



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight – news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

Vajiram & Ravi and *The Indian Express* are proud to deliver the electronic version of this morning's edition of *The Indian Express* to your Inbox. You may follow *The Indian Express's* news and analysis through the day on **indianexpress.com**

Govt nod for Covishield in a few days: Serum

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, DECEMBER 28

REGULATORY APPROVAL for Covishield, the Indian variant of Oxford-AstraZeneca's AZD1222 vaccine against the novel coronavirus, could come "in a few days", Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India, said on Monday. "By January we should have the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine licensed in India," Poonawalla said. Pune-based Serum has been licensed by Oxford-AstraZeneca to test, manufacture, and market the vaccine in India.

"Emergency use authorisation by the UK drug regulator for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is expected by December-end or the first week of January. In India too, we are hoping for the regulatory approval for the Covishield vaccine in a few days," Poonawalla told reporters at an online interaction.

"We must respect the process and give the UK regulators in the UK and India enough time to review the data. No one wants to compromise on safety and we hope for some good news in the new year," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK

UK STRAIN: FRESH MHA GUIDELINES
PAGE 8



Arya Rajendran, a 21-yr-old college student and CPM leader, took oath as Thiruvananthapuram mayor Monday. Sanjay Mohan

Big win for NREGS workers in Kerala panchayat polls, 90% of them women

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
DECEMBER 28

RAJINI BALARAJ, 32, from Thirunelli village in Kerala's Wayanad district, has been a worker under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) since 2006. Over the years, she grew to become a "mate", leading other NREGS workers in her ward. Two weeks ago, Balaraj achieved another feat: she is now one of the 2,159 NREGA workers to have emerged winners in the just-concluded local body elections in Kerala.

"The NREGA work and my job as a mate helped me learn a lot. I



DRIVERLESS METRO

PM Modi launched India's first train run without a driver, on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line, Monday. Amit Mehra REPORT, PAGE 4

1 month of UP 'love jihad' law: 14 cases, 49 in jail, woman 'victim' complainant in only two

13 cases involve alleged forcible conversion of Hindu women to Islam

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 28

MONDAY marked one month since the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh passed a new anti-conversion law to check what it calls "love jihad". Since the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion

Ordinance, 2020, came into effect on November 28, records show that the UP Police has registered 14 cases and made 51 arrests, of whom 49 are in jail.

Of these 14 cases, 13 involve Hindu women allegedly pressured to convert to Islam. In only two cases is the complainant the woman concerned herself—in the remaining 12, the complainants

are her relatives. In two of them, Hindu right-wing activists intervened, holding protests at the police station. In all cases but one, the woman involved is an adult. In eight cases, the couple are said to have been either friends or in a relationship; while one couple claim to be married.

One case involves alleged illegal conversion to Christianity,

registered against three people in Azamgarh.

In two cases, the women, both married to other people, have refused to have their statements recorded, citing "social pressure". In two others, women have levelled rape charges. Three of the women allegedly pressured for conversion are Dalits.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rajouri killings: Captain arranged car, weapons planted, say police

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 28

CAPTAIN BHOOPENDRA Singh, an Army officer, had prior-arranged an A-Star car, and the "incriminating material", including "illegally acquired illegal weapons" loaded in it, were subsequently planted on the bodies of the three Rajouri youths killed in the Shopian encounter on July 18, according to the chargesheet filed by the J&K Police.

Captain Singh, who used the alias Major Basheer Khan, is named as an accused in the

chargesheet along with two civilians — Tabish Nazir from Chowgam, Shopian, and Bilal Ahmad Lone from Nikas, Pulwama. The two civilians were arrested on September 28, 2020, more than two months after the killing of the three Rajouri youth.

In the chargesheet, the three have been accused of staging the encounter and the evidence, then destroying this evidence and "purposefully projecting false information" as part of a criminal conspiracy with the motive of grabbing Rs 20 lakh in prize money " earmarked for genuine information".

The document, filed before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shopian, on December 26, raises questions on how a single officer planned and executed the encounter without the knowledge of seniors. Also, on where the weapons — subsequently planted on the three deceased — were obtained from.

Additionally, call records of one of the numbers used by the Army officer confirm calls to a J&K police SPO, Fayaz Ahmad. His role in the incident has, however, not been made clear in the chargesheet. The SPO is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORKING FOR YOU: PM AT KISAN RAIL EVENT

Govt calls for talks on Dec 30, says pressure will not work on PM

Govt sends invite to 40 farmer unions for talks with 'clean intention', 'open mind'; they say will attend

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

EVEN AS the government invited 40 protesting farm unions for another round of talks on December 30, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Tomar seemed to draw a hard line on Monday. Stating that Prime Minister was dedicated to "improving the economic condition of farmers", Tomar said "no power could exert pressure and influence (dabaav aur prabhaav)" on him.

Addressing a separate event, Modi said the government would "keep marching on the path of strengthening Indian agriculture and farmers".

Speaking to a group of farmers who support the new farm laws, Tomar said: "At the time of the UPA government, Manmohan Singhji and Sharad Pawarji also wanted to enact these laws, but they could not withstand the pressure and influence. So they could not legislate these laws. But we are fortunate that Narendra Modiji is our



At the Singhu border protest site on Monday. Abhinav Sinha

EXPRESS NETWORK

KERALA TO BRING IN LAW FOR MSP TO CROPS
PAGE 8

Prime Minister today." "Modiji has no selfish interest. His single-point programme is the development of the country and the welfare of the people. He is fully dedicated to the sin-

gle-point programme of making agriculture prosperous and improving the economic condition of the farmers," he said.

"Jab uddeshya prati samarpan ho, desh prati samarpan ho, toh koi bhi taakat apne dabaav aur prabhaav ka itemaal neta par nahin kar paatee (when there is dedication to the purpose, dedication to the country, then no power can exert pressure and influence on the leader)," said Tomar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

OTT must duck formula trap: Pankaj Tripathi, star of 2020

EKTAA MALIK
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

"BOLLYWOOD, IN my personal opinion, is a very democratic space... I could never have believed that an actor who looks like me could have played the protagonist in a Hindi film, like I do in *Kaagaz*, my upcoming film. This was not possible 10-15 years ago. On a film set everyone, from the hero to the lightman and makeup artist, they are all equal," said actor Pankaj Tripathi.

His comment, coming at the end of a year that saw the Hindi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Goswami paid lakhs of rupees to ex-BARC CEO to boost TRPs: Mumbai Police to court

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

IN A remand report submitted before a court on Monday, the Mumbai Police said that Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami had paid "lakhs of rupees" to Partho Dasgupta, former CEO of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), to "increase" the Television Rating Points (TRPs) of the two Republic news channels.

"...When Dasgupta was the Broadcast Audience Research Council, or BARC, CEO, Arnab Goswami and other accused in the case conspired to illegally increase the TRPs of Republic Bharat Hindi news channel and Republic TV English news channel. In order to do that, Goswami

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the eAdda with Shubhra Gupta, Devyani Onial



EXPRESS INVESTIGATION PART 3

Toppers say schools stuck to textbook, didn't prepare them for challenges outside

Say curriculum needs refresh, schools must help with colleges, careers

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

WHEN SHREYAS Sudhman, 22, the 2014 ICSE topper, went abroad for his undergraduate education in chemical engineering at Cockrell School of Engineering, University of Texas, Austin, he realised that school hadn't quite equipped him with some key skills.

"I was much more suited to



TRACKING INDIA'S TOPPERS



Include whole class in public speaking; not just a few. It's a big differentiator in careers"

PUSHPRAJ SHUKLA, WITH MICROSOFT IN SAN FRANCISCO. CLASS 10 ICSE TOPPER IN 1999



In school, knew only about engineering colleges around Mumbai. Wish I had known Delhi colleges were better"

JANVI THOSANI, CA, CLASS 10 ICSE TOPPER IN 2010

textbook problems than out-of-the-box thinking," he said. "When I had to do my first-year engineering project with a team, I failed to clearly communicate my ideas for the project... Report and essay writing were much harder for me than for my American classmates who are trained to organise information and present it in a clear manner."

Years after their high school graduation, like Sudhman, most of the 86 national Board toppers, tracked down by *The Indian Express* as part of a four-month investigation, say that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD



TRUMP RETREATS, SIGNS BILL TO RELEASE COVID AID
PAGE 12

EXPRESS NETWORK

AYODHYA COLLEGE PROTEST: SEDITION CHARGES DROPPED
PAGE 10

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SANDEEP SINGH & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

INSTEAD OF buying new cars, users in several Indian cities are choosing to 'subscribe' to them — that is, to pay automakers a fixed sum every month for the use of a car for a certain time. The country's two biggest automobile manufacturers, Maruti and Hyundai, are seeing good traction in subscription-based flexible ownership of vehicles.

Hyundai, which had started monthly and yearly subscription plans across its models in asso-

ciation with Gurgaon-based Revv, has seen fresh demand this year from cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. Its smaller cars Grand i10 Nios and Santro are the most popular among subscribers.

Maruti Suzuki India launched a vehicle subscription scheme for individuals in September in Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru, which allows customers to use a new Maruti Suzuki vehicle without actually owning it. Maruti has teamed up with Orix Auto Infrastructure Services India, a subsidiary of Japan-based Orix Corp, for the subscription programme.



Cars at Maruti's plant in Manesar, Gurgaon. Express Archive

EXPLAINED Win-win potential

FOR USERS who want to avoid the hassles of buying, selling, and maintaining cars, and those who may not have the money for a down payment, this can be an option to consider. For automakers, the subscription model can be a way to overcome the hurdles of slowing demand.

As an alternative to outright purchase, the subscription model allows customers to drive home a vehicle in lieu of a monthly fee, and without a hefty down payment. The monthly fee is all-inclusive, covering complete maintenance, insurance, and roadside assistance.

The subscription for a Maruti Suzuki Swift Lxi is around Rs 14,500 per month. While this is not cheap, the arithmetic vis-à-vis purchasing a car is as follows: The on-road price of this car is over Rs 5.5 lakh. If a buyer were to take a loan of Rs 4.5 lakh, her EMI on a 9-per-cent-loan for three years would be about Rs

14,300. However, she would have also paid over Rs 1 lakh in down payment, registration, and insurance costs, and would also be required to pay for the annual maintenance and renewal of insurance during the lifetime of the car. If she were to subscribe to the car instead, she would pay around Rs 3.5 lakh over two years, and would then have the option to buy a new subscription.

The carmakers say the subscription model is targeted only at certain categories of customers. "There are people who don't want the hassle of buying and selling a car every two or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SKOCH INDIA'S HONEST AWARD INDEPENDENT HONOUR

ERA'S LUCKNOW MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL LOWEST COVID MORTALITY, HIGHEST RECOVERY

“Uttar Pradesh as a state in general and Lucknow in particular has benefited a lot from Era's efforts. A specialised institution like Era's can contribute a lot to the healthcare. Its contributions towards Telemedicine are noteworthy that will help the difficult areas in the state to benefit from the outreach and technology-led healthcare”

Sameer Kochhar, Chairman, SKOCH Group



“We are a leading L-3 facility with the maximum number of patients in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Era's effective treatment has resulted in a recovery rate of more than 96%; and, a mortality rate of 3.7%, which for an L-3 facility is the lowest in the state and perhaps in the country. We are thankful to SKOCH for recognising our feat”

Zaw Ali Khan, Additional Director, ELMC&H

A highly trained and devoted faculty supports Era's Lucknow Medical College & Hospital (ELMC&H), where the 850-bed multi-specialty hospital is fully equipped with advanced, world class diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. For nearly two decades, the institution has been functioning as a Centre of Excellence in medical education, healthcare, training and research. ELMC&H is a private medical college and is affiliated with ERA University.

In the wake of COVID outbreak, Era's initiated a ramp up of the existing infrastructure to prepare for handling emerging cases. It included, some initial guidelines for the medical and support staff. Soon there were central government guidelines and it allotted 400 beds and allocated additional manpower, set up isolation wards, deployed new equipments and assessed the inventory. For those needing emergency medical care, hybrid facilities were created.

ELMC&H, in collaboration with Era's Medical Devices, stepped up the development of patient care equipment with the objective of upgrading COVID19 patient management while ensuring safety of healthcare workers.

A Tele-OPD was started for providing medical guidance to patients. One dedicated Tele-OPD was also set-up for stress management counselling for both admitted patients and their attendants and hospital staff.

PROBLEM

- Ramping up existing infrastructure
- Drawing up treatment, sanitisation protocols
- Adjustment of duty rosters for medical and support staff
- Guidelines compliance
- Ramping up infrastructure, setting up Telemedicine centre
- Protocols for stress management for staff and COVID patients
- Limited availability of PPE kits

PROCESS

New SoPs were formulated, operational plans of all departments were supervised and enforced on a war footing and numerous supervisory committees were formed.

For the purpose of real-time remote monitoring, a Centralised Patient Monitoring System (CPMS) was set up to provide doctors with a live-display of all critical patients' vital parameters on computer systems anywhere across campus and on the smartphones.

A team of doctors was deployed for round the clock monitoring of this dashboard. The ICU Nursing Pod was used for giving CPR to infected patients thereby minimising the risk of exposure to higher viral loads.

New SoPs were formulated, operational plans of all departments were supervised and enforced.

SOLUTION

- Set-up one dedicated Tele-OPD
- Centralised Patient Monitoring system
- Regular counselling with patients and healthcare workers
- VR-Secure Booth - airtight aluminium and glass cabin
- ICU Nursing Pod to prevent infectious exposure during CPR
- DigiDoctor - Telemedicine app to contact doctors and follow up
- Maintain digital health records

OUTCOMES

- Daily group counselling by psychologists
- Nearly 3,000 patients discharged after recovery
- Level-3 COVID facility, successfully carried out deliveries, dialysis etc
- More than 1,500 doctors and support staff worked in shifts
- More than 7,500 Telemedicine consultations
- Conducted clinical trials of antiviral drug
- Recovery rate more than 96%

SOLUTION

In non-critical wards, patients' vitals are measured through Bluetooth enabled Pulse-Oximeters and BP Machines. These machines automatically transmit the data to the CPMS for control room monitoring.

The VR-SECURE BOOTH, an airtight aluminium and glass cabin prevented the influx of infected air into the chamber and its double-layer safety gloves ensured a high standard of infection control.

DigiDoctor, a Tele-medicine app was developed and made available for OPD patients who could contact doctors for treatment and follow-up without visiting the hospital.

OUTCOMES

In the absence of the usual in-person OPD, Era's also began e-Consultations through DigiDoctor. More than 7,500 Telemedicine consultations have been done through this app free of cost.

Era's Lucknow Medical College & Hospital, along with King George's Medical University (KGMU) and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS) is a part of a Phase III Clinical Trials of Antiviral Drug Umifenovir conducted by Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow.

Era's has treated and discharged more than 3,000 cases and counting. It is a L-3 facility with the maximum number of patients in Uttar Pradesh. Some of these patients were extremely critical and high-risk cases on ventilator that were successfully extubated. ●



INDIA'S HONEST INDEPENDENT HONOUR

ARE YOU INDIA'S NEXT BEST HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER?

YOU STARED COVID-19 IN THE FACE AND GAVE A BEFITTING REPLY

YOU CAN NOW WIN INDIA'S HONEST INDEPENDENT HONOUR

Professionals, Institutions, Doctors as well as front-line workers from the Healthcare sector have been in a hand-to-hand combat with COVID-19.

These are the Heroes who put their own person, their lives and their families at peril to serve India. They have been backed by Governments, Insurance Companies and Pharma Industry. A few out of these are remarkable tales of Patriotism, Heroism, Innovation and sheer determination and loyalty to the profession.

We seek to Document, Highlight and Award these initiatives – whether Personal or Institutional.

● MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ● GOVERNMENTS ● SKOCH HEALTH AWARD ● DIAGNOSTIC LABS ● CORPORATE INSTITUTIONS
● INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONALS ● HOSPITALS & CHAINS ● PHARMACEUTICAL ORGANISATIONS ● RESEARCH ● PRODUCTS

LAST DATE FOR NOMINATIONS
23RD JANUARY 2021

EARLY BIRD
11TH JANUARY 2021

Nominate: award.skoch.in/health



skochgroup



skochgroup



skochgroup



skochconsultancy

SKOCH PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

NOMINATE NOW!

Namami Gange - the rejuvenation of River Ganga



Pollution Abatement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewerage Infrastructure Industrial Pollution Wastewater Reuse and Recycle Rural Sanitation Solid Waste Management 	Ecology and Flow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aviral Dhara (E-Flow) Wetland Mapping and Conservation Flood Plain Protection Sustainable Agriculture Afforestation and Biodiversity Conservation Small River Rejuvenation
Research, Policy and Knowledge Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality Monitoring High Resolution Mapping of Ganga Stretch Microbial Diversity Aquifer Mapping & Spring Rejuvenation Cultural Mapping & Climate scenario Mapping Urban River Management Plan 	People River Connect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Front, Ghat & Crematoria Community Engagement Ganga Run Ganga Amantran (Rafting Expedition) Ganga Utsav (Celebrating National River) Ganga Quest (Online Quiz)



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi while inaugurating Uttarakhand projects

"HAD the old methods been adopted, the situation would have been equally bad today. But we moved forward with new approach and new thinking. We have not limited the Namami Gange Mission to the cleanliness of the Ganga only, but also made it the largest and comprehensive river conservation program in the country."

"THE government moved forward in four directions simultaneously - Started laying a trap of sewage treatment plants to prevent the dirty water falling into the Ganga, Build sewage treatment plants that can meet the needs of the next 10-15 years, Hundreds of big cities and five thousand villages on the banks of river Ganga are free from defecation and to stop pollution in the river Ganga and its tributaries"

"DEVOTEES from all around the world converged at Prayagraj Kumbh and they experienced the purity of Ganga. Similar efforts are under way for Haridwar Kumbh. Under 'Namami Gange' ghats have been beautified a modern riverfront has been constructed at Haridwar. Museum connected with the heritage of Ganga is going to be a new medium of connection to the tourists."

THE river Ganga is more than just a river, it has been and it will be one of the most important rivers of India, not only for its history, rich heritage and culture but also its economic and ecological importance. Considered as the lifeline for millions of people, River Ganga is facing several challenges from high levels of pollution, resulting from domestic and industrial wastes, non-point sources of pollution from agricultural run-off containing pesticides etc.

With the objective of restoring the wholesomeness of River Ganga, the Government of India launched the ambitious programme of Namami Gange under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. It is a flagship programme for rejuvenation of Ganga and its tributaries. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementing authority of this integrated programme, launched at a monumental scale of Rs. 20,000 crores with assured funding consisting of multi sectoral, multi-agency and multi-level interventions.

Under Namami Gange, the focus is on the inter-linking of Ganga and the cities along the Ganga river. To rejuvenate the river, it is important to focus on the urban agglomeration along the river. Through the Mission, the focus now has been shifted from pollution abatement to urban renewal not only in the sector of water and sanitation but

also through providing the open spaces to the cities so that nature and urban population can co-exist together. The Namami Gange programme can be placed into four categories ie. Nirmal Ganga, Aviral Ganga, Jan Ganga and Gyan Ganga.

A total of 326 projects have been sanctioned under the Namami Gange programme at a cost of over Rs. 29186 crores. 137 projects have been completed and the remaining are at various stages of execution. Pace of execution and consequently the expenditure has also increased many folds with the expenditure for FY 2019-20 being Rs. 2673.09 crores as compared to Rs. 170.99 crores in FY 2014-15.

Namami Gange Interventions in Uttarakhand



26 MLD STP, Rishikesh



5 MLD STP, Muni Ki Reti



68 MLD Jagjeetpur STP, Haridwar



1 MLD STP, Badrinath

UTTARAKHAND state has a deep association with the Ganga River. The entire state falls in the Ganga basin area and all the important cities of the state are located along the banks of the Ganga or its tributaries. Under Namami Gange, a total of 52 projects of sewerage infrastructure, Ghats and crematoria, biodiversity, Afforestation etc. have been sanctioned at the cost of Rs. 1514.34 Crore which are at different stages of implementation.

A total of 34 sewerage projects of Uttarakhand were approved with a total treatment capacity of 165 MLD and 181.72 km of sewer network under Namami Gange project, out of which 32 projects were approved for the towns on Ganga, Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river and 2 projects on tributaries, Rispanda-Bindal and Kosi river.

There are total 17 cities along the banks of Ganga river and other holy rivers Alaknanda and Bhagirathi in Uttarakhand. STPs have been completed at Gopeshwar, Joshimath, Karnaprayag, Tapovan, Muni ki Reti, Rishikesh, Swargashram and Haridwar, Badrinath. All STPs are functioning smoothly. About 80% of the total sewage of Uttarakhand in Haridwar, Rishikesh region is produced here, so all these STPs are very important for the cleanliness of Ganga river.

Haridwar - Haridwar-Rishikesh zone is a major contribution (80%) of sewage load into the river Ganga. Haridwar is one of the most revered pilgrim centres in India. The town not only attracts Indian pilgrims but also has a large number of foreign tourists. In Haridwar, the sewage generation was 114 MLD (for the

year 2016) and will be 150 MLD (for year 2035), against that the sewage treatment capacity present was only 45 MLD which also required upgradation. Beneath the comprehensive approach under Namami Gange, 45 MLD has been upgraded and new STPs of 82 MLD capacity created bringing the total capacity to 145 MLD. Construction of a new 18 MLD STP at Sarai was completed in 2019 and was inaugurated in presence of King & Queen of Sweden. As a dedication to the nation, Hon'ble PM has inaugurated 27 MLD Jagjeetpur, 18 MLD Sarai upgradation and 68 MLD STP at Jagjeetpur on 29th Sep 2020. 68 MLD STP at Jagjeetpur is the 1st sewerage project which is awarded under Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). In Haridwar more than 20 drains have been tapped, these drains also include the infamous Kasavan Nala. Now more than 11 crore liters of contaminated water is being

cleaned every day in Haridwar, due to which the quality of Ganga water has improved significantly.

Rishikesh - It is also one of the most important towns on Ganga in Uttarakhand. Rishikesh is internationally famous for Yoga and other tourist activities. The sewage generation for the town was 14.6 MLD (for the year 2016) and will be about 26 MLD (for the year 2035). The sewage treatment capacity present in the town was only 6 MLD against the sewage generation of 14.6 MLD. Under the Mission new STP of 26 MLD capacity has been constructed and inaugurated by Hon'ble PM as a dedication to the nation. Though the allowed working hour at the location was only 3-4 hours per day, the project was successfully completed within two years from the start of work.

Muni Ki Reti - The Dhalwala area in Muni ki Reti, has grown very fast due to its proximity to Rishikesh. There was no treatment plant to

clean the sewage discharged from homes and hotels till 2014 and all the dirty water of the city was directly falling into Ganga River. Tapping of Chandrashwar Nagar Nala, which is major drain in Muni ki Reti has been completed. Due to settlements on the banks of the river, sufficient land was not available for STP. To resolve the land issue the first four-storey 7.5 MLD STP in the country has been constructed. Similarly, construction of a new STP of 5 MLD has also been completed in Chopani. The sewage treatment capacity in Muni ki Reti city has now increased from zero to 12.5 MLD.

Badrinath - The sewage generation for the town was 0.8 MLD (for the year 2016) and will be about 1.2 MLD (for the year 2035). There was no existing treatment capacity present in the town till 2014. Two STPs with capacity 1.01 MLD have been completed at the sanctioned cost of Rs. 18.23 Cr. in Badrinath and inaugurated by Hon'ble PM.

The Sewage treatment capacity in Uttarakhand in 2014 was limited to only 61.5 MLD. Out of this, 45 MLD capacity needed improvement. Under Namami Gange, 45 MLD STP capacity has been rehabilitated and 153 MLD new capacity has been created. This has improved the sewage treatment capacity to 214.5 MLD, adequate for 15 years

With the commissioning of all these STPs, the water quality of Ganga river has improved, now the water quality of Ganga has become 'A' class in entire Uttarakhand, which is the best river water quality. The results of Namami Gange's efforts have started appearing on the ground.



7.5 MLD STP, Muni Ki Reti, 1st 4 Story Sewage Treatment Plant

Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat



"NAMAMI GANGE is an integrated and a very comprehensive program aiming for Nirmal and Aviral Dhara of the River Ganga. The aim is to minimize the gap between sewage generation and sewage treatment by constructing sewerage infrastructure and keeping it operational complying to the notified standard by incorporating operation and maintenance component with the projects. In Uttarakhand, there was a significant shortfall in the treatment capacity created and the sewage generation. Namami Gange through its comprehensive approach is working on the urban renewal in the state of Uttarakhand by working on different aspects of river rejuvenation connecting with the urban planning. To prevent sewage entering into river Ganga from the state, Namami Gange Programme has augmented the treatment capacity of Uttarakhand by many folds. Creating open spaces for the people where they can re-connect with the river is an important step towards making people aware of their role in keeping the natural resources in the best of health. Realizing the necessity of the people river connect, a much-needed public space, Chandi Ghat RFD has been constructed. To attract tourists and make people aware about cultural, ecological importance of Ganga and about the Govt. interventions for rejuvenating the river, a Ganga Museum has been developed."

Hon'ble MoS Ministry of Jal Shakti Shri Rattan Lal Kataria



"NAMAMI GANGE is a flagship programme of the Government of India for rejuvenation of Ganga and its tributaries. Namami Gange mission has shifted its approach from Ganga main stem to river basin approach. The efforts of Ganga rejuvenation cannot be achieved until its tributaries are also rejuvenated. Under the Mission, Namami Gange have taken up projects on 12 important tributaries of the Ganga. Yamuna is an important and second largest tributary of river Ganga which originates from Yamunotri Glacier in Uttarakhand. Out of 38 projects sanctioned on the tributaries of river Ganga under Namami Gange, 20 projects have been sanctioned on river Yamuna alone. Starting from Poanta Sahib in Himanchal Pradesh, Sonapat & Panipat in Haryana, Delhi to Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, projects have been sanctioned all along the Yamuna river to curb the sewage pollution."

Public Spaces: River water fronts have the potential to become the recreational and cultural hubs of the city and have emerged as lively urban face. It has potential to create Environmental Awareness for cleanliness of river. River water front development would greatly enhance Ecological Awareness and tourism for the river edge and thus prevent disposal of untreated sewage into the river, and also prevent solid waste dumping on the river banks.

Under the Mission, 13 projects to create 25 Ghats and 26 Crematoria are sanctioned in important towns of Uttarakhand at a cost of Rs 259.83 Crore. A river front has been developed for the people of Haridwar at Chandi Ghat at a cost of Rs 69.18 Cr. Murals and facelift have also been carried out at prominent places in Haridwar like clock tower, Chandi Ghat and Way to Mansa Devi Temple.

Ganga Museum: - A Ganga Museum named 'Ganga Avlokani' has been developed in the building built on Chandi Ghat. This is an effort to make people aware of cultural importance of river Ganga, biodiversity and efforts being made for its conservation. A souvenir shop has also been developed which will also facilitate marketing of products made by trained Ganga Praharis mainly from the Ganga villages at the community level. Such efforts will give us strength in the direction of connecting all Ganga Praharis, Ganga defenders.

Afforestation and Biodiversity: - In Uttarakhand, the magnificence and purity of the Ganga river grows from the forests along its banks. It is believed that when water reaches the Ganga through medicinal plants, it gets medicinal properties. In this direction, progress has also been made in the scheme of scientific afforestation with the help of Forest Research Institute (FRI). A Ganga Aqualife Conservation and Monitoring Center has also been developed at the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for the growth of natural forests and the biological diversity of the Ganga.

Organic Farming: - Realizing that sustainable agriculture is the key for ensuring both Aviralta as well as Nirmalta of Ganga, scaling up the program for organic farming along Ganga has become a part of action plan of states and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare. Organic farming is done within 5kms on both sides of the river Ganga. The weather and geographical location of Uttarakhand are also suitable for special organic farming. Uttarakhand has been approved for organic farming on more than 50,000 hectares of land in 7 districts, adding from previous years (840 hectares). The products of organic farming of Uttarakhand can get better prices in open markets. Uttarakhand will play an ideal role in developing a corridor of organic agriculture near Ganga River.

Ganga Utsav: - Ganga Utsav was started with an aim to connect masses to the cause of river rejuvenation and sensitise them about ecological issues through conversations and entertainment. In 2020, Ganga Utsav was for the first time organised virtually because of COVID 19 guidelines. The Utsav was a fun-filled occasion with a variety of events which included, in conversation series with eminent personalities like Rajiv Khandelwal, Rajiv Malhotra and Dr. Anil Joshi. Live performances by Kailash Kher, Vasvati Mishra, a Kathak dancer and Kabir Café. A special message from Sadhguru and storytelling by Neelash Mishra and Anand Neelkanta were major attractions of the event. Mini Ganga Quest by Tree Craze Foundation saw participation from schools across the country. In Uttarakhand, various events, competitions, cleanliness drives and awareness programs were also organised locally to celebrate Ganga Utsav 2020.



Ongoing Afforestation Activity



Ganga Museum Haridwar



Chandi Ghat Haridwar

STUDENTS' PROTEST AT AYODHYA COLLEGE

Sedition charge dropped, probe to continue: police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 28

THE SEDITION charge invoked against six persons, including students of government-run K S Saktet Degree College in Ayodhya district, has been dropped, police said on Monday, adding that their investigation into other charges, including rioting and criminal intimidation, would continue.

The six were booked for sedition after the college principal lodged a complaint accusing them of raising "anti-national slogans calling (for) azadi". The students said they were only protesting against the non-conduct of union elections at the college, and their slogans were directed at the principal and the chief proctor.

"No evidence was found against the students for the sedition charge, and hence it has been dropped. The investigation will continue into the other charges," Inspector (Ayodhya Police Station) Ashutosh Mishra said on Monday.

An FIR was lodged against the six — Sumit Tewari, Shesh Narayan Pandey, Imran Hashmi, Satwik Pandey, Mohit Yadav and

Six students were booked for sedition after the principal accused them of raising 'anti-national slogans calling (for) azadi'

Manoj Mishra — on December 18 under IPC Sections 124-A (sedition), 147 (rioting) and 506 (criminal intimidation), apart from charges of obstructing public servants.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Sunday, the college principal, N D Pandey had said, "Students had raised anti-national slogans that are raised at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi... that they will fight for azadi (freedom). What kind of azadi do they want? They wanted elections, we are still in the process of admissions. How can elections be held?"

Linking the matter to the Ram temple, Pandey added. "This is such a sensitive place in Ayodhya, barely 500 metres from the Janmabhoomi. We need to look out for anti-national activities."

Nearly a year on, Mumbai cops chargesheet 36 protesters

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

NEARLY A year after a protest was staged at the Gateway of India against the attack on students at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi, the Mumbai police on Monday filed a chargesheet against 36 people over unlawful assembly. The metropolitan magistrate granted bail to 29 of them who were present before the court on furnishing a personal bond. The rest have also been sent notices to remain present.

Those named in the chargesheet are lawyers Mihir Desai, Susan Abraham, Lara Jesani, Lokshahi Sambhaji Bhagat, students and activists, including Suvarna Salve, Bilal Khan and CPI leader Prakash Reddy, among others. While the police in the chargesheet have named activist Umar Khalid as being present at the protest site, he has not been named an accused.

The nearly 80-page chargesheet, filed by Colaba police, claimed that around midnight on January 5, many, holding candles, began assembling at the Gateway of India following violence against students at JNU. The



Protests near Gateway of India against JNU violence. Express file

police said that the number of protesters eventually rose to 400. "The protesters were informed that they did not have permission to assemble and the designated place to protest was at Azad Maidan. This was ignored and the protest was continued at the spot," the chargesheet stated.

It added that the number of protesters later increased to over 2,000 as various organisations extended their support. The agitators raised slogans against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Delhi police, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah among

others. The police have also cited 153 banners used in the protest, CCTV footage obtained from the Taj Hotel, photographs and videos taken by policemen and others during the agitation as evidence.

The 36 referred to as participants in the protest are charged with the same sections as mentioned in the FIR — Section 143 (member of an unlawful assembly), Section 149 (every member of an unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) of the Indian Penal Code, Section 37 (3) of the Bombay Police Act, 1951, which allows the police to "prohibit any assembly or procession whenever

and for so long as it considers such prohibition to be necessary for the preservation of the public order" and 135 of the Bombay Police Act, which authorises arrest and punishment for violations of Section 37. The maximum punishment under these sections is up to one year imprisonment.

The police had registered two FIRs, one at Colaba and another at MRA Marg, for the protests held to condemn the JNU violence. A chargesheet is yet to be filed in the second case. Multiple cases were also registered across the city on charges of unlawful assembly where protesters gathered to raise their voice against the CAA.

"There were thousands including sitting ministers who had gathered in this democratic process which was called spontaneously to uphold constitutional values and rights. It is unfortunate that only a handful of students, lawyers and activists have been chosen and named in the chargesheet among all those who participated. We hope that the cases are withdrawn," said Jesani, who is a part of the delegation, and has been named in the chargesheet.

The case has now been adjourned to March 23.

Key accused in BJP leader's murder says Cong MLA's brother 'ordered' killing: police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, DECEMBER 28

IN A major breakthrough for the Dahod district police investigating the alleged contract killing of Jhalod Municipal councillor and BJP leader Hiren Patel on September 27, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has detained key conspirator, Imran Gudala, and BJP leader Hiren Patel on September 27, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has detained key conspirator, Imran Gudala, who has confessed that the "killing was ordered" by Amit Katara, son of former Dahod MP, Babu Katara, and brother of sitting Congress MLA, Bhavesh Katara.

The ATS detained Gudala, accused number seven who was on the run since October, from Mewat in Haryana on Sunday and brought him to Ahmedabad, from where Dahod district police will seek his custody. ATS officials said that Gudala has confessed that Amit Katara had "ordered" the killing.

Speaking to reporters in Ahmedabad on Monday, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Superintendent of Police, Gujarat ATS, said, "Three days ago, home minister Pradeepsinh Jadeja held a meeting with Dahod police officers and also called ATS officers to the meeting to instruct that the accused must be arrested soon... we received information that he was hiding in Mewat in Haryana... He has said that he handed over the contract to bump off Patel at the behest of Amit Babu Katara."

Amit Katara's wife, Kinjal, was the president of the Congress-led Jhalod Municipality from February 2018 to August this year. It was after a high-stakes election of the president and vice-president of the local body that Patel allegedly tilted the scales in favour of the BJP allegedly by orchestrating "cross-voting" from three Congress members. Shaikh, later told The



BJP leader Hiren Patel

Indian Express, "Gudala has named Amit Katara and said that he facilitated the money to be given to co-accused Ajay Kalal for executing the contract. Kalal, in turn, gathered the team of executors."

The ATS team has been searching several locations in the country for weeks. Shaikh added, "We had been trying to nab him for days. He eluded arrest for close to two-and-a-half months. This time, we had a confirmed input of his presence in Mewat in Haryana... We sought help from the local police... and detained Gudala on Sunday. Haryana police apprehended the person who sheltered him... We will now hand over Gudala's custody to Dahod district police."

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dahod, Paresh Solanki, who is also the investigating officer in the case, said, "We will bring him to Dahod... and officially arrest him in the case of culpable homicide amounting to murder, in our territorial jurisdiction."

Solanki said that while the district police will question Gudala after formally seeking his remand from the local court, the ATS has informed the Dahod police they Gudala has named Amit Katara in the crime.

On September 27 morning, when Patel stepped out for his morning walk around 6 am, the accused ran a Light Motor Vehicle (LCV) into him at a secluded spot at Muwada junction in Jhalod, which led to his death.

3 siblings locked in a room for nearly 10 yrs rescued in Rajkot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAJKOT, DECEMBER 28

THREE SIBLINGS in the age group of 39 to 42 years were rescued from a house at posh Kisanpara Chowk locality in Rajkot where they had locked themselves up for nearly a decade after their mother's death.

Members of Saathi Seva Group, a group of like-minded people working for people living on the streets led by Jalpa Patel, broke open the door of the room Sunday after the siblings — two brothers and a sister — stopped responding to the calls of their father, Navin Mehta.

On opening the door of the room, the volunteers found one of the brothers lying on the floor in a heap of papers and rags and another standing amid a garbage pile. Their sister was the only person in the room with clothes on. Mehta, who was present during the rescue drive, identified his sons Ambrish and Bhavesh and daughter Megha. "The siblings had locked themselves in the room after their mother died around eight to nine years ago. Despite being repeatedly persuaded to come out, they remained locked in the room," Mehta (80), a retired government servant, said. His wife was ill since

1986. According to the NGO volunteers both Ambrish (42) and Megha (39) looked emaciated when they were rescued, while Bhavesh seemed to be in a better physical condition. "Megha claimed she was alright but kept on asking for food every now and then. She seemed to be disoriented. Bhavesh wasn't talking yesterday when we managed to break into their room. However, on Monday, he started speaking in limited sentences," Patel, who also runs an auto-sales and finance business, said.

Mehta said Ambrish had been rendered immobile after he had a fall some time back. While his eldest son had BA and LLB degrees, Bhavesh was an economics graduate and Megha a postgraduate in psychology, he added.

The octogenarian, who draws Rs 34,000 monthly pension, said his sister cooks meals for the family which he delivers tiffin boxes to his three children. "Mehta said he would leave the food outside the door of the room and leave. He also claimed that he lived in the same house which has at least five rooms. However, we didn't find any of his personal belongings anywhere in the house. All that we found were papers, rags, and dirt in all the rooms," Patel told *The Indian Express*.



ABOUT 8 LAKH STUDENTS OF CLASSES 1 TO 8 WILL GET

DRY RATION UNDER THE MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

Keeping in view the health and nutritional needs of the children, a dry ration kit will be given to all children until schools reopen. Parents of children studying in Delhi government schools and government aided schools may avail the facility of Mid-Day Meal scheme by collecting dry ration kits from schools on any working day.

DRY RATION KIT DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

29th December, 2020 at 12 noon

Venue: Rajkiya Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Mandawali-3, Delhi

Chief Guest
Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour
Manish Sisodia
Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi



All of you are requested to wear your masks when leaving home and follow social distancing.



Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi

Car designer Dilip Chhabria held for 'forgery', 'cheating'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

THE MUMBAI police crime branch on Saturday arrested Dilip Chhabria, a well known car designer and founder of the DC design. The arrest was made in connection with allegations of cheating and forgery made against him.

The police remained tight lipped about the exact nature of the complaint. An officer however said that an FIR had

been registered in connection with a cheating complaint received via a vis a car designed by him. "A few days back we seized the vehicle and placed him under arrest on Saturday," the officer added. The vehicle was parked at the Mumbai police commissioner office on Monday.

Chhabria designed and manufactured the DC Avanti, which is considered as India's first sports car. His car modification studio is quite sought after and has several celebrities as his clients.



Atma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh Roadmap 2023



**PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE | GOOD GOVERNANCE
HEALTH AND EDUCATION | ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT**

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan,
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh determined to realise the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat

FOR ANY developing country, it is important to have a strong local economy. In our case, it becomes essential that every Indian state focuses on strengthening their local economy by providing a conducive business environment. State governments should focus on leveraging their state's potential to the maximum to turn their states into a hub of economic activities.

Taking a leaf out of PM Modi's ambitious Atmanirbhar Bharat and 'Vocal for Local' initiative, the Madhya Pradesh Government recently launched the 'Atma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh' campaign to give more focus on strengthening its local economy in every aspect. The roadmap to achieve this vision was recently unveiled by the MP Government after intensive discussions and brainstorming sessions, involving subject specialists, public representatives, and educationists on the themes of Physical Infrastructure, Governance, Health and Education, and Economy and Employment. Even NITI Aayog playing a crucial role came forward in helping Madhya Pradesh draw the roadmap to turn its vision of 'Atma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh' into a reality by 2023.

In improving Physical Infrastructure, the focus of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan led MP Government will be on improving road infrastructure, promoting travel and tourism



including rural and tribal tourism, ensuring inclusive urban growth and development and housing for urban poor, starting Incubation Centres for Start-ups, ensuring environment-friendly sustainable development, focussing on e-governance, increasing availability of piped water supply in rural areas, ensuring availability of drink-

ing water in 100 percent rural houses by 2024, and overall improvement in Transport & Logistics facilities in the state.

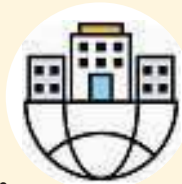
To provide Good Governance, the State Government will be empowering its citizens by improving public service delivery. Madhya Pradesh was the first state in the country to introduce Public Services Guar-

antee Act. Under the Act, the establishment of Public Services Guarantee Centres or Lok Seva Kendras in the state was an important step towards the service delivery system. The government will develop a Single Portal for Service Delivery.

In Health and Education, the focus of the State Government will be on strengthening and upgradation of health and education facilities, establishing Ayush Super Speciality hospitals in Bhopal and Indore, creating a conducive ecosystem for promoting research in health and education sector, improvement in the quality of education across all sectors.

To improve Economy and Employment in the state, the government will develop world-class industrial infrastructure, establish MP as the start-up development hub, promote higher crop productivity and diversification in agriculture, increase production of certified organic produce, among others. In the recent past, the state government has taken many initiatives that highlight its commitment to development of the state remains a top priority. No wonder then, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's ambitious Atma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh' campaign will definitely see the light of the day and the government is working continuously with same zeal and effort as it has done in the past.

Physical Infrastructure



Madhya Pradesh, unlike other state of India, has a unique approach of spatially distributed development nodes spread across the state, facilitating the local economy and infrastructural development in the region. The development of physical infrastructure will not only create employment opportunities but also provide a balanced development for which a concrete and outcome oriented action plan has been prepared which will make the state self-reliant.

Road Infrastructure

- Fast Tracking of Flagship Projects: Chambal Progress Way & Narmada Express Way.
- Automation of all Toll plaza in the state & implementation of FASTag.
- Road Asset Management System will be constituted to determine the utility of roads & assess the technical condition of roads.

Travel & Tourism

- Promotion of monsoon tourism through "Buffer mein Sagar" initiative.
- Developing two Tiger Safaris in Kanha/ Pench/ Bandhavgarh
- To develop "theme based" circuits like Amarkantak, Ramayan circuit, Tirthankar circuit, Omkar circuit, Narmada Parikrama, Rural & Tribal circuit.
- Promotion of Rural Tourism and Tribal Tourism.
- Skill development of 20000 youth living around tourism places.

Urban Development and Housing

- Ensure inclusive urban growth:
- Food Security and Night Shelters, Livelihood, Expansion of DAY- NULM to all cities.
- Linking of 1,50,000 poor families in Self Help Groups
- Skill Development and Self Employment-Start up Incubation Centres in 7 cities & skill upgradation of 1 lakh unemployed youths.
- Housing for Urban Poor: Delivery of 3 lakhs EWS units in 378 cities.
- Ensure Environment Friendly Sustainable Development
- Sewerage, Sanitation, Solid Waste Management & Air Quality Management.
- Improve Urban Governance Through Legal, Fiscal & Administrative Reforms
- Improve Delivery of Urban Services
- E- Governance- All citizen services to be made online

Water Supply

- Completion of 100 piped water supply projects & ICT enabled SCADA system for 50 cities
- GIS based Storm Water Drainage master plan for all million+ cities for urban flood zoning & control.

Public Transport, City Traffic & City Illumination

- Expansion of bus base Intra City public transport from 14 to 20 cities.
- Installation of LED street lights in 100 cities through ESCO/ PPP model.

Revive Urban economy through urban planning

- GIS based development plans for all 1+ lakh cities.
- Implementation of TOD & TDR in 5 cities

Water

Drinking Water:

- Increasing the availability of piped water supply in rural areas by more than national average by March 21.
- To ensure availability of drinking water in 100 percent rural houses by 2024.
- FHTC to 26 lakh households in the current year.
- To train 50 thousand mechanics for repair of taps, electricity in 3 years.

Irrigation

- Allocation of 15 thousand crores as off budget loan from NBPL to compete Narmada Projects in coming 3 years.

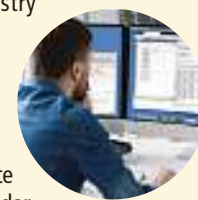
Energy

- Development of 600 MW Floating Solar Project at Omkareshwar Dam on Narmada River through TBCB route, with an investment of 3000 crores. This will be the world's largest floating solar project.
- Installation of 45000 solar pumps.

Transport & Logistics

- Develop Multi-Modal Logistic Hubs to transform Madhya Pradesh as the Storage & Logistics Hub of the Nation.
- Develop Digital Platforms for end-to-end integration of Logistics Operations.
- Establish Air Cargo Hubs for Perishable Goods.
- Streamline transport taxation policies to suit industry needs.

Good Governance



The aim of Good Governance is to empower citizens & improve public service delivery. Notable steps taken by the state on the matter have been in the form of Chief Minister's Jandashan Karyakram, Samadhan Online, Samadhan Ek Diwas, CM Helpline among others. Madhya Pradesh was the first state in the country to introduce Public Services Guarantee Act. Under the Act, the establishment of Public Services Guarantee Centres or Lok Seva Kendra's in the state was an important step towards the service delivery system.

- All Government database to be connected for information exchange (single citizen database).
- Single Portal for Service Delivery.
- Develop intelligent BOTS to pull all the relevant information for public service for taking a decision with least human intervention.
- CM Helpline to CM Citizen Care@ MP
- Digital verification of required documents for service delivery.
- Multiple payment options for services.
- Strengthen connectivity infrastructure across the state.
- Implementation of e-Office/centralized dak at Vallabh Bhawan.
- Dashboards for Districts & Departments to evaluate performance.
- Delivering education and telemedicine services online.
- Promotion of Emergent Technology in Government.
- Improving Transparency- Full digitization of all records- ensuring data accuracy and transparency.
- Increased People's Participation.
- Simplification of Act/ Rules/ Procedures.
- Ease of Living for Citizens- Centralized Platforms for "Know your Entitlement/ Schemes".
- Comprehensive Cadre review/ governance resource planning.
- Compulsorily all government employees to be mapped to HRMIS system.
- Internal grievance redress system.

Health and Education



To strengthen the Health & Education sector in the state numerous recommendations have been proposed and road map have been designed under the Atma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh.

- Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Reducing MMR (per 1 lakh live birth) from 173 to 100, IMR (per 1000 live birth) from 48 to 35, NMR from 35 to 25 and TFR to 2.1 by December 2024.
- Strengthening & upgradation of health and education facilities.

- Establishment of Ayush Super Speciality hospitals in Bhopal & Indore.
- Upgradation of established Ayurveda & Unani pharmacies.
- Reinforcement of network of public and private health laboratories.
- Reorganization of government departments and creation of coordination mechanism for better service delivery.
- Better outcomes in health & education programs through integrated deployment of Integrated ICT platforms.
- Improve quality of health and medical professionals including paramedical staffs.
- Creating a conducive ecosystem for promoting research in health and education sector.
- Emphasis on prevention and early diagnosis of illness.
- Improvement in the quality of education across all sectors.
- Improving the employability of students across technical education, skill development and higher education.
- Promotion of Private sector participation in the growth of Health and Education sectors.
- Better industry and academia interface in Technical and Higher education.

Economy and Employment



Madhya Pradesh has adopted a sustainable approach to development and has transformed itself from one of the "Bimaru" states into a performing state and is now striving to become one of the developed states of the country.

The state had taken several concrete steps to attract investment, simplified various procedures to start a business in 30 days and set up an online system for the same. Due to these efforts Madhya Pradesh is ranked 4th in "Ease of Doing Business" list as per the State Business Reform Action Plan 2019.

The state is focussing on infrastructure development in agriculture and allied sectors and by developing the infrastructure it is attracting the industries and thereby generating employment.

Agriculture and Allied Sectors

- Promote higher crop productivity and diversification in Agriculture.
- Rapid adoption of available Agri technology in improving risk mitigation in Agriculture.
- Increasing production of certified organic produce.
- Reforms in Agri marketing to attain the goal of one nation one market.
- Agriculture and Horticulture value addition to be promoted.
- Improve the quality of livestock.
- Making of "Knowledge Portal" and doing "Yuva Samvad" to attract youth in animal husbandry sector.
- Expansion of dairy business in villages.
- Fisheries and Sericulture for additional employment.

Industry & Skill Development

- Development of world class industrial infrastructure, rendering MP as the most preferred business destination.
- Establish MP as the start-up development hub.
- Enhancing the skillset of the workforce in the state.
- Increase in contribution of forest based economic activities.
- Promoting sustainable forest resource ecosystem.
- Scientific excavation of mineral resources and providing new employment in the mining sector.
- Enhancing economic activities in trade and commerce sector.
- Strengthening business supportive services.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

SYSTEMS CHALLENGE

As policymakers give shape to NEP and Atmanirbhar Bharat, they must nurture institutional frameworks that enable research

IN SEPTEMBER, SPEAKING on the New Education Policy (NEP), Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined the importance of the knowledge economy. "We are working to make India a knowledge economy, to tackle brain drain," he said. The policy, indeed, talks of "nurturing creativity", enhancing "employability" and inviting foreign institutions to set up campuses. But these should be seen as only the first steps towards building capacities. As an investigation by this paper — which tracked 86 men and women who stood first in India, between 1996 and 2015, in their Class 10 and 12 exams — has shown, creating an atmosphere that can cater to the aspirations of youngsters wanting to pursue cutting edge research will require addressing multiple challenges. These pertain to funding, academic autonomy, designing robust processes for recruitment of faculty, counselling arrangements for early-career researchers, and systems to help overcome the many barriers to equality and diversity.

The number of universities in the country has grown nearly 40 times since independence. Unfortunately, however, an overwhelming majority of these institutions are veritable rubber stamps for degree certificates. A handful of research institutes, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, the Indian Institute of Science or some of the IITs, for example, do conduct cutting edge research. But these institutes are, by and large, outside the university system. Most Indian universities are too encumbered by regulatory shackles to have the freedom to design courses, find creative ways to raise funds, engage with other institutions — in the country and elsewhere — and devise mechanisms of collaboration with industry. As this paper's investigation shows, an academic system that does not encourage the free flow of ideas between industry and academia does not fit the bill for several bright minds of the generation that has come of age after the country opened up in the 1990s. A contrasting example is that of the US — the preferred destination for most students interviewed by this paper — where universities have incubated cutting edge research. The role of Stanford University's engineering department in building Silicon Valley's tech-boom is well-known. In return, the university's entrepreneurial alumni have created an endowment system that has strengthened Stanford's links with the information economy. Similarly, the pharma major, Pfizer, and the University of California in San Diego have created systems to combine academic thinking with drug development expertise.

Translating the NEP's emphasis on research to honing creativity will require a fundamental shift in university admission processes. The unrealistically high cut-offs speak of an education system that does not encourage creative learning. For those hobbled by caste, class and gender, this system creates another cycle of deprivation and in so doing, robs academia of the diversity required to create thriving knowledge hubs. Such a milieu is also likely to be at odds with the government's thrust on self-reliance, Atmanirbhar Bharat. In the coming months and years as policymakers finetune the NEP and give shape to Atmanirbhar Bharat they will have to find ways to circumvent several social and institutional roadblocks, shed a lot of baggage.

SQUEEZE IN BENGAL

Left-Congress pitch their alliance as alternative to TMC and BJP. Polarisation will present hurdle for a third front

THE CONGRESS AND CPM have announced that they will jointly contest the upcoming West Bengal assembly elections. The two parties had an informal understanding in some assembly seats in 2016, but they fought the 2019 general elections separately. The contours of the alliance — from seat distribution to a common agenda or manifesto — are still to be worked out, but its leaders evidently hope that voters will view it as a third option to the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the BJP in the state. This will pose a formidable challenge in a state where increasing polarisation would appear to be turning electoral politics into a direct contest between the TMC and BJP.

The emerging political situation in West Bengal seems not to encourage multi-polarity or offer hospitable ground for a third front. Moreover, both Congress and CPM have been shrinking since 2011, when the TMC ended 34 years of Left Front rule in the state. The TMC repeated the success in 2016 by trouncing the Left and weaning away leaders, legislators and cadres from both the Congress and Left parties. As the CPM and Congress retreated, the BJP, eager to spread its footprint, has moved into the opposition space. Its remarkable rise became evident in the 2019 general election, when it won over 40 per cent votes and 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats. Since then, the BJP has mounted a campaign of aggressive outreach with Hindutva rhetoric, predatory politics (inviting leaders from other parties), and intensive targeting of the state government, including through central ministers and the office of the governor. In the process, the BJP has all but turned state politics into a bipolar affair, with the party occupying one pole. The Left, losing cadres and leaders to the BJP, has been unable so far to mobilise on the ground and appears to have ceded space on agendas such as federalism and secularism to the TMC. The Congress-Left tie-up is also complicated by the fact that the two parties will be adversaries in Kerala, where elections are due at the same time.

Ironically, the West Bengal Congress has aligned with the Left against the TMC at a time when the latter has received support from Congress chief ministers in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, besides other regional leaders including Sharad Pawar, in its stand-off with the Centre. Legacy issues, local animosities and, perhaps, egos, will present challenges in the consolidation of anti-BJP forces in West Bengal.

LITTLE BROTHERS

Municipal Corporation of Gurugram needs to pause and rethink its plan to make children 'challan' their families

THE GOOD PEOPLE at the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) are lucky, perhaps, that Lieutenant Colonel Frank Slade is fictional. Had he been around, instead of being a character played by Al Pacino in *Scent of a Woman* (1992), the MCG would certainly have received a tongue-lashing for its Christmas week launch of the "Family Sanitation Challan Book". Essentially, children will be taught, through "play", to inform on their families and friends, "to make them vigilant and to create an atmosphere in households where people are aware and keep checking each other," according to MCG Joint Commissioner Dheeraj Kumar. These young "Sanitation Captains" will write up their families if they do not segregate waste, use plastic bags or litter. Clearly, 2021 is a long way from 1984 — Big Brother, going forward, is set to become a cottage industry.

To be fair to the MCG most government entities like to create a citizenry in their own image — bureaucratic, officious, eager to prosecute. After all, why shouldn't children be footsoldiers for the authorities? And isn't it the responsibility of the government authorities to train good citizens, who will place the common, national interest over more prosaic loyalties?

Here's where Colonel Slade comes in. In the film, he chews out the headmaster of a private elite school for rewarding students who "rat" on their friends, and punishing the only one who doesn't. Integrity, he argues, consists not in pointing fingers at others but in taking responsibility. The character understood that it is in the defence of high ideals — nation, society, *swachhata* and state — that petty power takes root and innumerable little cruelties are put in place. What Sanitation Captains need to learn, really, is a lesson from a fictional colonel.



HARISH DAMODARAN

IN NOVEMBER 2019, the Fifteenth Finance Commission submitted its interim report, wherein it proposed special "performance based incentives" to states that carried out agriculture sector reforms.

These reforms specifically pertained to their enacting and implementing all features of the Union Agriculture Ministry's Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 and Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2018.

"We recommend that State Governments take preparatory action by securing the passage of these Bills in their respective legislatures in 2020-21 to become eligible to avail the grants awarded by us from 2021-22 onwards," stated the report.

On February 1, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Union Budget for 2020-21 speech, said that the Centre would "encourage those state governments who undertake implementation" of its model farm reform laws.

Note the tone, tenor and language used: Both the Finance Commission's report and the Finance Minister's budget talked about "incentivising" and "encouraging" states to liberalise their agricultural markets by promoting competition and allowing seamless trading of produce. This could be through enacting new or amending their existing APMC (agricultural produce market committee) legislation in line with the Centre's model acts.

Cut to June 5, which was when the Narendra Modi government promulgated the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Ordinance and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, apart from a third Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. All the three Central ordinances were subsequently passed and enacted by Parliament in September.

The mystery question: What happened between February and June for the Modi government to discard its earlier plan of incentivising/encouraging states in favour of the so-called constitutional route of forcing reform via Central legislation?

Before answering this, it is necessary first to examine the very basis of the "constitutional route" that was taken.



P J S PANNU

EVEN BEFORE the war with COVID-19 comes to an end, the world may be fighting a new war — the 5G War. Nations ready with 5G technology are on the threshold of beginning an invasion into markets of those who have no clue as to what it is all about. The 5G technology is set to not only bring unimaginable benefits to mankind, but also many hidden hazards to privacy. It may act as a honey pot, difficult to resist. Information and data, as we all know, are the prime movers of the IOT (Internet of Things) and 5G as its most efficient enabler, may have an ability to access and control the data of individuals, groups or even nations.

The recent news of China and Nepal agreeing to increase the height of Mount Everest by three metres may look insignificant. But a deeper analysis reveals that it could lead to an invasion by Chinese 5G technology. Such capability has the ability to control Nepal's mountaineering and tourism industry. The launch of 5G in Nepal would mean that Nepal's business interests could pass into Chinese control. Real-time information on weather, routes, map/terrain details, logistics and rescue programmes, etc, could be based on Chinese 5G, thus making locals or visitors to Nepal dependent on it. China is also a major stakeholder in Mount Everest since it lies on their common border. A related development of infrastructure along the borders, where most mountaineering sites are, could make Nepal's borders vulnerable and damage its tourism industry. With lower



The farm law mystery

What made Centre change its approach from incentivising states (February) to forcing down reforms (June)?

By Harish Damodaran

Article 246 of the Constitution clearly places "agriculture" in entry 14 and "markets and fairs" in entry 28 of the State List. The Centre has powers to regulate "inter-state trade and commerce" falling in entry 42 of the Union List. A simple reading of these would indicate that laws relating to agricultural produce marketing can only be made by states. The Centre can encourage, incentivise, persuade and cajole states. However, it cannot legislate on its own.

That's where some creative interpretation of the Constitution has been resorted to. Entry 33 of the Concurrent List covers "trade and commerce" in all foodstuffs, cattle fodder, raw cotton and jute. That includes not just inter-state, but also "trade and commerce within the state". While intra-state trade in farm produce is ordinarily under entry 26 of the State List, being a Concurrent subject allows the Centre to also enact legislation. Further, in the event of any conflict between the two, the laws made by Parliament shall prevail over those of the states — their APMC Acts in this case.

Such interpretation is not unproblematic, though. To start with, one must ask what constitutes "agriculture". Agriculture isn't just about field preparation, sowing seeds, irrigation, applying fertilisers and crop protection chemicals, and harvesting. It encompasses everything that a farmer does, from production and harvesting to the sale of his/her crop.

The act of sale by a farmer — be it at an APMC mandi, private procurement centre, warehouse, silo, cold store, processing plant or even the farm gate — is very much part of agriculture. Such sale amounts to "agricultural marketing", which is distinct from "trade and commerce". "Trade" begins only after the farmer has finished with the "marketing" of his/her produce.

The upshot of this is that the Centre is within its rights to enact laws promoting barrier-free trade of farm produce (inter- as well as intra-state) and also dismantling stockholding restrictions. But that can be only after the farmer has sold. While the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act exempting traders and processors from stocking limits passes the test, the same cannot be said of the other two Central farm laws. Regulation of first sale of agricultural produce by farmers — whether in mandis or via contract cultivation arrangements — is a 'marketing' responsibility of the states, not the Centre.

The Centre is within its rights to enact laws promoting barrier-free trade of farm produce (inter- as well as intra-state) and also dismantling stockholding restrictions. But that can be only after the farmer has sold. While the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act exempting traders and processors from stocking limits passes the test, the same cannot be said of the other two Central farm laws. Regulation of first sale of agricultural produce by farmers — whether in mandis or via contract cultivation arrangements — is a 'marketing' responsibility of the states, not the Centre.

That brings back the original question: What really changed after February to prompt the Modi government to go for the "constitutional route"? How did the incentive-based push (for a model agricultural produce "marketing" law to be adopted by states) give way to a shove from above (of a farmer' produce "trade and commerce" ordinance)?

One popular theory is that the pressure for the sledgehammer approach, even at the cost of violating constitutional federalism principles, came primarily from the likes of Reliance, Adani and Amazon.

Truth be told, there was nothing in the existing APMC Acts preventing corporates from opening purchase centres to source produce from farmers, directly or otherwise. Many states issued unified or single licences allowing them to buy from any APMC mandi. All they had to do was pay the market fee applicable within the particular APMC's jurisdiction. While charged even for transactions outside its physical mandi premises, it was never such a big deal.

Nor was it the case that billions of dollars were waiting to be invested in India's agro-processing sector, predicated on the immediate passage of the three reform bills. No such deluge followed Bihar's scrapping of its APMC Act in 2006. Why are corporates and large feed millers even today reliant on middlemen/aggregators there, when they can well procure corn straight from farmers' fields?

It leaves the only plausible explanation for the Modi government's shoving its farm bills through Parliament sans any deliberation or even proper drafting — that too, in the midst of a national pandemic. Remember, it wasn't just the three agriculture bills, but also the three labour codes subsuming 25 existing laws that got passed in September. Both, together, were packaged as historic and pathbreaking reforms.

The context matters here. COVID-19, coupled with growing global investor interest in diversifying supply chains away from China, was seen as a possibility to convert "challenge into opportunity". The intent and timing of the reforms may have been to market India as the next great investment destination.

But for now, it is angry farmers, more than eager investors, who are knocking on Delhi's doors.

harish.damodaran@expressindia.com

THE 5G GREAT GAME

It is being played strategically by China. Indigenous tech is needed

By P J S Pannu

incomes, the tourism industry might get lured into Chinese cheap loans, leading to a strategic debt trap. The ramifications of such developments for India can only be imagined.

Chinese companies have made huge investments across the world to spread a 5G network that will encompass the planet — a "digital encirclement of the world". Combined with the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative), this encirclement would be complete. Intrinsic to the BRI is the fact that Chinese companies will build the digital infrastructure. Militaries who do not have indigenous 5G capabilities for IOT platforms and who allow Chinese 5G, could then become hostage to Chinese technology, as seen during the pandemic. The CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) is a clear example of how easy it is to encircle a country. Pakistan is today a virtual vassal state of China.

2020 has been no ordinary year — the Chinese have ensured that the world transits from the physical to a digital domain. The novel coronavirus has pushed people and businesses to "work from home". Internet providers are the busiest — connecting people. Militaries have been pushed to the borders, treaties and agreements are being signed, and a record number of military deals have happened. This year has witnessed the most unprecedented intensification of global military conflicts since the Gulf War. Nations are showing their military intent. AI applications have been at display in warfare, with drone killing machines being advertised.

There is no option left but to get the 5G technology now. The Chinese seem to have cast a die to capture the world virtually.

The good news is that India is likely to survive the onslaught of the Chinese 5G invasion if it accelerates the launch of Indian 5G. India is working on technologies that would enable it to launch Indigenous 5G that would run IOT platforms for civilian as well as military applications. The banning of Chinese apps and blocking of hardware supply chains would be the correct counteroffensive to protect the business and security interests of the country. The problem is India being poor in "implementation".

Our scientists and industry can bring technology at a winning speed, but where India starts losing out is in slow adoption, getting entangled in policy processes and the crosshairs of the bureaucracy. The current dispensation in Delhi realises the importance of winning this war. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been pushing for *aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance), with the success of Digital India being a priority.

India must get its timing right. The implementation of 5G, though a bit delayed, can make India a good alternative to China. But agreements like RCEP and China's other debt strategies will remain a larger threat to the world.

The writer is a former Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff and a distinguished fellow of USI. Views are personal

DECEMBER 29, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

BJP'S WARNING

THE BJP TODAY warned that the country was heading towards a crisis far worse than that of 1975 as the government had failed on all fronts. "Not only has the government miserably failed in solving any of the crucial issues facing the country but has failed to inspire confidence among the people reading its ability to solve them", goes a strongly worded statement of the party. Sikandar Bakht, a former Union minister and general secretary of the BJP, moved the resolution of the party on the political situation. He said that those who had promised a "government that works" have only ensured an administration that does not work. The BJP warned of

the "sinister designs" of the ruling party to replace the parliamentary system by the presidential system and push India under an authoritarian yoke.

ASSAM BANDH

THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT will make all efforts to ensure that normal work goes on in government offices during the 24-hour Assam Bandh slated for December 29. It is also the government's intention to see that banks and all establishments remain open and shops and markets do business as usual, the chief secretary Ramesh Chandra said. The bandh call has been given by the AASU and the AAGSP.

PANIC IN MANIPUR

THE SITUATION IN Imphal and neighbouring areas of the city is one of chaos, confusion and panic in the wake of the grenade attacks by extremists on December 26 and 27. The reports of grenade attacks and firing by the army in retaliation sent vendors and shopkeepers scurrying for cover. Many ran in panic leaving their shops open.

FIRING IN LEH

THE POLICE FIRED four rounds in the air to disperse a violent mob at Leh according to official reports. The police had to take recourse to the action after the mob set fire to the tehsil office.

India and the Anglosphere

Idea of English-speaking nations cooperating closely with each other, which is gaining primacy post-Brexit, offers possibilities that India is well-poised to take advantage of



RAJA MANDALA
BY C. RAJA MOHAN

AN ANGLOSPHERE — OR the world of English-speaking people bound by common political beliefs, similar legal traditions, and shared geopolitical interests — was among the main ideas that animated the political movement in Britain that successfully pulled London out of the European Union.

Sceptics have derided the Anglosphere as naive nostalgia for a long-lost empire. But with Brexit done and a trade deal in place with the EU, the Anglosphere is now likely to acquire some gravitas in British foreign policy. It could be a powerful complement to the United Kingdom's continuing commercial engagement with Europe and a new motor for Britain's independent political role in the world.

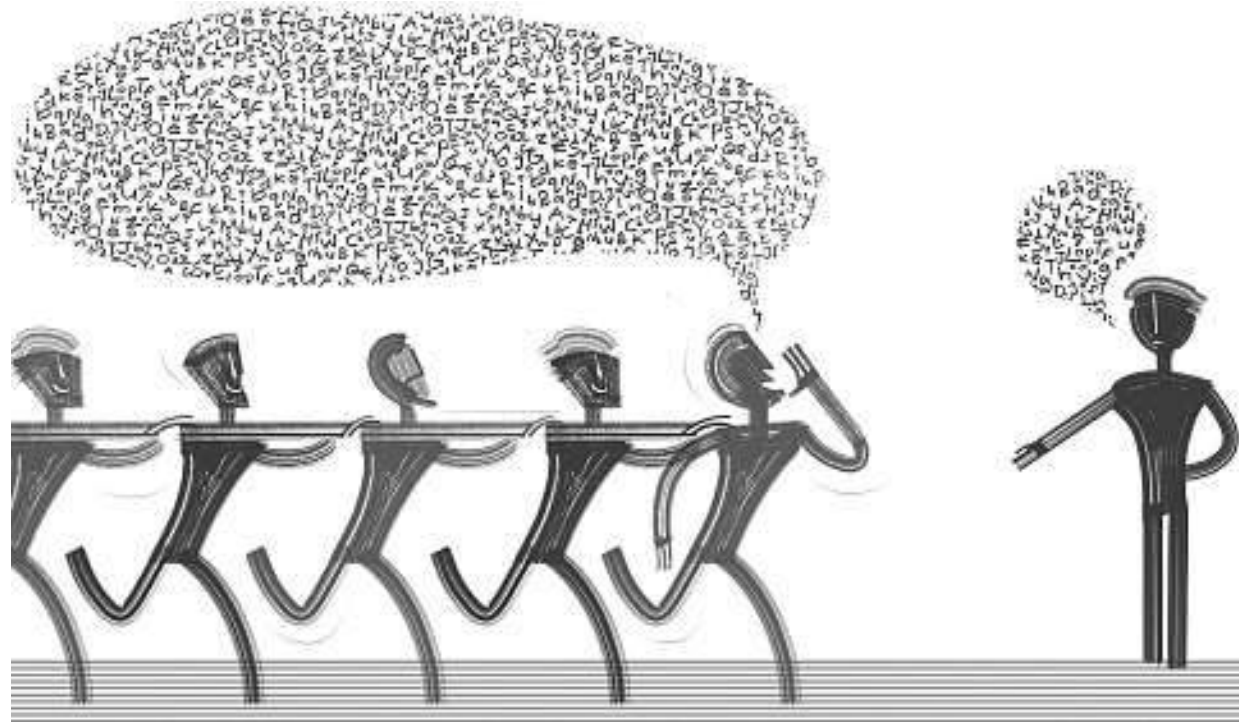
Defining the ambit and mechanics of the Anglosphere will certainly take time. Delhi would want to begin a conversation on the subject when it hosts British Prime Minister Boris Johnson next month as the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations. Many in Delhi ask why India should have anything to do with the resurrection of an idea that is rooted in London's colonial past. But if Delhi looks to the future rather than the past, it could find the Anglosphere an interesting framework to engage with.

The idea of the Anglosphere has a long lineage in Britain's history. In the late 19th century, Britain confronted deepening challenges to its global economic primacy and growing threats to the stability of the empire from within and rising powers from without. One response was to build a "Greater Britain" with imperial trade preferences and a common defence system. There were sweeping ideas of a single nation-state for the vast empire governed by a parliament sitting in London. But none of them was realistic. A modest version of this idea passed onto the Commonwealth as Britain's main international vehicle after the Second World War.

As European integration unfolded, Britain could not avoid the gravitational pull next door. It eventually opted for closer ties with Europe in the 1970s and the Commonwealth became less salient. Europe, however, was always a divisive subject in Britain, especially among the Conservatives who did not wish to see London cede its sovereignty to Brussels. And as the European project became more ambitious after the Cold War, a strong group of Eurosceptics resurrected the idea of London returning to its natural terrain — the Anglosphere.

The contemporary debate on the Anglosphere encompasses several ideas. One is the notion of a liberal, free-trading Britain that stands apart from the regulatory state and closed market that Brussels was building. Reinforcing this idea was the notion of a "Global Britain" that reclaims its global maritime orientation, and rebuilds its deep linkages with the English-speaking world.

While the idea of an Anglosphere gains ground, there is no agreement on who might constitute such a group and what it might do.



C R Sasikumar

For some, five nations — the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — are at the core of the Anglosphere. Others define it more narrowly — the so-called CANZUK group that excludes the United States. A broader view sees economic and strategic collaboration with other states like India, Ireland, Singapore and Japan as part of rebuilding the Anglosphere.

At present, only one institution reflects the possibilities of the Anglosphere — the so-called "Five Eyes" arrangement for intelligence sharing between the US, Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand. Extending the Five Eyes framework to the economic and security domain is an idea that has gained some recent traction.

Some imagine the CANZUK as a community that allows free flow of goods and talent within the core group. Others call for a military alliance that pools the resources of CANZUK to play a more influential role in the Indo-Pacific.

A combined CANZUK will be one of the world's large strategic entities with a GDP of nearly \$6 trillion and a defence expenditure of \$100 billion, which in theory could play a significant role in the world. Even if London pursues this vigorously, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will have to overcome much domestic political resistance to this venture.

In Delhi, the Anglosphere is quickly dismissed as a colonial construct. Those who let India's colonial past overwhelm its current strategic judgements, however, do great injustice to Delhi's gains in the international system, in absolute terms as well as relative to Britain. Five arguments present themselves in favour of the Anglosphere.

One, India's aggregate GDP crossed that of Britain a couple of years ago but has fallen a bit below this year. Britain and India today are at roughly \$2.7 trillion and occupy the fifth and sixth places in the GDP rankings. But India is well on its way to overtake Britain in the next few years and emerge as the third-largest economy in the world in the next decade.

Two, while the Indian elite continues to rant against colonial Britain in public, it relishes, in private, the deep comfort with the Anglo-Saxon elite. There is no such hypocrisy in the Indian middle classes that have unhesitatingly embraced the English speaking world. The US, Canada, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand re-

In Delhi, the Anglosphere is quickly dismissed as a colonial construct. Those who let India's colonial past overwhelm its current strategic judgements, however, do great injustice to Delhi's gains in the international system, in absolute terms as well as relative to Britain.

main the preferred Indian destinations for study, work and emigration.

Three, thanks to the relative openness of the Anglosphere, the Indian diaspora is thriving in these nations and is very much part of the political life in the English-speaking world. Kamala Harris will soon be sworn in as US Vice President. Three of Johnson's cabinet rank ministers are Indian and four of Justin Trudeau's ministers are of Indian origin. Indians are among the fastest-growing minorities in Australia and New Zealand.

Besides politics, Indians occupy countless positions in the national bureaucracies, private sector, and universities of the Anglosphere. The diaspora is of course a double-edged sword that cuts both ways as Trudeau's domestic politics reminds us. But here is the reality: India is already tied deeply to the Anglosphere, whether Delhi wants it or not.

Four, two other factors are equally important — the emerging economic complementarity between India and the Anglosphere as well as the shared geopolitical interest in constructing a stable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. These imperatives have already nudged India into a greater bilateral commercial and security cooperation with the prospective members of the Anglosphere. The question is whether it can be elevated to the collective level. India is already engaged with the Five Eyes on select issues.

Five, the Indian elite could emulate the Chinese in transcending the colonial mindset. The Chinese Communist Party, which never stops talking about Britain's Opium Wars, had come close to winning over Britain and the entire Anglosphere in recent years through the sheer power of its sustained economic investments, political engagement, and elite cultivation. It was Beijing's overreach that has recently put-off large parts of the Anglosphere. Delhi today can deal with the Anglosphere on its own terms and for mutual benefit. Unlike China, India does not have to work too hard to realise the natural potential of its cooperation with the Anglosphere.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

Gated Globalisation

Amid changing post-pandemic realities, India needs to be swift in identifying partners whom it can trust and who will help further its interests



JAYANT SINHA AND SAMIR SARAN

THE COVID-19 vaccines are coming. And along with this sanjivani comes a new age of geopolitics. The vaccines are varied, with different pricing points and affordability. Nations have secured their vaccine supplies from countries and companies they trust, often by forging new alliances. The scepticism over the vaccines from China and Russia shows that trust is the operating word in the post-pandemic era — and it is not limited to the choice of vaccines.

As we enter the third decade of the 21st century, a multipolar world awaits us. The US and China — rivals for the top slot till the pandemic hit the world — will now have to contend with traditional and rising powers like the UK, France, India and Brazil. Each country will engage with others selectively, not in every arena. We will see the rise of a New World Order driven by national interest, reliability of partners, and of course, economic factors. India has to use a "Gated Globalisation" framework to negotiate this change.

The security landscape will continue to drive partnerships, but these will no longer be omnibus alliances. India is locked in a confrontation with China in the Himalayas. The US and its traditional allies are ramping up their presence in the Western Pacific. A new Great Game is underway in the Indo-Pacific where the Quad is emerging. The Middle East is in a deep churn as Israel and Arabs discover Abrahamian commonalities. Europe is caught in a struggle to retain its values amid the diversity it has acquired over the years.

The Gated Globalisation framework requires that India should protect its interests in these unsettled times. Strong fences are necessary, but so is the creation of new partnerships (like the Quad) based on trust and common interests. Gated Globalisation has no place for parlour games like "non-alignment"; it will test the tensile strength of "strategic autonomy". The need for a new coalition was felt after Doklam and has become a necessity post-Ladakh: India needs friends in deed.

Beyond security, like everybody else, India has to make partnership choices on trade, capital flows and the movement of labour. The WTO's multilateral trading arrangements have frayed beyond repair. Whether it is RCEP in the Indo-Pacific, the new version of NAFTA called USMCA, or the reconfigured EU, countries will have to decide whether they belong inside these gated trading arrangements. India has chosen to stay out of RCEP and the UK has left the EU.

By imposing restrictions on trade with China, India faces restrictions on capital flows. But this does not preclude enhanced capital flows from new partners. To prevent inflow of illicit funds, India has barred capital from poorly-regulated jurisdictions. India's capital account for investment is largely open while its current account is carefully managed. Similarly, while restricting debt flows, India is open for equity flows from friendly countries. Other nations have similar policies. By managing capital flows in this manner, countries have enabled tighter financial relationships within their gated communities while shutting out those who are inimical to their interests.

India's global diaspora is now over 30 million and sends more through remittances (\$80 billion per year) than foreign capital inflows. The pandemic-enforced work-from-home may see the creation of new pools of skilled workers, living in virtual gated communities, further enhancing income from jobs physically located elsewhere. Moreover, the Indian diaspora is now increasingly impacting policy in countries like the US, UK and Australia where it has contributed politicians and technocrats, innovators and influencers, billionaires and cricket captains.

Finally, technology flows and standards will also define gated communities. The internet is already split between China and everyone else. The Great Firewall of China has shut out many of the big tech players like Google, Facebook and Netflix. Instead, China has its Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent. With the advent of 5G technology, this split will get deeper and wider over issues of trust and integrity.

The EU-crafted General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is an excellent example of Gated Globalisation. The EU has set the terms of engagement; those who do not comply will be kept out. The Indian law on data protection that is currently being discussed follows a similar sovereign route. However, it remains to be seen whether these norms can checkmate China's massive digital surveillance apparatus.

There are other emerging arenas that will likely become the focus of big power competition. China has moved in all possible directions to develop its global strategies. It has linked its national security interests with its Belt-and-Road Initiative and its debt programmes. It is offering a package deal of 5G technology with new telecom networks. China has learnt well from the US.

Amid these rapidly changing post-pandemic realities, India has to be swift in identifying partners whom it can trust and who will help protect and further its national interests. Ambiguity, lethargy and posturing will not do.

Sinha is chairman, Standing Committee on Finance in Parliament, and a Lok Sabha MP from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. Saran is President, Observer Research Foundation. Views are personal



ALANKRITA SHRIVASTAVA

IT'S BEEN THE strangest of years. A year that has made us so aware of our aloneness, and also a year that has reminded us that we are, at the end of it all, social beings. I guess making and watching films brought their own experiences of solitariness and the reminder that filmmaking is at its core a collective effort, and film viewing is different without the collective.

I have always lived alone, but my life is full of friends, family and colleagues and many collective experiences. I used to write amidst the frenzy and busy-ness in cafes, on flights and in airports. Now isolated from the world, I found that all the time and all the silence did not lend itself to any writing at all.

I was editing and doing post-production on a series. This entire work was done remotely. It has been an isolating feeling — just me and my many screens. That joy, that thrill of live interaction with your crew in studios spilling into conversations over chais, and coffees — it's been missing. With my editor and me, it was also many days of hanging out on video over editing apps. Some days we would put on the app, stare at each other and just drink our coffee. But we helped each other through many days when we felt low and pessimistic, by discussing the doom and finding sweet joy in discovering new home chefs — and, neither of us is the baking banana bread-type.

That a darkness that falls on humanity will take away the small joy of watching films in the darkened space of a theatre is something nobody could have imagined. Earlier, even

when the world has been at war, the cinema was a source of comfort. The physical, public space for watching films as a community would transport one into another world as a collective.

I believe humanity cannot survive without culture — without books, music, songs, plays, art, cinema. This pandemic, even though it deprived us of the physical cinema theatre, may have brought us closer to our need and love for stories. Just that we were watching on our private screens.

And the big screen, my God, I missed it. To be honest, all of last year, I don't think I watched more than eight to 10 films in the theatre. But that option always existed. To watch privately now is like reading a book. It's a more solitary, individual experience.

I felt the loss of the big screens most acutely when my new feature film had to skip a theatrical release. It broke my heart in many ways to not celebrate its release with my cast and crew, to not have screenings for friends and contemporaries, to not see it in the darkened space, the images larger than life. Yet, there was something novel about seeing it release simultaneously across the world on private screens. In the dark shadow of COVID, the private

screen seems to have found a new shine, a dynamic dazzle. It is this private watching that has saved many a film economically in these times, and many a viewer emotionally.

Many a restless, anxiety-driven day we have been comforted and reassured and entertained watching films and series available on screening platforms. In that sense, it is still stories that have been seeing us through this dark, shadowy time.

In a perverse way, it is this need for stories that drove a majority of Indians to lap up ghastly witch hunt-type "news" stories — the consumption and production of which proved beyond doubt that we are a country perhaps underserving of real stories.

The lack of humanity and deep-seated hatred that was revealed in the hearts of Indians was shocking, and sickening. I felt the pulsating frustration and depravity of Indian society in their screams to label a young woman a witch and burn her at the stake. Watching that ugliness made me ashamed and destroyed something inside me. That heartbreak too was suffered in isolation.

From the debris some hope still finds its way into the sky. 2020 is ending. Have we as storytellers learnt anything? Have we, as the watchers of stories, grown and changed?

AN EXPRESS IDEA SERIES

2021

COVID SHADOW, NEW YEAR LIGHT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A DEAL, AT LAST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'New Britain' (IE, December 28). The tariff-free trade agreement in goods that the UK and the EU inked days before the post-Brexit transition expires should mitigate somewhat the consequences of Britain's narrow decision in 2016. A catastrophic "no deal" scenario has been averted. Moreover, given the UK's reliance on the EU for about 75 per cent of its food product imports, the significance of zero duty trade for consumers and the retail economy cannot be exaggerated. Brexit's biggest trade-off for the ordinary citizen is perhaps the restrictions on the right to free movement and work.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'New Britain' (IE, December 28). The politics of nationalism in the UK that stirred the anti-European sentiments culminated in the outcome of the Brexit referendum going in favour of leaving the European Union. The UK is a formidable power in the geostrategic calculus of region and beyond, but short of being one with immense global stature. The geopolitical and geoeconomic aspect of being in a tighter embrace with its European allies gives it more prominence in the global high table.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

COVID LESSONS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Journal of a plague year' (IE, December 28). The virus tried to keep us isolated from one another. Yet, we adapted technology to connect with others and show compassion and

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● WHY ATMANIRBHARTA IN MEDICAL DEVICES NEEDS TRADE: K MADAN GOPAL

● HYPOCRISY AND THE NEOLIBERAL CONSENSUS: PREM SINGH

www.indianexpress.com

empathy. The successful development of vaccines is a remarkable story of scientific collaboration across countries and cultures. Paradoxically, the virus has managed to bring humanity closer than ever before. That our success lies in our interconnectedness is a valuable lesson we should never forget.

K Sahasranaman, via email

STILL UNCERTAIN

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Growth positive' (IE, December 28). Some green shoots are visible in the economy after the pandemic shock. However, the spurt in demand may not hold as the festive season comes to an end. One must not forget that uncertainty still looms large. It's not just the consumer, but also companies which are preferring to remain tight-fisted, exercising fiscal prudence.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

Shrivastava is a screenwriter and film director



GOLD

₹49,757



RUPEE

₹73.49



OIL

\$51.74



SILVER

₹68,156

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2240 IST

SENSEX: 47,353.75 ▲ 380.21 NIFTY: 13,873.20 ▲ 123.95 NIKKEI: 26,854.03 ▲ 197.42 HANG SENG: 26,314.63 ▼ 71.93 FTSE: 6,502.11 ▲ 6.36 DAX: 13,793.58 ▲ 206.35

International market data till 1930 IST

AMOUNT RAISED THIS CALENDAR YEAR 116% MORE THAN ₹82,241 CR IN 2019

Covid fails to dampen IPO boom: India Inc raises record ₹1.7 lakh cr

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

THE PRIMARY market witnessed an all-time high fund raising of Rs 1,77,468 crore by India Inc in 2020, 116 per cent higher than Rs 82,241 crore mobilised in 2019, despite almost the entire year being overshadowed by the Covid pandemic.

The previous highest amount raised in a calendar year was Rs 1,60,032 crore in 2017. "Strong retail participation in IPOs, huge listing gains and highest-ever amount raised through QIPs and InvITs and REITs were the key highlights of the year," said Pranav Haldea, managing director, PRIME Database Group.

According to Haldea, the continuing buoyancy in secondary markets as well as the listing performance of IPOs in the last few months have provided impetus to the primary market. The IPO pipeline continues to remain strong with 28 companies holding Sebi approval, wanting to raise nearly Rs 28,706 crore and another seven companies — wanting to raise nearly Rs 4,410 crore — awaiting Sebi's approval, taking the total mobilisation plan to over Rs 33,000 crore.

EXPLAINED Need for caution

WITH THE bull run on the stock markets taking the Sensex to new peaks, the IPO market is again in the spotlight. At a time when companies are lining up to raise funds from the market amid high valuations in the market, investors should be cautious before investing their hard-earned money.

Contrary to the despondency due to the pandemic, 15 mainboard IPOs came to the market, collectively raising Rs 26,611 crore. This was an increase of 115 per cent from the Rs 12,362 crore raised through 16 IPOs in 2019. The largest IPO in 2020 was from SBI Cards for Rs 10,341 crore. The average deal size was Rs 1,774 crore, it said. Of the 15 IPOs that hit the market, five had a prior PE and VC investment. Offers for sale by such PE and VC investors at Rs 8,026 crore accounted for 30 per cent of the total IPO amount. Offers for

sale by promoters at Rs 7,880 crore accounted for a further 30 per cent of the IPO amount, PRIME Database said.

According to Haldea, of the 15 IPOs, 13 companies had anchor investors, which collectively subscribed to 29 per cent of the total public issue amount. The domestic institutional investors played a significant role as anchor investors, with their subscription amounting to 13 per cent of the amount. This was, however, lower than the 16 per cent from FPIs, it said.

The overall response from the public to the mainboard IPOs of the year, according to Prime Database.com. Nine IPOs received a mega response of more than 10 times Mazagon Dock at (156 times) followed by Mrs Bectors Food Specialities (138 times), Chemcon Speciality Chemicals (102 times), Burger King (86 times), Happiest Minds Technologies (82 times), Rossari Biotech (55 times), Route Mobile (52 times), Computer Age Management Services (33 times) and SBI Cards (19 times).

As far as retail investors are concerned, the year witnessed tremendous response from them. The highest number of applications was received by SBI Cards at 26.95 lakh followed by Mazagon

Dock (23.56 lakh), Mrs Bectors Food Specialities (22.02 lakh), Burger King (19.75 lakh), Chemcon Speciality Chemicals (19.71 lakh), Happiest Minds Technologies (18.62 lakh), Computer Age Management Services (18.57 lakh) and Route Mobile (13.62 lakh).

According to Haldea, response to IPOs was further buoyed by strong listing performance of IPOs of the year. Of the 14 IPOs which got listed, 10 gave a return of over 10 per cent (based on closing price on listing date). Burger King gave a stupendous return of 131 per cent followed by Happiest Minds Technologies (123 per cent), Mrs Bectors Food Specialities (107 per cent), Route Mobile (86 per cent), Rossari Biotech (75 per cent), Chemcon Speciality Chemicals (72 per cent), Gland Pharma (21 per cent), Mazagon Dock (19 per cent), Computer Age Management Services (14 per cent) and Likhitha Infrastructure (14 per cent). Moreover, all 14 IPOs (listed thus far) are trading between one and 220 per cent above the issue price (closing price of December 24, 2020). However, activity in the SME segment further declined in 2020 in comparison to 2019.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Markets scale fresh peak



The Sensex settled at 47,353.

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

EXTENDING GAINS for the fourth straight session, the Sensex and the Nifty raced to new peaks on Monday, in line with broad-based rally in global equities as investors cheered a \$2.3 trillion US stimulus package and last-minute Brexit deal. The Sensex settled up by 380.21 points or 0.81 per cent at its all-time closing high of 47,353.75.

All 3 major US indices opened at record highs. The Dow rose 292.14 points, or 0.97 per cent, to 30,492.01, the S&P 500 gained 33.39 points, or 0.90 per cent, to 3,736.45 and Nasdaq added 70.75 points, or 0.55 per cent, to 12,875.49.

Tesla preparing to start operations in India by early 2021, says Gadkari

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

INDIAN COMPANIES and researchers will be able to develop electric vehicles that will be "equal to Tesla from the technology point of view," Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* at the Idea Exchange programme, Gadkari, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways and MSME, said that EV major Tesla would be starting operations in India early 2021.

"Tesla is preparing to start operations in India by early 2021. I am sure that there are a lot of EV which are equal to Tesla from the technology point of view. Indian manufacturers are doing a lot of research and changes. In due course of time you will get electric cars which will be equal to Tesla. I am confident and the cost will be very less," Gadkari said, adding that in due course India would be the "number one manufacturer" of electric vehicles like cars, bikes, trucks, tractors and construction machinery that run on electricity.

During the conversation with *The Indian Express* editors, Gadkari said Tesla will start operations first with sales and then maybe look at assembly and manufacturing based on the response to the cars.

In October, Tesla CEO Elon Musk had suggested that the company will come to India in 2021 while responding to a tweet from India. "Next year for sure," Musk had replied when a handle called Tesla Club India checked with him about the company's progress in India.

Gadkari said that a lot of small companies have started manufacturing electric scooters and bikes in factories in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country. And that there is already a lot of research going on to indigenously develop an alternative to lithium-ion batteries since most lithium-ion batteries are imported from China.

"There are some problems related to lithium-ion. Argentina has got huge reserves of lithium-ion. Our Indian players are also trying



Road Transport and Highways and MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari at the Idea Exchange programme via a weblink. Express



to get lithium-ion the world over. But this is also true that the Chinese have already picked up stakes in majority of the lithium-ion mines," he said, adding that Indian researchers were now trying to invent a better alternative to lithium-ion batteries.

"Take for example ISRO sending satellite, using a different type of batteries. Research is going on and our people are competent and we will get the solution for that. Sodium ion batteries are also in the process of being made. The research is in the final stages. I am very much confident about our IITs and engineering graduates. In this field we will get success. The sodium ion batteries are very cheap. So we may get the solution. We will be the number one manufacturer of electric bikes, scooters, tractors, trucks, and even construction equipment machinery of electric in due course," he said.

Speaking about the developing ecosystem for electric vehicles, Gadkari said that research is on to invent aluminium-ion batteries also and he has already inaugurated heavy construction machinery that run on electricity.

"We already have electric cars, bikes, vehicles, in the transport sector ... Again we are trying to EV-

based public transport system. Already a lot of people, small companies are making e-bikes and e-scooters in UP and different states in India. The crucial problem with EV is the lithium ion battery. Now we are encouraging people to make in India and "Made in India". One of the important thing is a lot of research is going on," he said.

"Important thing is already there is a lot of sale of the electric buses, like in Mumbai and Pune, Nagpur etc. They are there in airports also. Even electric tractor is now in the process of being manufactured. One of the leading companies wants to launch electric truck. Just 20 days ago I launched a JCB on CNG. So a lot of change is going on and we are a 100 per cent certain that it is very cost effective, import-substitute, pollution-free and indigenous. We have already in the process of making (vehicle) scrapping policy. With the scrapping policy, I am confident that India will be the number one manufacturing hub in the world," he said.

Talking about how cost-effective EVs can be, Gadkari quoted the example of his son who, he said, took 10 SUVs on lease for Rs 45,000 per car per month for managers of sugar mills. "I asked him why are you taking this? He was telling me that his total expenditure on one car was Rs 1 lakh per month. By purchasing this he was saving Rs 30,000 per month because electric is very cheap. There is charging system in the house and in the office also," he said.

COVID-19 IMPACT

'WFH on the rise, net office space leasing dips 44%

As corporates deferred expansion plans and adopted 'work from home' (WFH), net office space leasing fell 44% year-on-year in 2020 across seven major cities, a JLL India report said



SEVEN MAJOR CITIES CONSIDERED:

■ Delhi-NCR ■ Chennai ■ Hyderabad ■ Bengaluru
■ Mumbai ■ Kolkata ■ Pune

52% Rise in office space demand during October-December 2020; from 5.43 million sq ft in previous quarter to 8.27 million sq ft

25.82 mn sq ft: Net office space leased this year, falling from 46.5 million sq ft in 2019

20% Impact on office market demand that WFH could have in the medium-to-long term

8.8 mn sq ft: Net absorption of office space during January-March 2020, which plunged to 3.32 mn sq ft during April-June on account of the lockdown

Why is it important: The office real estate market was most hit as lockdown measures disrupted the way we work. Corporates had to adopt WFH as an alternative, which brought in its wake, a new set of possibilities and challenges

Source: JLL India/PTI

Maintain inflation target at 4% ... if it ain't broke, don't fix it: RBI paper

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

AN RBI study has said maintaining 4 per cent inflation is appropriate for India as targeting a lower rate could impart deflationary bias to the monetary policy.

"The weighted average trend inflation — our preferred trend inflation estimates — declined from above 5 per cent until Q2 of 2008 to around 5 per cent by 2009," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) paper said. It eased steadily thereafter and remained at 4.3 per cent in Q1 of 2020, the paper, authored by RBI official Harendra Kumar Behera and Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra, said.

"An increase in sacrifice ratio — further disinflations will become costlier in terms of the output foregone. At the same time, the credibility bonus accruing to monetary policy warrants smaller pol-

DEFLATIONARY BIAS

■ The study said aiming for a lower rate could impart deflationary bias to the monetary policy.

icy actions to achieve the target. This points to maintaining the inflation target at 4 per cent into the medium-term. If it ain't broke, don't fix it," the paper said.

The concept of trend or steady state inflation, the level to which actual inflation outcomes are expected to converge after short run fluctuations from a variety of sources, including shocks, die out.

"It is worthwhile to note that trend inflation still remains above the target under flexible inflation targeting (FIT), although it is on a declining trajectory. This indicates that inflation expectations are not

yet fully anchored to the target but convergence is underway," the paper said. Underlying this is a decline in the inflation persistence, indicating that households and businesses in India are becoming more forward looking than before as credibility associated with monetary policy increases, it said.

"Understanding persistence or the tendency of inflation to converge slowly to its trend is also critical to fashioning appropriate monetary policy responses in terms of the size and timing of policy actions," the paper added.

"A target set below the trend imparts a deflationary bias to monetary policy because it will go into overkill relative what the economy can intrinsically bear in order to achieve the target.

"Analogously, a target that is fixed above trend renders monetary policy too expansionary and prone to inflationary shocks and unanchored expectations. Trend

inflation is an empirical question and choice of methodology is crucial if the estimate of trend inflation has to be precise," the paper stated. Within the proliferation of work on the subject, there is a loose consensus that none of them can outperform the random walk model for forecasting purposes, it said.

For the setting of monetary policy, it is necessary to consider significant changes in the overall macroeconomic ecosystem in which monetary policy is conducted. Trend inflation was falling even ahead of the institution of FIT and the latter entrenched this tendency, as reflected in rising probability of trend inflation at 4 per cent in both filtered and smoothed posterior estimates, it said. "The probability-weighted 16 average of trend inflation has come down from around 5 per cent until 2014 when the pre-conditions of FIT were beginning to 4.1-4.3 per cent in Q1 2020, just before Covid struck."

UK: Brexit break from EU faces 'bumpy moments' despite deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, DECEMBER 28

FIRST CAME the Brexit trade deal. Now comes the red tape. Four days after sealing a free trade agreement with the European Union, the British government warned businesses to get ready for disruptions and "bumpy moments" when the new rules take effect on Thursday night.

Businesses were scrambling Monday to digest the details and implications of the 1,240-page



A billboard in London, with a government message advising businesses to prepare for Brexit. Reuters file

deal sealed by the EU and the UK on Christmas Eve.

The UK left the EU almost a year ago, but remained within the bloc's economic embrace during a transition period that ends at midnight Brussels time — 11 pm in London — on December 31.

The agreement, hammered out after nine months of tense negotiations, will ensure Britain and the 27-nation bloc can continue to trade in goods without tariffs or quotas. That should help protect the 660 \$894 billion in annual trade between the two sides, and the hundreds of thousands of jobs that rely on it.

Alibaba's \$10-bn buyback plan fails to halt stock dip amid regulatory woes

YILEI SUN & JULIE ZHU
BEIJING/HONG KONG, DEC 28

ALIBABA SHARES slumped 9 per cent to their lowest since June on Monday, as the firm's upsized \$10 billion buyback programme failed to ease concerns about a regulatory crackdown on co-founder Jack Ma's e-commerce and financial empire. A sharp sell-off over two sessions has knocked almost \$116 billion off the tech giant's Hong Kong-listed shares.

The downward spiral intensified when Chinese regulators

FOLLOWS ANTITRUST PROBE BY REGULATORS

THE DOWNWARD spiral intensified when Chinese regulators announced on Thursday the launch of an antitrust investigation into Alibaba Group and said they would summon Ant Group, its fintech affiliate, to meet



announced Thursday the launch of an antitrust probe into Alibaba and said they would summon its Ant Group affiliate to meet.

Putting investors more on edge was news that China's central bank had asked Ant to shake up its lending. REUTERS

Maini Group founder passes away

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

MAINI GROUP founder, Sudarshan Kumar Maini, who supported his son Chetan to commercialise India's first electric car Reva, has died, family sources said Monday.

Maini died in Bengaluru at his residence on December 26 after prolonged illness at the age of 87, according to family members. He is survived by wife Reva, after whom he named India's first electric car, and three sons. WITHPTI

BRIEFLY



A street in Shimla after the snowfall

HIMACHAL PRADESH
Shimla receives first snowfall of season

Shimla: Many parts of Himachal Pradesh received snowfall on Sunday night, with state capital Shimla receiving the first snowfall of the season. The snow brought cheers to the large number of tourists gathered in the state during the Christmas-New Year period, but also blocked roads and caused power outages in parts of the state. Shimla recorded 9 cm of snow overnight, while neighbouring Kufri received 30 cm of snow, meteorological officials said. The meteorological centre said light snowfall was likely to continue on Monday in the districts of Shimla, Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and the higher reaches Chamba, Kangra and Mandi. From Tuesday, however, dry weather is expected to prevail in all parts of the state. **ENS**

State will buy Nagarnar plant if Centre divestment plan still on, says Baghel

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, DECEMBER 28

CHHATTISGARH Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday announced that if the central government goes ahead with the divestment of Nagarnar steel plant, the state government will buy it. He was speaking at the Winter Session of the Assembly and his announcement was part of the government resolution to not allow privatisation of the plant, which was passed unanimously.

The Congress-led government proposed a resolution which was being discussed on Monday, the third day of house proceedings regarding the steel plant located in the Left Wing Extremism-affected area of Bastar.

During the discussion, BJP leader Ajay Chandrakar brought up the decision proposed by then Chief Minister Ajit Jogi when the divestment

of Balco was proposed.

Responding to him, CM Baghel said, "We are against the divestment and have conveyed the same to several departments in the Union government. If the divestment process still continues, the state government will buy and run the Nagarnar steel plant," he said. On Monday, it was unanimously decided that the state government will buy the plant in case the Centre goes ahead with the privatisation plan. "The question is about the self-respect of Chhattisgarh and the feelings of its Adiwasi residents," Baghel said.

In August, Baghel had written to the Prime Minister, urging him to revisit the decision on privatisation. However, in October, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval to the demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant from National Minerals Development Corporation in order to pave the way for

strategic divestment of NSP's Rs 23,140 crore new plant in Chhattisgarh by mid-2021.

Tribals in Bastar have been protesting privatisation of the steel plant since it was proposed in 2016, after which the government had to put the plans away in face of heavy opposition. However, on August 27 this year, Centre-owned NMDC demerged the plant, which could be the first step towards privatisation.

The Sarva Adiwasi Samaj, which has been at the forefront of the protest, has cautiously welcomed the government decision. "We gave our land for the public good as NMDC was a government agency. We are protesting privatisation and we will protest it further. If the state government has passed the resolution of buying it, we welcome it. But it should make public of how they plan on buying it out. No private participation should be allowed," Prakash Thakur, Bastar regional head of the Samaj said.

Army Chief Naravane begins three-day visit of South Korea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

CONTINUING WITH his series of visits for military diplomacy, Army Chief General MM Naravane began his three-day visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK)—known as South Korea—on Monday. During the visit, he will be meeting the senior military and civilian leadership of ROK, the Army said.

On Monday, Naravane met with South Korea's Minister for National Defence Suh Wook as well as top leaders of the military—including the Army chief, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Minister of Defence Acquisition Planning Administration.

Naravane began his trip however, by visits to the National Cemetery and the War Memorial at Seoul. The trip, to China's neighbourhood, comes even as India and China are involved in a nearly eight-month long military stand-off in eastern Ladakh, with around 50,000 troops of each side positioned in the region, and no signs of disengagement.

Bilateral ties between India and South Korea can be traced to the start of the Korean war of 1950 when India deployed an Army medical unit, which played



Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane with senior South Korean military leaders on Monday. Courtesy: @adgpi

a significant part in various Allied offensives over the course of three years. Military sources mentioned that both the nations "have a convergence of outlook in the strategic and defence realm. India's Act East Policy finds resonance in the present ROK administration's New Southern Policy".

"India considers ROK as a high quality manufacturer of defence-related equipment in sectors such as aeronautics, ship-building, electronics, missile technologies, miniaturisation and software," an Army source said, and added that South Korea "also has the potential to be the principal partner in

developing the Indian defence industry base".

South Korea and India are also signatories to Mutual Logistics Support Agreement between the navies and which can further be expanded to other services as well, sources said.

The Indian Army has also initiated strategic level exchanges with the Army of the ROK, and the first Army to Army Staff talks were held in ROK in August 2018. In 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited South Korea, the bilateral relationship was elevated to the level of Special Strategic Partnership.

Mamata's rally in Nandigram called off after MLA tests positive for coronavirus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 28

A PUBLIC meeting to be addressed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram that was to be held on January 7 has been called off. TMC senior leader Subrata Mukherjee said on Monday that the chief organiser of the programme and TMC MLA Akhil Giri has tested positive for Covid-19. "MLA Akhil Giri from Ramnagar is the chief organiser. He has been hospitalised with Covid-19. In his absence, it is not possible to go ahead with the programme. We have postponed it for now," Mukherjee said.

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee was scheduled to address a public rally on January 7, 2021. The day is observed as Sahid Divas to pay tribute to those who lost lives during anti-land acquisition movement in 2007.

Reacting to the development, BJP state president Dilip Ghosh said, "She (Mamata) will have to cancel a lot of programmes now, just wait and watch. Now, her rallies will be limited to Kalighat."

Telangana cops bust mobile loan racket after 3 deaths 'due to harassment'

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 28

FOLLOWING THREE deaths by suicide linked to harassment for loan repayment in Telangana, the Cyberabad Police have busted a racket of app-based unauthorised lenders who offered instant personal loans at exorbitant rates through several mobile applications available on the Google Play Store. Unsuspecting customers were coerced into parting with double the amount borrowed.

Officials said that if a person borrowed Rs 30,000 for seven days, the company charged Rs 24,000 as interest.

"If the customer could not pay the entire amount back, agents from call centres start harassing. Through the app they collect phone numbers of the family members and friends and call them and send abusive messages too," Cyberabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar said.

The agents also sent fake FIRs and court summons to intimidate the customers.

Following a complaint, several places linked to the lenders were raided on Tuesday and six people were arrested, including the chief executive officer of Onion Credit Pvt Ltd and Director of CredFox Technologies Pvt Ltd—two firms that had designed seven apps for the purpose and were running three of them after selling four to other firms Asia Inno Networks Pvt Ltd and Blue shield Fintech Pvt Ltd.

The two firms have 1.5 lakh customers of which nearly 70,000 are currently active.

On December 17, K Mounika, an Agriculture Extension Officer in Siddipet town, died by suicide after an app-based lending firm put out her photo, phone number and details of her family on social media and branded her a defaulter using abusive language. Unable to bear the humiliation, Mounika hanged herself.

Last Friday, P Sunil, a techie who lost his job during the lockdown, died by suicide at his home in Rajendranagar.

When he was unable to repay the amount, recovery agents threatened to call up his father and friends and reveal his personal details on social media.

In another instance, the app company sent a message to a customer's father saying "chor ka baap. Badnaam karoon kya?"

Loans were usually given for a period of 7 days at an interest rate of 35 per cent. After the due date, a flat interest of Rs 3,000 per day is levied, trapping customers in a cycle of debt.

Police have identified 18 bank accounts linked to the firms and froze them, and have also issued notice to Google regarding the apps.

UTTAR PRADESH
4 Covid-positive prisoners escape, 3 re-arrested

Lucknow: Four people arrested in Bulandshahr district for different crimes and later tested positive for the coronavirus escaped from a Level-2 hospital under the Khurja Nagar police station area after removing the hasp of a locked door on Sunday night. Three have been arrested, while one person is still absconding, Bulandshahr SSP Santosh Kumar Singh said. The SSP said due to the threat of infection, the police personnel guarding them were outside the hospital. A fresh FIR under Epidemic Diseases Act and IPC Sections has been registered against all four. **ENS**

Car in marriage procession hits 6 people

Bahraich: A car in a marriage procession here hit six people, leaving them injured, prompting an angry reaction from the locals who damaged five other vehicles in the convoy, requiring a police intervention to complete the wedding ceremony, officials said Monday. They said the incident happened at Khairi Samosa village under Motipur police station Sunday evening. Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Ashok Kumar said one of the six vehicles in the convoy suddenly hit six locals not part of the ceremony causing them injuries. The villages damaged the windowpanes of the other vehicles in the convoy, he said. **PTI**

UTTARAKHAND
CM Rawat admitted to AIIMS in Delhi

New Delhi, Dehradun: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, who had tested positive for Covid-19 and was hospitalised in Dehradun after developing fever, was admitted to AIIMS in Delhi on Monday. He was admitted to AIIMS Trauma Centre, which has been converted into a dedicated Covid-19 facility, around 12.30 pm, sources said, adding his condition was stable. Rawat's physician N S Bisht said he has been shifted to AIIMS for necessary tests. **PTI**

Indian Railways Enters a New Era of Modern, Efficient and Cost-effective Freight Transportation



Dedication to the Nation
of
New Khurja – New Bhaupur Section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

Inauguration
of
Operation Control Centre at Prayagraj

Flagging Off
of
Long Haul (1.5 km) Goods Trains from New Bhaupur & New Khurja

by
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

(through video conferencing)

➔➔➔ In the august presence of ➔➔➔

Anandiben Patel
Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Piyush Goyal
Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India

on

29th December, 2020 at 11:00 am

Join the event at <https://pmindiawebcast.nic.in/>



In service of the nation
INDIAN RAILWAYS
www.indianrailways.gov.in
Follow us on /RailMinIndia



SALIENT FEATURES

New Khurja –New Bhaupur Section

- This section of 351 km length and Rs. 5,750 crore cost, is fit for higher axle load wagons of 25 axle ton and long haul train operation.
- With the new corridor, the average speed of goods trains will increase from the existing 25–30 kmph to 60–70 kmph.
- It will significantly enhance the transportation of freight items like coal, iron & steel, petroleum products, food grains, etc. from Northern India to Eastern and North-eastern regions.
- With the new section, the farmers of Aligarh, Khurja, Firozabad, Agra and Bhaupur will get access to pan-India markets.
- The section consists of 19 major bridges, 414 minor bridges and 7 rail flyovers to avoid any detention to either road or rail traffic.
- Decongestion of the existing Kanpur-Delhi mainline will significantly increase line capacity for more passenger train services.

Operation Control Centre at Prayagraj

- It is one of the biggest control centres in the world and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology.
- Environment-friendly design with Green Building Rating of GRIHA-4.



@ieExplained

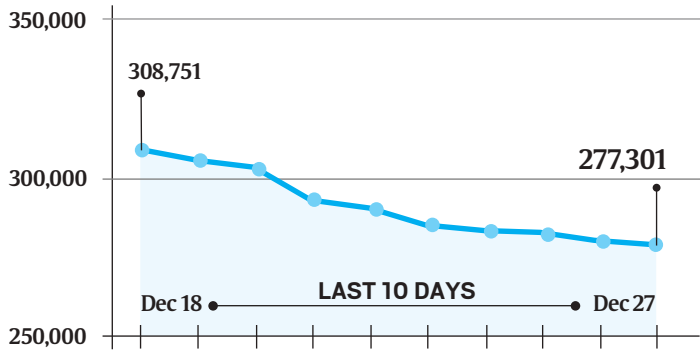
#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

277,301



Note: The Dec 27 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Dec 28

INDIA TOTAL CASES
10,207,871

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Dec 28

WORLD TOTAL CASES
80,979,476

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Dec 28

India's first indigenously created vaccine against pneumococcal disease

PUNE-BASED Serum Institute of India (SII) unveiled India's first indigenously developed pneumococcal vaccine on Monday. The world's largest vaccine manufacturer by doses, SII is also the maker of Covaxin, the Indian version of the AstraZeneca-Oxford coronavirus vaccine.

SII's pneumococcal vaccine, Pneumosil, was developed through a collaboration spanning over a decade with the health organisation PATH and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The vaccine was launched by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan. "This is a significant milestone for the country's public healthcare which will ensure that children are protected better against pneumococcal disease with an effective vaccine," Dr Harsh Vardhan said at the virtual launch function. He said the Serum Institute's vaccines are used in 170 countries and every third child in the world is immunised with one of its vaccines.

The vaccine targets the pneumococcal bacterium, which causes pneumonia and other serious life-threatening diseases such as meningitis and sepsis, and is estimated to cause nearly four lakh deaths in children under five years of age each year worldwide.

Pneumococcal disease is a significant contributor under-five mortality rate worldwide. In view of its widespread fatality, the World Health Organization in 2018 recommended the inclusion of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) in routine childhood immunisation programmes in all countries.

Serum's first indigenous PCV will be available in the market at an affordable price in single dose (vial and pre-filled syringe) and multidose (vial) presentations. While PCVs have



The vaccine, Pneumosil, will be available shortly. SII

helped reduce pneumococcal deaths, they are difficult for many countries to afford. Pneumosil addresses the need for a more affordable option, said Adar Poonawalla, CEO, SII. Dr Rajeev Dhare, executive director, said Pneumosil will be available at an affordable competitive price. The unique feature of the WHO pre-qualified PCV is its composition which is specially tailored to the serotype of the bacterium, *S pneumoniae*, in India and other regions of the world, Dr Dhare said.

Pneumosil has been extensively evaluated in five randomised controlled clinical trials and has demonstrated comparable safety and immunogenicity against licensed pneumococcal vaccines across diverse populations of India and Africa, where Pneumosil was administered to adults, toddlers and infants using different vaccination schedules, officials said. Based on the trials, Pneumosil was licensed by the Drugs Controller General (India) in July 2020.

The vaccine also makes SII the world's third supplier of PCVs under the pneumococcal Advance Market Commitment, and the first developing country vaccine manufacturer to access the global PCV market.

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

Year of many questions

As Annus Horribilis 2020 comes to an end, there are positives in the economy: signs of a GDP rebound, and buoyant equity markets. But demand is weak, receipts are down, and the employment situation is grim. All eyes are on the Budget — and on the vaccines



ANIL SASI

NATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

IN A little over a month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present what she has heralded as "a Budget like never before". As a year like never before ends, there are questions on the way forward — including whether the Budget, or any policy intervention by the government in the coming months, can make up for the underwhelming fiscal stimulus response to the situation brought about by the pandemic. And whether other headwinds might potentially circumscribe the rebound in economic growth.

Even as industrial output picked up as the economy reopened, buoyed by pent-up demand and a festive spending boost, consumer sentiment remains weak. The employment outlook is tepid and household incomes continue to be sub-optimal. Stimulus-fuelled investment flows from the US and Europe have brought back risk appetite, sending a deluge from safe-haven assets into stock markets and emerging market economies. India is a net gainer — in fact, if the financial market optimism were to be conflated with the travails of the real economy, a structural disconnect of epic proportions would appear to emerge — the equivalent of an Arnold Schwarzenegger torso on Woody Allen legs, inherently wobbly and likely to come crashing down.

THE TAILWINDS

First, the positives: the NSO's GDP data release for the quarter ended October 2020 packed a surprise result — the downturn in Q2 turned out to be shallower, and the pace of recovery beat most predictions, aligning broadly with high frequency indicators that pointed to a pick-up in economic momentum. An update on RBI's economic activity index too projected that real GDP growth was expected "to break out into positive territory in Q3", albeit to a slender 0.1 per cent.

A sectoral split shows that auto and capital goods, which were hit hard by the lockdown, could be seeing a turnaround in forward earnings. Healthcare, IT and FMCG companies are sighting stronger earnings outlook. Digital technologies are seen as a bright spot.

Despite the challenge from a new wave of infections, the outcome of the US presidential election and positive news on vaccines could have a sustaining impact on the prospects of the global economy. A positive outcome of the Brexit negotiations is a plus.

Equity markets, which were vacillating between rallies and sell-offs up to early November, have since surged past previous highs. According to the Institute of International Finance, portfolio flows to emerging market economies or EMEs, including India, stood at \$76.5 billion in November, almost equally shared by equity and debt (\$39.8 billion and \$36.7 billion respectively). Q4 2020 is projected to be the strongest quarter for EME inflows since Q1 2013 — since just before the taper tantrum. The Indian markets are a big beneficiary — on a year-to-date basis, till December 20, 2020, the S&P BSE Sensex and Nifty50 have surged over 13 per



Illustration: Sujayit Dey

cent per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Most of all, India is bending the Covid curve: since mid-September, barring localised surges, infections have slanted downward every week, and the recovery rate is near 95 per cent. At least a couple of vaccine candidates have hit not only trial status but also suitability for usage in India, with more in the pipeline.

THE RED FLAGS

Demand conditions remain weak, evidenced by the decline in exports and imports, which reflect the state of external and domestic demand, according to NCAER. The November RBI Consumer Confidence Survey showed that while consumer sentiment was higher that month than in July and September 2020, confidence was lower in November compared to the same period a year ago.

A looming policy weakness is evident on both the demand and supply sides. On the GDP-linked demand side, the latest data show a 22 per cent contraction in the government final consumption expenditure in Q2, while on the GVA (gross value added) output side, the public administration, defence and other services sector — a proxy for government spending — was down 12 per cent in the second quarter after a 10 per cent dip in the first quarter. The trend points to the reluctance of central and state governments to provide a fiscal spending boost to balance the fall in investment demand.

India's growth had been moderating since the beginning of Q4 2018-19. The government's reluctance, or inability, to do the heavy lifting is a concern, both in terms of a sentiment booster and a trigger to catalyse the wider investment drive. This would continue to be a challenge, given that in 2020-21, the Centre's gross tax receipts are projected to

fall by over 10 per cent, on top of the 3.4 per cent slide in 2019-20. Non-tax revenues appear to be bleak. States, saddled with higher expenditure on health and locked in a tussle with the Centre over GST payouts, are unlikely to restart the capex cycle. If demand conditions cannot be rekindled, the private sector is not expected to restart investments or hiring, which would further deteriorate demand conditions. In the absence of a counterbalancing push, the problem could turn cyclical.

As the government largely refrained from providing substantial income support to businesses, jobs were lost as MSME earnings took a hit. The third quarter of fiscal 2020-21 will end with employment of 395 million, which would be 2.5 per cent lower than the 405 million employed in the December 2019 quarter, as per CMIE data. Given that about 45 per cent of manufacturing happens in MSME units, this sector is key to revival of manufacturing. But only those MSMEs registered under The Factories Act, 1948 are actually being captured by the Index of Industrial Production,

while nearly half are unregistered manufacturing units. For the GDP data, the methodology that NSO deploys to use the IIP as a proxy to estimate the value of that missing component, is far more distortionary during a situation like the lockdown, which hit the smaller firms especially hard. The real picture will only come in with a lag.

Contact service sectors such as hotels, restaurants, airlines, salons, which were doing exceptionally well before the pandemic, are among the worst hit, and will continue to struggle till the time the fear of the virus lasts.

The CMIE jobs data point to worrying trends. As the restrictions were lifted, many who did not get jobs went on to leave the labour force. Typically, when more people

find jobs, larger numbers should come looking. But the reverse seems to have happened since September. Also, CMIE surveys up to August show the biggest losses in employment are in quality jobs — salaried employment. Women have been more impacted.

Inflation has been a bugbear for policy makers in India. The RBI in its December monthly bulletin highlighted the risks from continued high inflation: "...Efforts need to be redoubled to exorcise the 'worm in the apple' — inflation — before it hurts the impulses of growth that are taking root". According to Nomura, retail inflation is unlikely to come down enough for RBI to cut rates in the whole of 2021. Over the medium term, there are chances of inflation heating up again, and RBI may have to switch to hiking rates as well in 2022.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sitharaman has said that "investment in research and development in medicine, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals are the need of the hour". North Block seems to be readying an infrastructure push, backed by some of the powder that it has kept dry. A production-linked incentive scheme for pushing "self-reliance" is being billed as a template for a manufacturing push. But there are hurdles. Industry is watching the resolution efforts at Wipro's iPhone manufacturing facility in Karnataka, where violence broke out at a time when the limited success in the smartphone assembly sector is sought to be replicated in pharma and automobiles — and when there is continuing labour unrest at Toyota Kirloskar Motors' plant outside Bengaluru.

Investors are also watching the government's reactions on the legal setbacks in the Cairn and Vodafone retrospective taxation cases. India has chosen to challenge the Vodafone verdict, and a challenge is expected in the Cairn case as well.

There are worries about the financial sector. Since April, with the moratoriums kicking in, the recognition of defaults has been pushed down the road. It's a double whammy for the sector — loans have turned bad, even if they're not being recognised as NPAs, but the lender is not getting the interest in cases where firms have folded up. When EMIs stop, banks' interest income is hit, and its net interest margin comes down. The profitability of the financial sector is getting squeezed, and without massive recapitalisation, the sector could end up being a drag on the economy going forward.

According to the IMF, the economy is likely to contract by 10.3 per cent in the current fiscal, and then grow by 8.8 per cent in 2021-22. But while real GDP is expected to rebound, it may take almost two years for it to get back to pre-pandemic levels. According to estimates by the Head of Emerging Markets at J.P. Morgan, Jahangir Aziz, at the end of fiscal 2021-22, the economy could be 10 per cent lower than the pre-pandemic growth path.

There is a more fundamental issue relating to the timing of a fiscal stimulus. 2020-21 was the pandemic year, and if India had run up a large fiscal deficit on account of a stimulus, it would have been in line with every other major economy — and rating agencies would not have downgraded India on the size of the spending. According to Pronab Sen, former Chief Statistician of India, any backloading of stimulus spending that stretches into the following year or beyond, would run the risk of India being seen as an outlier.

All eyes on the Budget for now.

TOMORROW: HEALTH & SCIENCE

The signature of Kahn and other foreign architects on Indian cities

SHINY VARGHESE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 28

A CONTROVERSY has been playing out over the last several days over a decision by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad to bring down 18 dormitories built by legendary American architect Louis Kahn on the old campus, and replace them with new building. Since then, Kahn's family has written to the IIM Ahmedabad authorities urging them to reconsider.

Kahn, in fact, is one among several foreign architects whose work defines several Indian cities.



Antonin Raymond & George Nakashima

Colconde, one of India's first modernist buildings, was conceptualised in Puducherry by the founders of the experimental township of Auroville. Tokyo-based Czech architect Antonin Raymond was invited to design this space as a universal commune, and Japanese-American woodworker George Nakashima would complete it after Raymond left India. It is possibly India's first reinforced concrete buildings, built between 1937 and 1945. Its façade creates the impression that one could open or shut these concrete blinds, without compromising on privacy, while the ascetic interiors helped provide a meditative atmosphere.

Otto Koenigsberger



Berlin-bred Koenigsberger was already working for the Maharaja of Mysore in the late 1930s, when he was commissioned by Tata & Sons to develop the industrial township of Jamshedpur in the early 1940s. He would later design the masterplan for Bhubaneswar (1948) and Faridabad (1949). Having seen children and women walk punishing distances to reach schools and workplaces, he planned for schools and bazaars in the city centre and for a network of neighbourhoods. At a time marked by Partition and rioting, his housing plans included people from different social classes and religions. His friends Albert Mayer and Mathew Nowicki would go on to design Chandigarh. However, much before Koenigsberger, there was the Scottish biologist and geographer Patrick Geddes, who wrote town planning reports, from 1915 to 1919, for 18 Indian



IIM Ahmedabad dormitories designed by Louis Kahn. Nirmal Harindran

cities, including Bombay and Indore.

Frank Lloyd Wright

Though the legendary American architect never built a structure in India, his influence was unmistakable. Two of his students, Gautam and Gira Sarabhai, founders



of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, requested him to design the administration building for Sarabhai Calico Mills in 1946. It would possibly have been the city's first high-rise with terraces and a podium. Though the building never got built, Gira remodelled an existing bungalow using Wright's signature cantilever roofs and a strong indoor-outdoor connect. Padma Vibhushan Charles Correa, one of India's finest architects and urban planners, was hugely influenced by Wright.

Le Corbusier



American developer Albert Mayer. Nowicki's death in a plane crash ended the commission, and Corbusier came on board. With English architect Maxwell Fry and his wife Jane Drew, Corbusier with his cousin Pierre Jeanneret would design many of Chandigarh's civic buildings, from courts to housing. Corbusier's modernist approach, without decoration, gave India its

brutalist, bare concrete buildings. Many architects thereafter, including Pritzker Prize winner B V Doshi and Shivnath Prasad, would be inspired by him. According to critic-historian Peter Scriver, Corbusier's contribution was "a new cast of mind, not just shapes". He won favour with the Sarabhais of Ahmedabad and built the Sarabhai House, Shodhan House, Mill Owner's Association Building and Sankar Kendra. He is often called the "father of modern Indian architecture".

Buckminster Fuller



Futuristic innovator Fuller is known for his geodesic domes — large-span structures made of a network of triangles. While Wright's Calico administration building never got permission from the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, its foundation had already been laid. Gautam Sarabhai, inspired by Fuller, designed the Calico Dome in 1962, at the same site that served as a mill shop. Since its recent collapse, it has been in disrepair and neglected.

Joseph Allen Stein

He was invited by Vijayalakshmi Pandit in 1952 to come to India and establish the Department of Architecture and Planning



at the West Bengal Engineering College. Though he also practised briefly in Orissa and West Bengal, it's in New Delhi where Stein left the deepest imprint. From the Triveni Kala Sangam, with its temple-like repose, the High Commissioner's Residence and Chancery for Australia, where his polygon-shaped masonry with local stone made its first appearance, to 'Steinabad' in Lodhi Estate, where many of his buildings stand, including the India International Centre, Ford Foundation and the India Habitat Centre, Stein gave Delhi cultural landmarks that blended Indian craft with international modernism.

Louis Kahn



The importance of being Kahn is never more real than now, as the American architect's only project in India faces bulldozers. The design for IIM Ahmedabad (1962-1974) carried the essence of learning in the humility of its material, and the way spaces were managed — placing the dormitories, the library and classrooms at the same level, or the faculty residences across a waterbody.

INVITATION OF TENDER

The Inspector General, Kashmir Ops Sector, CRPF, Zewan Camp, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar (J&K) invites online and sealed tenders for and on behalf of the President of India under two bid system consisting of Technical Bid and Financial Bid in respect of repair/renovation of Ops Room & Sector (SST(Int.) office work. Details can be accessed at www.crpf.gov.in / www.eprocure.gov.in

davp 19111/11/0161/2021

The Executive Engineer, Agartala Division No.-III, PWD(R&B), Agartala, Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No. 15/EE/Divn.III/PWD(R&B)/2020-2021, Dated 24th December 2020

For: - "improvement of road from Indranagar to GB Bazaar via ITI (L=2.41 km) under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure in 2020-21."

- With
• Estimated cost : Rs. 2,41,48,488.00
• Earnest Money : Rs. 2,41,485.00
• Time of Completion : 12 (Twelve) months.
• Last Date of bidding for bids -15.01.2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.

For more details Kindly visit: https://tripuratenders.gov.in

ICA-C-2564-20

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT IDENTIFICATION NO: RWS&S DIVN., PURI - 40 OF 2020-21

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate price bids through e-procurement in double cover system according to the norms of e-procurement system, in on-line mode from eligible contractors.

Table with 3 columns: Sl. No., Nature of work, and Retrofitting of Rural Piped water Supply. Contains details about the project, estimated cost, and bidding process.

Further details can be seen from the website https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Subsequent corrigendum if any shall appear in the web site.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri OIPR-250117/11/0024/2021

NORTHERN RAILWAY Auction Notice

No.:LMC/TREE/MB/2020 Dated: 28.12.2020 Auction of Lot No. 1, Km 1 to 13, 187 numbers dangerous trees under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway HQ Moradabad will be auctioned in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway HQ, Moradabad.

Auction place:- Office of the Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway/HQ/Moradabad on date 06.01.2021 at 11:00 AM.

- 1. All the bidders will deposit cash Rs. 100/- in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway/Bareilly which will not be refunded and shall also deposit Rs. 8,000/- in favour of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad as a Demand Draft of SBI or Other Nationalized Bank.
2. All the bidders who will take part in the auction will also have proper knowledge of Auction rules and others allowances.
3. Successful bidders will deposit the Demand Draft of SBI or Other Nationalized Bank in favour of Sr. DFMM/B or station earning in cash on same day with following rate:-
a. 10% amount of selling price or minimum amount Rs. 25,000/- whichever is maximum on purchase of more than Rs. 1,00,000/-
b. Balance amount will be deposited within 10 days including the date of auction.
c. GST will be deposited as per the standard rate.
4. The work should be completed within 60 days including the date of auction.
5. Railway has right to close the work any time. In this situation the balance amount will be returned without interest.
6. Complete Details of tree with locations will be available in the Divisional Office Moradabad.
7. Bidders are requested to quote their rates according to the tree locations.
8. Trees will be delivered and handed over in the presence of SSE/works, ISA and RPF.
9. If the balance amount is not deposited within 10 days including the date of auction, then initial deposited amount will be forfeited.
10. Bidders will not make any Kutchra/Pakka construction in the land of Railway.
11. Bid will not be quoted below the base price.
12. Demand draft will be deposited in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Northern Railway/HQ/Moradabad from 09.00 AM to 10.30 AM. After that no demand draft will be accepted.

Note:- Each lot will be auctioned separately. 2880/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. IV, Irrigation & Flood Control Department Govt. of NCT of Delhi, L.M. Bund Office Complex, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-31 invites on behalf of President of India invites online tenders bids on Percentage rate from eligible firms/contractors from approved and eligible contractors of irrigation and Flood Control Deptt. & any other Registered firm/contractor from any Government Department (CPWD, Railway, MES P&T) of Govt. of India upto 3.00 PM dated on 29.12.2020 for the works: H.O.A.: 2711 NON PLAN (REVENUE) MAINTANCE DRAINAGE 1. NIT No. 28/ RE/CD-IV/FC/2020-21 (ID No. 2020_IFC_197632_1) Name of work: Repair of material test lab & CD-IV office building at L.M. Bund Office Complex, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031. Estimated Cost of Rs 19,86,047/- period of completion 90 days H.O.A.: 2711 NON PLAN (REVENUE) MAINTANCE DRAINAGE 2. NIT No. 32/ RE/CD-IV/FC/2020-21 (ID No. 2020_IFC_197633_1) Name of work: Construction of HT Panel and BSES transformer room on Escape Drain No. 1 RD 400m right bank for Sump & Pump House. Estimated Cost of Rs 22,19,143/- period of completion 120 days H.O.A.: 2711 NON PLAN (REVENUE) MAINTANCE DRAINAGE 3. NIT No. 52/ EE/CD-IV/FC/2020-21 (ID No. 2020_IFC_197633_1) Name of work: Renovation of office cum store at L.F. Bund Sonia Vihar Store. Estimated Cost of Rs 13,21,431/- period of completion 60 days H.O.A.: 2711 NON PLAN (REVENUE) MAINTANCE DRAINAGE 4. NIT No. 53/ EE/CD-IV/FC/2020-21 (ID No. 2020_IFC_197634_1) Name of work: Restoration of River side parapet wall between RD 1100m to RD 3300m of L.F. Bund Road. Estimated Cost of Rs 8,51,650/- period of completion 45 days

- Note:
1) The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tender. In case only the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
2) The following Scanned copies are required to be uploaded: (i) Scanned Copy of GST Registration. (ii) Scanned copy of Registration of enlistment in the appropriate class. (iii) Scanned Copy of EMD Declaration. (iv) Copy of Pan Number. (v) Valid Mobile Number, WhatsApp Number and E-mail ID. (vi) Scanned copy of ESI and EPF registration.
(3) Earnest Money Declaration shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-procurement site within the period of bid/tender submission. The original should be submitted physically/manually in the office of the Executive Engineer cd-iv.&FC Deptt.) L.M.Bund office complex Shastri Nagar Delhi-110031 within the period of bid submission which will be verified at the time of opening of tender with scanned copy of EMD Declaration. The Detail of above mentioned work can be seen and downloaded from website http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in
4) No manual tender shall be accepted; only tender submitted through e-procurement portal shall be considered.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

DIP/Shabdharth/0514/20-21

KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (A Govt. Of Kerala Undertaking) (An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company) Sankaramangalam, Chavara -691583. Kollam, Kerala, India Phone: +91-476-2651215 to 2651217. Fax: +91-0476-2680101, 2686721 Email: contact@kmml.com, URL www.kmml.com

ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON GOATS MAKHDoom, P.O. FARAH- 281122, MATHURA (U.P.) Phone No.: 0565 2970995, 0565 2970997

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) Bid Identification No. S.E.J.C (R&B)- 15/2020-21 No. 5225 Date: 23.12.2020

CONFED, HARYANA NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR OUTSOURCING MANPOWER IN CONFED, HARYANA

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagar Division, 2nd Floor, Shakti Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th 'B' Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560 040.

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (A Super Speciality Autonomous Institute Of Govt. Of Bihar) IGIMS Medical College, IGIMS Nursing College Sheikhpura, Patna-14. EPBx:0612-2297099/2297631, Website: www.igims.org

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES Notice Inviting Tender E-tendering mode only on website- www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, INDRAWATI PROJECT CIRCLE, JAGDALPUR, BASTAR (CHHATTISGARH) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover Works) (Through GOK e-Procurement portal only)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Additional Director General of Police Communication, Logistics And Modernization

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANS. LINE MAINT. DIVISION-VIII, AMBEDHKAR CHOWK, RAILWAY ROAD, JAMMU

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS OPEN E-TENDER

उपरो जल विद्युत निगम लि ई-निविदा सूचना

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

