



NEW DELHI, LATE CITY FEBRUARY 10, 2019 24+6 (EYE) PAGES, ₹6.00

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SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

A long way from Kolkata, Delhi...

...lies West Bengal's chit fund country and its stories of life savings lost to scams, children out of school, marriages put off

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

The firewall

Over 14,460 bunkers are being built across border villages of J&K that are often at the mercy of firing and shelling from Pak



She was feted in the West for her voice, and forgotten in India. But singer Asha Puthli has more songs to sing and stories to tell — if you care to listen

LADY SINGS THE BLUES

Cong MP balancing act: NSA cases stay, Home to clear in future

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 9

WITH THE invocation of the National Security Act (NSA) against persons arrested for slaughter and illegal transport of cows in Madhya Pradesh in two recent cases coming under criticism, including from a state Congress MLA, the Congress government in the state has decided to exercise caution from now on while invoking the stringent legislation.

Every three months, the government issues a notification authorising district magistrates to exercise powers conferred under Section 3(3) of the NSA to detain persons if they threaten communal harmony or commit acts prejudicial to the maintenance of public order and the security of the state. A top bureaucrat told The Sunday Express that now the state Home Ministry will review such decisions and decide if there has been an error of judgment by district authorities in issuing such detention orders. Every collector has to also send a report to the Home Ministry about such detentions.

Despite repeated attempts, Law Minister P C Sharma and DGP V K Singh did not return calls.

Currently, collectors invoke the NSA based on recommendations of superintendents of police. But while the provision is regularly invoked against habitual criminals, its use for offences under the state's prohibition of cow slaughter act is not that common.

As per the last notification on the NSA issued by the state government, applicable from CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL

Need Bill, won't let any harm come to you: PM to Northeast

'Only after requisite checks and requests from states can citizenship be granted'

ABHISHEK SAHA CHANGSARI (ASSAM), FEBRUARY 9

SPEAKING AT a huge public rally here on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his government's commitment to passing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, while reassuring the people of Assam and the Northeast that they would not face any difficulty due to it. Saying his government was committed to protecting the culture and interests of the people of the Northeast and Assam, he said that "only after requisite checks and requests from the state government can the decision to grant citizenship be taken".

Addressing the rally that was attended by over three lakh people, of various communities and tribes, Modi said those "who believed in Maa Bharati (Mother India)" but were persecuted in their native countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan had nowhere to go to but India. At the same time, Modi said, there was no place for "ghuspediyon (illegal immigrants)" in the country.

"We need to understand the difference between those who have come to encroach on our resources and those who have



PM with Arunachal CM Pema Khandu in Itanagar, Saturday. PTI CHINA OBJECTS TO VISIT, P6

come to India after fleeing religious persecution. The Bill is not just connected to Assam and the Northeast but many other parts of the country. There are people

who have faith in Maa Bharati, who sing glory to Bharat Mata, who had to save their dignity and lives and seek refuge in the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

To 'pool anti-BJP, TMC votes', Cong, CPM clear way for West Bengal tie-up

MANOJ CGG & RAVIK BHATTACHARYA NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 9

THE CONGRESS and CPM-led Left Front on Saturday appeared to be heading for a tactical understanding in West Bengal for the Lok Sabha elections. The Left may not contest in all the 42 seats, saying it wanted to maximise the pooling of "anti-BJP, anti-Trinamool Congress votes".

The state leadership of both the Congress and CPM has been pushing for a tactical tie-up, but the central leaders were ambivalent. The Congress high command was hoping for an understanding with the TMC, while the CPM's Kerala unit had been opposing any truck with the Congress.

The TMC, however, was not willing to enter into an alliance with the Congress.

The CPM Politburo which met here on Friday and Saturday discussed the issue. Congress president Rahul Gandhi too had a meeting with PCC presidents and Congress Legislature Party CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MLA shot, TMC alleges tussle for Matua votes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 9

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS MLA Satyajit Biswas, 35, was shot dead in Nadia district of West Bengal on Saturday night. Police sources said Biswas was shot at point-blank range while he was leaving after inaugurating a Saraswati puja at a school in his constituency, Krishnaganj.

The MLA was rushed to a local hospital but was declared brought dead. A police official claimed a firearm was recovered from the spot.

Biswas, a first-time MLA, had won Krishnaganj in a bypoll in 2015, defeating

Manabendra Roy of the BJP by a margin of 36,960 votes. He was also president of the party's youth wing in the district. Biswas had married recently.

The MLA's killing set off charges and counter-charges by the Trinamool and the BJP. "I have worked with Satyajit (Biswas) for years. This was an orchestrated plan (by the BJP) to CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DECISION 2019

EXPLAINED E

Cong and CPM, this time for LS

IN A development echoing what happened in UP, the Congress, kept out by the Trinamool, has gone with the second best option and is ready for an understanding with the CPM. The compulsion to keep the BJP out has also drowned the reservations of the Kerala unit of the CPM.

POLICE CHIEF QUESTIONED PAGE 7

ED Vadra probe looks into contract linked to ONGC-Samsung deal

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

PROBING ROBERT Vadra and his relationship with absconding arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is looking into whether a 2008 deal between ONGC and Samsung Engineering Ltd is linked to alleged payoffs that were behind the purchase of a property in London.

The ED is probing Vadra in connection with half-a-dozen properties in London, which, it claims, are indirectly owned by him. The agency recently told a



Robert Vadra at ED office in Delhi Saturday. Praveen Khanna

Delhi court that one of these properties had been purchased in 2010 with "kickbacks" through Bhandari. It has claimed these kickbacks were paid to Bhandari in a "petroleum ministry deal of the UPA era".

Last week, Vadra's lawyer KT S Tuli had told The Indian Express that his client "has no foreign asset" and that the ED probe was a "smear campaign and not an investigation".

The petroleum deal the ED told the court about, sources said, is related to a petro-chemical complex that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD

BEZOS'S CLAIMS OF EXTORTION AGAINST MEDIA HOUSE TO BE PROBED PAGE 17

Twitter says can't appear before panel, BJP warns of repercussions

KARISHMA MEHROTRA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 9

CITING "SHORT notice", Twitter has declined to send its CEO or global executives to be present before the parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, which had summoned the social networking platform on February 11 to "examine" the issue of

"safeguarding citizens' rights on social/online news media platforms".

The summons was over Twitter account-holders losing followers and accusations that the social networking site was suspending some handles, especially those voicing right-wing views.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Twitter said, "Given the short notice of the hearing,

we informed the Committee that it would not be possible for senior officials from Twitter to travel from the United States to appear on Monday. Our CEO, Jack Dorsey, and other senior Twitter executives visited India in recent weeks because it is an important market for Twitter and we value the growing interest in Twitter in India."

The statement added that CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



TOLL RISES TO 61 IN HOCH TRAGEDY

DIocese reassures nuns won't be transferred PAGE 9

Two months on, a Telangana Cabinet of just two: The great KCR puzzle

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 9

THEY THOUGHT he would do it after the Pongal festival in January. Then, after his five-day yagya in January end. But the festival came and went, as did the 'Maha Rudra Sahitha Sahasra Chandhi Yagam', and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao did not expand his Cabinet. Two months on since he came to power, the state continues to be run by KCR with just one minister: Mohammed Mahmood Ali, holding the Home portfolio.



Rao with the Governor and his only minister, Mahmood Ali

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) can't really put their finger on what is holding KCR back. The re-

sults, declared on December 11, had swept KCR back to power with a thumping majority of 88

of 119 seats. He took oath two days later with the 66-year-old Ali, who was his revenue minister last time and is an MLC.

Telangana can have 18 ministers including the CM — 15 per cent of the 119-seat Assembly.

There have been no Cabinet meetings, with KCR running the show mostly through review meetings, of which there have been a dozen. In the meetings, held at his Pragathi Bhavan office-cum-residence, where he clears files of all the departments, all the officials concerned have to be present. Ali participates in some of these meetings, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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