hindustantimes 08

(BUT) IN OUR COUNTRY THERE IS NO WAR (AT THE MOMENT), STILL PEOPLE (SOLDIERS) ARE GETTING MARTYRED....BECAUSE WE ARE NOT DOING OUR JOB PROPERLY. MOHAN BHAGWAT, RSS chief

shortstories

MHA TO HAVE A SATELLITE OF ITS OWN

NEW DELHI: The Union home ministry (MHA), responsible for guarding borders along Bangladesh, Myanmar and parts of Pakistan will have a satellite of its own for better domain awareness and border guarding, an MHA statement said. The satellite will be made and launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). "This project will strengthen island and border security and facilitate the development of infrastructure in border/ island areas," the MHA statement said. Putting up a satellite and using space technology to improve border management was part of recommendations by a task-force. The recommendations have been accepted by home minis ter Rajnath Singh. "Some of the key recommendations included building capacity in border guarding forces, using space resources for security, operation, planning and border infrastructure development," the home ministry statement said. "The satellite is being launched by the ISRO for the exclusive use of the MHA," it added.

secretary Ram Madhav on Thursday said "lies and misinformation are being spread" over the Citizenship

(Amendment) Bill which seeks to

grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Pakistan, Afghanistar

and Bangladesh. Addressing a press

conference in Guwahati, Madhav said: "There are some who have

genuine concerns and we respect

those concerns. But there is also a

and disturb peace in Assam and

other states for political gains."

section that wants to create trouble

Rival Cong factions clash as new Himachal unit chief joins

gress factions exchanged blows and flung chairs at each other in a brawl

at the Himachal Pradesh Congress

headquarters shortly after a new state unit president assumed charge. The clash allegedly took

place between supporters of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and

outgoing state unit president Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Eyewit-

nesses said at least two Congress workers were hurt in the fight.

Two NPP MLAs join Cong

in Arunachal Pradesh

SHIMLA: Supporters of two Con-

Two time CPI(M) legislator joins Trinamool Congress

BERHAMPORE: Two-time MLA from Communist Party of India (Marxist), or CPI(M), Abdur Razzak Mandal, joined the Trinamool Congress on Thursday, Mandal (60), a school teacher, was elected twice in Jalangi assembly constituency in Murshidabad district in 2011 and 2016 on a CPI(M) ticket. He became the 40th MLA to switch to Mamata Banerjee's party from opposition outfits since she came in power in May 2011. "Razzak saheb expressed his desire to attend Mamata Banerjee's rally in Kolkata on January 19. With consent from Mamata we have inducted him in Trinamool Congress," said state transport minister Subhendu Adhikari

2 cops injured in attack at Srinagar's Zero Bridge

SRINAGAR: At least two traffic personnel were injured Thursday in a grenade attack by militants on a security picket at Zero Bridge in the city, police said. "Militants hurled a grenade at a security forces' picket near Zero Bridge on Rajbagh side. At least two cops were hurt...," a police official said. He said security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a hunt for the attackers The attack took place less than 100 metres from National Conference headquarters and the local office of the All India Radio

Lies being spread over Citizenship Bill: Ram Madhav GUWAHATI: The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national general

IS MODULE CASE NIA conducts more raids in UP, Punjab

HT Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency on Thursday con-ducted searches at seven places in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab in connection with its ongoing probe into the Islamic State (IS)-inspired module -- Harkat-ul-

Harb-e-Islam, officials said. On December 28, the NIA announced that it had busted an IS-inspired module consisting of members from Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh. The agency has arrested about a dozen accused in connection with the case. Offi-cials said the module was allegedly headed by a preacher work ingatamosquein Amroha, Uttar Pradesh. "Searches (on Thursday) were conducted at Rampur, Bulandshahr, Meerut, Hapur, Amroha in Uttar Pradesh and Ludhiana in Punjab," said an

Kanpur, Lucknow's SIPS Hospital, Dr Ratan agency spokesperson. NIA officials also rounded up 50-year-old Mohammad Habib a Kumar Singh of Charak Hospital, Lucknow, and resident of Kaloli village in Bulandshahr district. The gen-Dr Prem Kumar Khanna of JPMC Hospital and Path Lab in Moradabad eral store owner had spent over 25 vears in Saudi Arabia and can be brought to NIA office in Delhi for are among those raided, questioning, an official said. said an official.

ITANAGAR: Two National People's Party (NPP) legislators in Arunachal Pradesh Thursday quit the party and joined the Congress. At an event here, the two NPP legislators - Tapang Taloh and Rajesh Tachojoined the Congress and expressed their faith in leadership of Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and PCC chief Takam Sanjoy. Congress has only three MLAs in Arunachal assembly.

TAX RAIDS

ON KEY UP

HOSPITALS

LUCKNOW/MEERUT: The

Income Tax department carried out simultane-

ous searches on several

prominent hospitals and

doctors across Uttar Pra-

desh early on Thursday

they were evading taxes officials said. "Unac-

counted tax receipts and

accounts are some of the

things we are investigat

Dr Mahesh Chandra

Sharma of SPM Hospital & Trauma Centre in

ing," an official said.

tampering/fudging of

record books and

following a tip off that

TMC says Oppn rally to be **Bengal's biggest since '77**

JAN 19 EVENT 20 LCD screens to be installed on rally ground, over a million likely to attend

Snigdhendu Bhattacharya

KOLKATA: With the coming Lok Sabha polls in mind, the Trina-mool Congress(TMC) willhold a 'show of Opposition unity" in Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground on January 19, party leaders said on Thursday, claiming that it will be the biggest rally "post-Independence Bengal". "It will be a historic rally.

Leaders of almost every opposi-tion party will be present," West Bengal chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee said, after reviewing preparations for the event. "Regional parties will be a deciding factor in the LS polls...Opposition rally in Kolk-ata will sound the death knell for the BJP which will not get more than 125 seats in LS elections,"

she claimed. Samajwadi Party (SP) national president Akhilesh Yadav, Bahujan Samaj Party's S C Mishra, Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, Congress's Lok Sabha leader Mallikarjun Kharge and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief M K Stalin are among the leaders who confirmed their participation

Akhilesh, who has skipped all meetings in the past aimed at forging Opposition unity against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, would participate in the rally, SP



West Bengal CM said the rally will be a 'historic' one. 'Leaders of almost every opposition party will be present,' she said. HT FILE

spokesperson Rajendra Chaud-

hary confirmed. Apart from them, National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, Karnataka chief minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader H D Kumaraswamy, Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal have also confirmed their participation, TMC leaders said.

Former Union ministers Arun Shourie, Yashwant Sinha and Shatrughan Sinha—all of whom had served in Atal Bihari Vaj-payee's cabinet, but have been bitterly opposed to the Narendra Modi regime—and former Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Gegong Apang, who quit BJP ear-

10% quota will bring social

lier this week, will also attend the rally, TMC leaders said. However, Left parties, includ-

ing the Communist Party of India (Marxist), that are bitterly opposed to TMC will not attend the event. They have called a separate rally on the same grounds on February 3. Even Prime Min-ister Narendra Modi is expected to address a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rally at Parade Ground on February 8. Trinamool supporters have

started arriving in Kolkata from Wednesday night, three days ahead of the rally. There will be 20 giant LCD screens on the rally ground. Bengal food minister Jyoti Priya Mallick said more than a million people are expected to attend the rally claiming that it will be bigg

LIKELY **ATTENDEES**

- SP chief Akhilesh Yadav
- BSP leader SC Mishra
- Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu
- Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge
- DMK chief MK Stalin
- NC leaders Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah
- NCP chief Sharad Pawar
- Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy
- RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal
- Former Union ministers Arun Shourie, Yashwant

Sinha and Shatrughan Sinha Former Arunachal Pradesh

CM Gegong Apang

than the 1977 one on the same ground that was attended by the likes of Jyoti Basu and Jayaprakash Narayan. Political analysts are sceptical. "The biggest rally in Kolkata was the 1955 meeting at Brigade Ground where Jawaharlal Nehru felicitated Soviet leaders Nikita

Khrushchev and Nikolai Bulganin. It was massive, spontaneous and unsurpassable," said Amal Mukhopadhyay, political analyst and former principal of Presidency Colleg

mustread CONG'S 2017-18 **INCOME LOWEST IN 11 YEARS**

NEW DELHI: The Congress party has declared ₹199 crore of income for 2017-18, a 12% decline from the previous year and its lowest in 11 years according to the annual audi report filed by the party with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and data compiled by election watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ECI made the audit report public on Thursday. ADR data is available on its website. The Congress party's income for the year is a fifth of the ₹1,027 crore declared by its key opponent, the ruling BJP. The Congress party earned more income than the BJP every year between 2001-02 and 2012-13.

SISTER ANUPMA, Missionaries of Jesus nun 'They want to split us and isolate the victim Most of the

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Five nuns of the Missionaries of Jesus congregation fell from the grace of their supe-riors after they supported



A joint rescue operation involving nearly 200 NDRF personnel, the Navy as well as state agencies, has been on at a "rat-hole" mine at Khloo Ryngksan in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills since Dec 13.

Body spotted in Meghalaya mine, retrieval hard

Sadiq Naqv

officials involved in the rescue operation. However, there is no

clarity as to how long it will take

to retrieve the body, which could

be in a decomposed state, the offi-

A joint rescue operation

involving nearly 200 personnel from the National Disaster Relief

Force (NDRF), Indian Navy as wellstate agencies, has been on at

a "rat-hole" mine at Khloo

Ryngksan in Meghalaya's East

Jaintia Hills district for the past

one month. The rat-hole mining involves digging of small holes

into the ground to extract coal. Illegal mining is rife in the dis-

trict and a National Green Tribu-

nal ban on such activities has

"Yes, the Navy-operated ROV has found a dead body," S S

Syiemlieh, additional deputy commissioner, East Jaintia Hills

said on Thursday. The Navy also confirmed the development on

Twitter: "The depth is 160 feet

(and not 60 feet) and the body has

been pulled up to the mouth of rat-

hole mine and shall be extracted out of the mine under the supervi-

According to East Jaintia Hills

district administration officials.

deputy commissioner FM Dopth

has invited five families of

trapped miners to watch the footage captured by the ROV. The

officials said the body could be in a decomposed state and efforts to

retrieve it could lead to disinte-gration of the body parts.

The relatives will give their

opinion on Friday whether they

sion of doctors.

been in place for four years.

cials said.

Meghalaya deputy chief minister Prestone Tynsong, said, "Operation ison and we have not GUWAHATI: The Indian Navy's underwater remotely operated vehicle(ROV)Wednesdavevengiven up vet." ing spotted a body during the Speaking on the condition of search for 15 workers trapped in an illegal coal mine in Meghalaya since December 13, according to

officials said.

anonymity, an NDRF official involved in the operation said that the body—the dead miner is seen wearing a "red T-shirt and a torn blue jeans" in the footage was spotted around 6.30 pm on Wednesday.

want the body to be pulled out, the

The official also said the body is stuck in a rat-hole into which Navy's ROV cannot enter. A Chennai-based company, which arrived at the spot a few days ago, is operating smaller ROVs in the main shaft, the official added

The official said the agencies including the NDRF and the Navy were desperately looking for information on the rat-holes at the bottom of the main pit, which was flooded when water from the nearby Lytein river gushed into it while workers were digging it to extract coal. "We requested dis trict administration to get in touch with Sayeb Ali, one of the survivors," the official said.

Ali, a resident of Chirang dis-trict in neighbouring Assam, had claimed on December 18, that he along with three others managed to get out of the mine on Decem ber 13 itself.

The NDRF official said he got in touch with Ali and three others survivors to extract information inside the mine. "It was on the basis of their inputs that this body was spotted in a rat-hole." the official said, adding that they are now hopeful of detecting others as ROVs would now search beyond the depth of 210 ft where the body

was first spotted. The Supreme Court last week pulled up the Meghalava government for its inaction against ille gal miners while saying that res cues efforts must continue



Dera chief gets life imprisonment for journalist s murder

harmony, cut divisions: PM **HT Correspondent** AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the constitutional amendment to

provide 10% reservation to the economically poor in the general category had been passed because of the political will of his National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government and would usher in "social harmony." "Implementation of 10 %

quota in government jobs and education for the economically weaker sections in the general category will usher in social harmony and bridge divisions in society," Modi said, addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 1,500 bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Science and Research. The Prime Minister said the

reservation will not affect existing social reservations. 'The new reservation will be

implemented in 40,000 colleges across 900 universities in the country from this academic vear. The number of seats will be increased by 10%," he said, add-ing that his government was committed to provide "equal opportunities" to all sections of

society. Taking a shot at the opposition, the Prime Minister said that they lacked the courage to amend the Constitution.

"Demand for reservation was decades old... but there was a

gory. The order was struck down by the Supreme Court.

Modi congratulated the Gujarat government on becoming the first state in India to imple-ment the amendment.

It is significant given the fact that Patidars, the BJP's staunch supporters for decades, have been up in arms against the gov-ernment, demanding Other Backward Classes status and reservation benefits in government jobs and college admissions

In the two important elections (2015 local body polls and 2017 assembly elections) held in the backdrop of the Patidar agitation, the BJP barely managed to win. The new amendment has come months before the Lok

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives at Mahatma Mandir Exhibition cum Convention Centre in Gujarat on Thursday. SIDDHARAJ SOLANKI/H

gurated a week-long Ahmeda bad Shopping Festival on the Sabarmati riverfront, where he said the government had been working to make the Goods and Service Tax(GST) regime easier

and simpler. "We are moving toward a system where the bank loans will be available based on the GST or other taxes returns. Today small traders can get loan upto ₹1 crore within 59 minutes," he claimed.

Earlier in the day, the PM inaugurated Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show, which has been organized in Gandhinagar on the sideline of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019. Modi will inaugurate the threeday summit on Friday

4 face face

Ramesh Babu

They transferred some

The fresh searches come five days after the probe agency arrested a suspect named Muhammad Absar from Hapur district for having alleged links to the global outfit

Earlier, on January 4, Naeem, the alleged arms supplier of the Harkat-ul-Harb-e-Islam, was arrested from Meerut.

Arrests in connection with the ase began on December 26, when 10 members, including an alleged mastermind Mufti Mohammad Suhail of the new IS module, were arrested from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh during raids at 17 places.

(With agency inputs) cally poor in the general cate-

нтс

lack of political will. The politi-Sabha elections in which the cal parties used it as plank. But BJP is expected to face a tough they lacked the courage. The task in retaining all 26 seats, a NDA government has shown featitachieved in 2014, in Modi's home state this will," he said, in an indirect reference to the executive order four years, millions of jobs had issued by former Prime Minister P V. Narasimha Rao introducing been created in manufacturing, 10% reservation was economitourism and service sectors

Modialso said that in the past

Congress spokesman Manish Doshi, said: "The BJP has summoned its 'will' after electoral defeat in five states. It has shown will to give reservation when they have failed to generate employment, against promised 2 crore jobs every year. They have granted reservation when there are no jobs in the first place.

History postgrad plotted Raj idol theft: Cops

antiques. The investigators have

found that Rawal and Vikram

Rajpurohit then surveyed the

temple and roped in Yunus Khan,

47, a driver, who knew the area around the temple well, to help

Singh said Rawal soon began

avoiding Praveen Rajpurohit and

them to execute their plan.

Jaykishan Sharma

JAIPUR: A 35-year-old man with a master's degree in history has been arrested along with eight others within 10 days of carrying out an alleged theft of three 12th century idols from a temple in Rajasthani's Sirohi district he had planned for over four years

Praveen Rajpurohit and his gang were arrested Tuesday after carrying out the theft on January 5, according to police investiga tors. He had allegedly been plot ting the theft since 2015 with the help of his 25-year-old friend Vikram Rajpurohit after learning that the idols were worth about ₹1 crore in the international market. "Both of them worked at a local cement factor in Pindwara." said Sumer Singh, in charge of Pindwara police sta tion, under whose jurisdiction



 Praveen Rajpurohit (extreme left), along with eight others, was arrested on Tuesday. HT PHOTO

and Sanwlaji were stolen. The recovered idols, which are made of sapphire or Neelam, were stolen along with ornaments.

Singh said Vikram Rajpurohit introduced Praveen Rajpurohit to Suresh Rawal, 36, in 2015 to carry out the theft. He added Rawal has been arrested earlier

feet despite taking ₹20.000 advance for allegedly stealing the idols. In December, the four met again and decided to execute the plan with help of Reshmaram Garasiya, 50. On January 2, Vikram Rajpur-

The Prime Minister also inau-

ohit and Garasiya surveyed the temple before allegedly stealing the idols three days later Singh said Garasiya and his accomplices, Shivlal Garasiya, 20, and Dhanaram, 50, allegedly broke into the temple to steal the idols around 11 pm on January 5.

Sirohi police superintendent, Jai Yaday constituted a special team to investigate the theft and arrested all nine on Tuesday.

Yadav said the accused have been arrested under Indian Penal Code's section 455 [trespass], 380 [theft], 411 [dishonestly receiving stolen property], 427 [causing damage to property] and 120 B [criminal conspiracy].

find whether the gang had any ties with a smuggler of artifacts identified as Khivaram, who is from Jaipur. "Khiyaram has been arrested in the past, too, in cases of smuggling of precious idols."

A Rajasthan government archaeologist called the idols priceless. "The prices of the idols... depend on the taste of buyers. Some galleries purchase idols in lakhs from India and sell them through exhibitions in crores," he said on condition of anonymity. He said earlier such sto len items were smuggled mostly to Germany "But after Germany made tougher laws on protecting antiquity works, the smuggling of antiques has stopped. Now the US is biggest market for these stolen pieces, followed by the UK and now it is moving to Australia."

generally identify ancient tem ples in remote villages and one of their fellow nuns when she levelled rape charges against former bishop of Jalandhar Franco Mulakkal. The nuns have since been hounded, asked to vacate their convent in Kuravilangad (Kottayam) and proceed to their previ-

ous vocations by their mother superior. Talking to HT, the leader

of the five nuns, Sister Anupma Kelamangalathuvelivil said this too is part of an effort at silencing them:

You said the latest move to transfer you is aimed at weak-ening the case?

No doubt about it. They want to split us and isolate the victim so as to weaken the case. It is a fight to finish and we will never leave our fellow sister alone. Ever since we raised our fingers there were attempts to defrock us and expel us. Even in Kerala, there were many attempts on us. I used to drive a two-wheeler and its brake wires were cut twice. If we go to faraway places in Bihar or Punjab it is easy for them to liquidate us. Even in Kerala, our con-gregation never stood with us so we can imagine our plight in faraway places. Come what may we will not

from Jalandhar to keep a tab on us...

inmates of the

convent are not even on

talking terms with us.

move out of the convent

You said you are leading a secluded life in the convent? True Most of the inmates of the convent are not even on talking terms with us. They transferred some from Jalandhar to keep a tab on us. In religious duties and other functions we were always excluded. During Christmas we used to ge ₹1000. This time we failed to get this also. We rear live chickens and sell their eggs and cultivate vegetables to eke out our living. Some believers were even barred from procuring these

Yuvraj Kaushal and Surender Sharma

PANCHKULA: A special CBI court on Thursday awarded life sentence to Dera Sacha Sauda head Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and three others for the murder of journal ist Ram Chander Chhatrapati in 2002.

The 51-year-old self-styled god man, along with three others -Nirmal Singh Kuldeen Singhand Krishan Lal, appeared before the court through video conference ing. Singh appeared from Rohtak's Sunaria jail, where he is currently serving a 20-year-sentence in a rape case. The three others appeared from Central Jail in Ambala. The jail term for the Dera head would start once his 20-year sentence is completed.

Chhatrapati was shot at a

point-blank range at his Sirsa

home on October 24, 2002, months

after his newspaper 'Poora Sach'

published an anonymous letter,

alleging that women disciples

were being sexually harassed and

raped by Singh in the Dera head-

quarters at Sirsa. Three weeks later, Chhatrapati succumbed to

deceased journalist said that the family was satisfied with the

judgment. "This is the triumph of

Anshul Chhatrapati, son of

his injuries.

What is next for you?

things from us.

We will take the case to its logical end. We will ensure justice to our fellow nun who suffered a lot. No other nun should undergo her plight. The government appointed a public prosecutor last week and we expect the trail will be fasttracked. We will remain in the convent. We will be part of our congregation till our last breath. Our fight is for justice not against anyone

pressreader provingert and protected by Applicate Law

