3, 9.15 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
India v West Indies: 2nd ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.
Big Bash League: Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 6 p.m.
La Liga: El Clasico, Facebook Watch, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)
Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



Basil Butcher, former WI batsman passes away

Former West Indies batsman Basil Butcher passed away after prolonged illness, Cricket West Indies (CWI) confirmed on Tuesday. He was 86. Butcher, who made his Test debut in 1958 against India, played 44 Tests for the West Indies, amassing 3104 runs with seven centuries and 16 fifties at 43. He was the first person of Amerindian descent to represent the West Indies.



Mavericks hold off Bucks to snap 18-game streak

WASHINGTON
Seth Curry and Kristaps Porzingis each scored 26 points and the Dallas Mavericks snapped Milwaukee's 18-game NBA win streak on Monday 120-116 despite 48 points and 14 rebounds by Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo. The Mavericks held off the host Bucks, who made a furious rally with a late 17-6 run that fell just short.
The results: Washington 133 bt Detroit 119, Toronto 133 bt Cleveland 113, Houston 109 bt San Antonio 107, Memphis 118 bt Miami 111, Dallas 120 bt Milwaukee 116, Oklahoma City 109 bt Chicago 106, Portland 111 bt Phoenix 110. AFP



Lakshya jumps to career-best 32nd rank

KUALA LUMPUR
After winning the men's singles title at the just concluded Bangladesh International Challenge, India shuttler Lakshya Sen on Tuesday jumped nine places to achieve a career best BWF ranking of 32. However, no Indian shuttler could make to the top 10 of the men's BWF rankings. B. Sai Praneeth and K. Srikanth remained at the 11th and 12th place respectively while P. Kashyap continues at the 23rd spot. In women's singles, P.V. Sindhu is at the sixth spot. IANS

Laura Marsh announces retirement

LONDON
England off-spinner Laura Marsh has announced her international retirement after a 13-year career that saw her win three World Cups. Marsh made her debut in 2006 as a seamer before switching to spin. The 33-year-old represented England in 103 ODIs, 67 T20Is and nine Tests and took 217 international wickets across her career, finishing up as the most successful spinner in the history of English women's cricket. IANS

Bagan president Gitanath Ganguly passes away

KOLKATA:
Mohun Bagan president Gitanath Ganguly passed away here on Tuesday afternoon, the club said in an e-mail message. He was 83 and is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son. The mortal remains of Ganguly will be brought to the club premises on Wednesday before being taken for the last rites. IANS

Sasikanth breathes fire

His five for 38 helps Andhra shoot out Delhi for 215

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ONGOLE

Delhi put up a disappointing batting performance to be bowled out for 215 on the opening day of its Ranji Trophy match against Andhra here on Tuesday.

By stumps, Andhra was struggling at 16 for two, with the openers back in the hut.

Playing its second match of the season following the draw against Kerala, Delhi lost previous game's centurymaker Kunal Chandela early after being asked to bat.

Kunwar Bidhuri (22) and Nitish Rana (51 off 51) repaired the innings with a 60-run stand for the fourth wicket before a mini-collapse pushed it on the back foot and its innings ended in the 71st over.

Rana to the rescue

Rana, who had scored a match-saving century against Kerala last week, saved Delhi's blushes again with a run-a-ball effort comprising nine fours and a six.

Latit Yadav (50 off 104) put up a much-needed fight



A day to remember: K.V. Sasikanth broke the back of the Delhi innings with an incisive spell. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

while batting with the tailenders, taking his team past 200.

Medium-pacer K.V. Sasikanth (5/38 in 20.1 overs) was the pick of the bowlers for Andhra, claiming his

fourth five-wicket haul in First Class cricket.

Delhi had managed to salvage a draw against Kerala in its opening match, courtesy centuries from Chandela and Rana on the final day.

Aravindh, Sandipan in lead

NATIONAL CHESS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MAJITAR, SIKKIM

Second-seeded Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal's seventh-seeded GM Sandipan Chanda shared the lead with 7.5 points in the National senior chess championship here on Tuesday.

Following the leaders half a point behind at 7.0 points were GMs Vaibhav Suri (Delhi), Anurag Mhamal (Goa) and IMs G. Akash (TN), S. Ravi Teja (RSPB), P. Shyamnikhil (RSPB) and K. Ponnuwswamy (PSPB) respectively.

The highlight of the day turned out to be the third and final GM norm for IM and former National Champion G. Akash of Tamil Nadu.

Requiring a draw to achieve his norm, Akash played steadily to hold fellow GM Vishnu Prasanna to a draw.

Two rounds remain in the National Championship carrying a prize fund of ₹20 lakh.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES: ROUND 2, DAY 1

GROUP A

Delhi 215 in 70.5 overs (Nitish Rana 51, Latit Yadav 50, K.V. Sasikanth 5/38) vs Andhra 16/2 in 6 overs. **Toss:** Andhra.

Kerala 237/7 in 83 overs (Sanju Samson 116, Robin Uthappa 50) vs Bengal. **Toss:** Kerala.

Hyderabad 242 in 81 overs (Himalay Agarwal 68, K. Sumanth 79, Gurkeerat Mann 4/34) vs Punjab. **Toss:** Hyderabad.

Vidarbha 288/4 in 89 overs (Faiz Faizal 136, Wasim Jaffer 60, Ganesh Satish 43) vs Rajasthan. **Toss:** Vidarbha.

Uttar Pradesh 232/5 in 90 overs (Aryan Juyal 109, Mohammad Saif 56 batting) vs Karnataka. **Toss:** UP.

Madhya Pradesh 125 in 43.3 overs (Yash Dubey 48) vs Bihar 86/3 in 25 overs. **Toss:** Bihar.

Railways 202/9 in 80 overs (Pratham Singh 41) vs Saurashtra. **Toss:** Saurashtra.

Himachal 158 in 71.4 overs



Parag 55, Anukul Roy 4/28) v Jharkhand. **Toss:** Assam.

Uttarakhand 120 in 37.5 overs vs Chhattisgarh 109/5 in 35 overs. **Toss:** Uttarakhand.

Tripria 63 in 19.4 overs (Harshal Patel 7/29) vs Haryana 131/2 in 33 overs (Chaitanya Bishnoi 63 batting). **Toss:** Haryana.

Jammu & Kashmir 209 in 63.5 overs (Ahmed Banday 76, Abid Mushtaq 50, Anupam Sanklecha 4/56) vs Maharashtra 51/3 in 15.4 overs. **Toss:** Maharashtra.

Services 271 in 66.1 overs (Nakul Verma 53, Rajat Palwal 58, Rahul Singh 55, Basant Mo-

hanty 6/69) vs Odisha 43/0 in 16 overs. **Toss:** Odisha.

PLATE

Arunachal Pradesh 342/8 in 90 overs (Kamsha Yangfo 56, Rahul Dalal 178 batting) vs Mizoram. **Toss:** Arunachal Pradesh.

Chandigarh 274/5 in 78 overs (Arslan Khan 51, Manan Vohra 41, Ankit Kaushik 106 batting, Bipul Sharma 63 batting, Ashutosh Aman 4/57) vs Bihar. **Toss:** Bihar.

Meghalaya 203 in 68.4 overs (Dwarka Ravi Teja 81, Pneet Bisht 41) vs Goa 42/3 in 18 overs. **Toss:** Goa.

Manipur 116 in 50.1 overs (K. Priyogi 44, Imliviati Lemturi 7/25) vs Nagaland 193/4 in 38 overs (Rongsen Jonathan 79, Shrikant Mundhe 68 batting). **Toss:** Manipur.

Sikkim 65 in 31.3 overs (Vinay Kumar 4/25, Sagar Trivedi 5/20) vs Pondicherry 262/2 in 50 overs (K.B. Arun Karthik 105 batting, Paras Dogra 105 batting). **Toss:** Pondicherry.

Peter Siddle recalled

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SYDNEY

Australia's cricket selectors gave veteran paceman Peter Siddle a career lifeline on Tuesday, calling him up to the 13-man squad for the second Test against New Zealand in Melbourne beginning on Boxing Day.

Siddle's days in the baggy green appeared over when he endured a dismal Ashes series in England, taking just seven wickets in three Tests at an average of 42.14.

The 35-year-old was overlooked for the series against Pakistan last month and did not feature in discussions about the current series against New Zealand until Josh Hazlewood was injured. Chief selector Trevor Hohns said Siddle had plenty to offer at his home Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Ruma stuns Kavya

SPORTS BUREAU
CHANDIGARH

Qualifier Ruma Gaikwari of Maharashtra knocked out top seed Kavya Khirwar of Delhi 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 in under-18 girls' pre-quarterfinals of the St. Stephen's School AITA Super series junior tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

The results (pre-quarterfinals):

Boys: Under-18: Krishan Hooda bt Ninaad Ravi 6-0, 6-2; Ajay Singh bt Abhilik Arora 6-1, 6-2; Bhupender Dahiya bt Sarthak Gandhi 6-7, 6-3, 6-2; Sukhpreet Singh bt Jitin Kumar Chetry 6-2, 6-0; Shashikant Rajput bt Gururat Singh Makkar 6-1, 6-3; Torus Rawat bt Aryan Thakur 6-2, 6-1; Dhananjay Singh bt Himanshu Duhan 6-2, 6-3; Sammr Raina bt Deep Munim 6-1, 6-3.

Under-16: Lakshmi Prabha Arunkumar bt Niharika Deshmukh 6-1, 6-1; Hitakamya Singh Narwal bt Riya Kaushik 6-0, 6-1; Sai Rajesh Bhoyar bt Radhika Vaideva 6-2, 6-0; Madhurima Sambalpt at Harleen Kaur 7-6(6), 6-1; Tanushri Pandey bt Pawandeep Kaur 6-1, 6-2; Kavya Khirwar bt Deep Munim 6-3, 6-6; Sarthak Gandhi bt Lakshay Vivek Kumar 6-3, 6-6; Adhiraj Awal bt Vinit Rathee 6-4, 6-3; Sukhpreet Singh Jhote bt Aryan Arora 6-1, 6-0; Gaurav Kumar bt Natansh

Yashika Venu 6-2, 6-0.

UWW award a morale-booster: Punia

The real achievement will be landing a medal in the Olympics'

WRESTLING

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Shortly after resuming his training following a bout of dengue, Deepak Punia was pleasantly surprised to know that he has been named 'Junior Wrestler of the Year' by United World Wrestling (UWW).

Deepak bagged the 86kg freestyle crown in Tallinn (Estonia) August last, to become India's first World junior champion in 18 years.

On Tuesday, he became the first Indian wrestler and second from the country to get the international federation honour.

"We are prepared to play and that's what we want to do. The majority of people just want to see a football match."

Zidane will be without his joint-record signing Eden Hazard as well as veteran defender Marcelo.

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Smriti in ICC teams

Perry is Women's Cricketer and ODI Player of the Year

CRICKET

IANS
DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Tuesday that Australia all-rounder Elyse Perry has been named the Women's Cricketer of the Year as well as the Women's ODI Player of the Year for 2019. She will take home the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award, which was bagged by India's Smriti Mandhana last year.

Smriti grabbed a spot in both the ICC Women's ODI and T20I Teams of the Year. Smriti has played 51 ODIs and 66 T20Is, scoring 2,025 and 1,451 runs respectively.

Shikha Pandey, Jhulan Goswami and Poonam Yadav have also found a spot in ICC ODI Team of the Year while Deepti Sharma and Radha Yadav made it to the ICC T20I Team of the Year.

Stellar year

Perry has had a stellar year across formats, with three hundreds, including one in the Ashes Test. She averages



Smriti Mandhana. ■ FILE PHOTO

entered the record books in October, scoring a world record 148 not out off 61 balls against Sri Lanka – the highest score by a woman in T20Is. She reached her half-century off 25 balls and her maiden hundred came off just 46 deliveries, the fastest century ever by an Australian man or woman.

Both Perry and Healy have also been named in the Women's ODI and T20I Teams of the Year, alongside fellow Australian captain Meg Lanning, who was named skipper of both sides. **The ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year (in batting order):**

Alyssa Healy (wk, Aus), Smriti Mandhana (Ind), Tamsin Beaumont (Eng), Meg Lanning (Aus, Capt.), Stefanie Taylor (WI), Elyse Perry (Aus), Jess Jonassen (Aus), Shikha Pandey (Ind), Jhulan Goswami (Ind), Megan Schutt (Aus), Poonam Yadav (Ind).

ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year (in batting order): Healy (Aus), Danielle Wyatt (Eng), Lanning, Smriti, Lizzelle Lee (RSA), Perry, Deepti Sharma (Ind), Nida Dar (Pak), Schutt, Shabnim Ismail (RSA), Radha Yadav (Ind).

73.50 from 12 ODIs this year, where she has also taken 21 wickets, including a national record 7/22. She became the first player to complete 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in T20I cricket.

Named as the T20I Cricketer of the Year for the second year running, Healy

Cricket has few geniuses, but many foxes and hedgehogs



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

"The fox," wrote the ancient Greek poet Archilochus, "knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing." This has been interpreted in many ways. The British philosopher Isaiah Berlin used it as the central theme of his essay on Tolstoy.

Some psychologists have said that foxes have different strategies for different problems and understand nuance while hedgehogs reduce all problems to one overarching principle.

So what does all this have to do with cricket? It can be the starting point of one sport's enduring discussions: the so-called natural player versus the non-natural (for want of a better word). It is easy to assume that naturals are consistent strikers of the ball while non-naturals are defensive and more concerned with where their left elbow finishes rather than where the ball does.

Yet, a Geoff Boycott is as much a natural as a Garry Sobers; what is natural to him is simply different from what is natural to Sobers. Likewise

with Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar. The latter could do things with the bat others could not even contemplate doing; so could the former. Not understanding this has caused young Rishabh Pant to declare "there is nothing called a natural game" following his first half-century in one-day internationals at Chepauk.

The two categories, it must be admitted, are not absolute and there are bound to be overlaps, even in the career of a single individual. But they are convenient, and as likely to explain a writer or artist as a cricketer.

Both categories contain top players. Sobers, Tendulkar, Viv Richards, Dravid, Sunil Gavaskar were foxes while Virender Sehwag, Boycott, Sanath Jayasuriya were hedgehogs.

False debate

The natural versus non-natural is a false debate. This might have something to do with the limitation of the language which has no specific words for the degrees between the absolutely untalented at one end of the spectrum and the genius at the other. The genius probably falls into both categories; he is both fox for his range and hedgehog for his mastery.

I was once watching the video of an old Test match in England with the West Indies bowler Lance Gibbs. Sobers was fielding at silly point to the off spinner. The batsman, a left hander,

played forward and Sobers moved to his left. But the ball took the edge and went the other way, and Sobers, as if he had meant to do this all along, changed direction and swung back with a dancer's grace to make the catch.

"Genius!" said Gibbs who got up from his chair in admiration. Gibbs must have been 80 then, and was still excited by a catch taken some four decades earlier.

"The man could do anything," said Dennis Lillee of Sobers. "Even dance like Fred Astaire."

The line between the fox and the hedgehog is not immovable. Nor is it left uncrossed through a batsman's career. Some hedgehogs have been successful at the top level because of their ability to reduce everything to match their strength. "If the square cut is the only productive stroke you play, and you can square cut every time the ball is pitched short, then that's all I ask of you," a Chennai coach once told one of his wards.

At the top level, Chetan Chauhan was an opener whose most profitable stroke was the square cut. He formed a fine partnership with Gavaskar thanks to this ability.

As the batting crease, choice can sometimes be terror. A batsman with few strokes is often more successful than one with many simply because the latter's options call for better judgement. Gifted batsmen have

dropped out of the national reckoning because of this. Saad bin Jung was a wonderful batsman with a range of strokes who made centuries in difficult conditions but did not play at the highest level.

Late career changes often convert foxes into hedgehogs. Rohan Kanhai, the brilliant West Indies stroke player and nightmare of bowlers around the world is a good example. So too is Gundappa Viswanath, who, as he aged, changed guard from leg to middle, and played fewer extravagant, aah-making strokes.

Rishabh Pant has been an enigma in some ways – a wonderful striker of the ball with Test centuries in England and Australia who hasn't been as successful in what might be considered his natural habitat, the white ball game. It was an issue with Sehwag too in his early days in the shorter formats. "Since I have played the international game," Pant explained, "I have realised that there is nothing called 'natural game'. You have to play according to the situation and what the team needs. A good player is one who can mould his game according to the situation."

This could be a working definition of a good player: one who changes his game according to the situation. But a great player is one who changes the situation with his game. In his transition from the hedgehog to the fox, Pant should not forget that.

Kapil says he won't meet Ethics Officer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

BCCI ethics officer D.K. Jain has asked Kapil Dev and Aunshuman Gaekwad to appear in Mumbai later this month to explain conflict of interest allegations against them even though they have already resigned from the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).

There is no CAC in place anymore, but the two have been asked to deposit on December 27 and 28.

A livid Kapil said he will not go to Mumbai.

2020 Tokyo Olympic Games: India's hockey programme announced

Men to play New Zealand and women the Netherlands in their respective openers

IANS
NEW DELHI

Indian men will take on New Zealand in their opening hockey match at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics while the women's team will play Rio Games silver medallist the Netherlands on July 25 as the draw for the quadrennial extravaganza was announced in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Indian men's skipper Manpreet Singh said: "A good start will always give the right confidence and momentum to carry on in the tournament.

"It will be important for us

to begin with a win.

"New Zealand have always posed stiff competition for us and I believe it can be a close game."

"It is important to keep our nerves in check as opening matches can be a bit overwhelming, especially at a major event like the Olympics."

Indian men, clubbed with defending champion Argentina, world No. 1 Australia, Spain, New Zealand and host Japan in Pool A, will play Australia on July 26 and then Spain on July 28.

After a day's break on July 29, the next opponent will be

India's schedule and final phase matches

Men: vs. New Zealand (July 25); vs. Australia (July 26); vs. Spain (July 28); vs. Argentina (July 30); vs. Japan (July 31); Quarterfinals (Aug. 2); Semifinals (Aug. 4); Gold and bronze medal matches (Aug. 6).

Women: vs. The Netherlands (July 25); vs. Germany (July 27); vs. Great Britain (July 29); vs. Ireland (July 31); vs. South Africa (Aug. 1); Quarterfinals (Aug. 3); Semifinals (Aug. 5); Gold and bronze medal matches (Aug. 7).

Argentina on July 30 and Japan on July 31.

The men's quarterfinals have been slated for August 2 while the semifinals will be held on Aug. 4. The gold and bronze medal matches will be played on Aug. 6.

"Every game will be crucial

and we cannot let our guard down against any team, even if they are ranked below us. Each match will need to be played like it is the final," Manpreet said.

The Indian women's team skipper Rani Rampal said: "Draw does not matter because in the Olympics every team is equal and every team will come with an aim to win. We need to focus on ourselves and what we can do better on a given day. We are preparing well to ensure we tick all the boxes in each of our matches."

Indian women are in Pool A along with the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and South Africa. They will take on Germany on July 27, followed by a match against defending champion Great Britain on July 29. They will then play Ireland on July 31 and South Africa in their



last pool match on Aug. 1. The quarterfinals are slated for Aug. 3 while the semifinals will be on Aug. 5. The gold and bronze medal matches will be played on Aug. 7.

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