

NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW

Several injured, police station vandalised as Bihar bandh turns violent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, DECEMBER 21

AROUND TWO dozen people were injured, 1,550 people detained and 13 arrested across Bihar during a bandh called by the RJD and its alliance partners to protest against the new citizenship law and proposed nationwide NRC.

Six people were injured in firing, while another six including two policemen were injured in brickbating in Patna, police said.

There were reports of violence in Vaishali, Bhagalpur and Bhojpur and Gopalganj as well. The police used teargas and mild lathicharge at these places.

Road and train services were disrupted across the state, with at least a dozen trains running behind schedule.

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who led the Opposition's protest march in Patna, said they had asked their workers to protest peace-

fully and alleged that the state police were responsible for provoking violence at some places. RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha, who also joined the protest, said the central government had forced "unnecessary law and order problems" by amending the citizenship law.

Around two dozen people including an assistant sub-inspector were injured in Patna, Nawada and Aurangabad during the protests. More than 50 people vandalised a police station in Nawada. An assistant sub-inspector of police was injured in Aurangabad when a group of protesters allegedly threw stones at a police team, prompting them to use teargas.

Police said they were studying video footage to identify the miscreants.

Six persons were admitted to AIIMS, Patna. At least three mediapersons suffered minor injuries during protests at Dak Bungalow Chowk and Phulwarisharif in Patna.



A demonstration against the CAA and NRC in Patna. PTI

Threat to Pak from India increasing due to anti-CAA protest: Imran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 21

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan on Saturday expressed apprehension that India could carry out a "false flag operation" against it to divert attention from its domestic situation and warned that it will give a befitting response to any such action.

In a series of tweets, Khan said that under the Modi government, India has been moving towards "Hindu Rashtra" with its "fascist ideology".

"...Now with the Citizens Amendment Act, all those Indians who want a pluralist India are beginning to protest & it is becoming a mass movement," Khan said.

As the protests in India are increasing, "threat to Pakistan from India is also increasing" and the Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat's remarks on the situation along the Line of Control adds to Pakistan's "concerns of a false flag operation", he said.

"I have been warning the int community of this for some time & am reiterating again: if India does such an operation to divert attention from its domestic



Imran Khan

chaos plus whip up war hysteria to mobilise Hindu nationalism, Pak will have no option but to give a befitting response," he tweeted.

Earlier, Pakistan Army spokesperson Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor had described Gen Rawat's remarks as a tactic to take global attention away from domestic issues.

Khan had criticised the new citizenship law and said it "violates all norms of international human rights law and bilateral agreements with Pakistan" and that "it is part of the RSS Hindu Rashtra design of expansionism".

India slammed Khan, saying such "unwarranted" criticism cannot absolve Pakistan of the "blatant persecution" of religious minorities.

Sonia's anti-CAA post retweeted from Oli's handle, later deleted

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE  
KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 21

ARETWEET of Congress president Sonia Gandhi's video message criticising the Narendra Modi government from Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli's official Twitter handle was removed after severe criticism on social media, with a top aide of the Nepal PM stating that the account may have been temporarily compromised.

Sonia's 2.37-minute video message, criticising the Modi government over attempts to allegedly suppress protests



Nepal PM K P Oli

against the new citizenship law with "brute force" and tweeted from the Congress party's official handle, was retweeted a few minutes later from Oli's Twitter handle on Friday.

As it was greeted with hostile messages, some calling it an act of immature diplomacy that may affect Nepal's relationship with



At Tiranga Chowk in Meerut, where four deaths have been reported. Abhinav Saha

In Kanpur, a police outpost damaged, cop critical; 2 victims' kin await bodies

ASAD REHMAN  
KANPUR, DECEMBER 21

PROTESTERS ON Saturday tried to burn down a police outpost at Yateemkhana area of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, as agitation against the new citizenship law and NRC went on for the second successive day, a day after two protesters died of bullet injuries.

Ashish Kumar Awasthi, the guard at the police outpost, said a crowd of hundreds tried to overpower him and two other police officials posted there. "They tried to burn down the outpost, but we stood strong. They were throwing big stones and bricks at us; then more police officials came to the rescue," he said.

At 8.30 pm on Saturday, when *The Sunday Express* went there, the police outpost stood damaged, its windows and doors broken. Several vehicles parked outside were completely burnt.

The road leading to the outpost was strewn with glass shards, bricks and stones. There was heavy police deployment.

"One constable has received



Relatives and neighbours of Mohammad Saif on Saturday. Express

bullet injury on his shoulder and is critical. He is being treated," SP (Rural), Kanpur, Pradyumn Singh, who was patrolling the area on Saturday night, said.

Asked about the sequence of events, Singh said, "Protesters had gathered in large numbers. They indulged in arson and burnt down around 20 vehicles. No protester has received any major injury; only teargas and rubber bullets were used to disperse the crowd."

An officer who did want to be identified said, "The protest was initially peaceful. Then they wanted to take the march to

Babupurwa area, where two people died on Friday during the protests. District officials, senior police officers and clerics tried to convince them to call it off, but they did not listen. Then, it turned violent.... Some protesters threw petrol bombs at the outpost."

ADG, Kanpur zone, Prem Prakash, who was present near the site, said the situation is under control. "Yesterday, there were two deaths in Babupurwa. Their bodies were handed over to family members. Today, people tried to gather and take a march to Babupurwa."

Prakash said 40 people were arrested on Friday, and seven on Saturday. Among the arrested are an MLA and a former MLA, he said.

Earlier in the day, around 3.30 pm, locals in Babupurwa area awaited the bodies of Mohammad Aftab (22) and Mohammad Saif (25), who died of bullet injuries on Friday during the violence near Eidgah mosque in Nayi Basti.

Their family members said the two were not part of the protests, and they do not know who fired on them.

Mohammad Raees (49), an

uncle of Aftab, said the 22-year-old had gone to receive payment from his contractor for work done through the week as a daily wager.

Aftab's father had died five years ago due to illness and the youth is survived by mother Nagma (51) and six siblings.

The victim's brother, Mohammad Shadab (18), said Aftab was shot in the chest and the bullet left from the other side. "We don't know who shot him. His body is supposed to come home; it will then go to the graveyard," the teen said.

In Munshipurwa, under Babupurwa police station and around 1 km from Aftab's home, a crowd had gathered at second victim Saif's home. The area seemed tense, with heavy police deployment.

Saif's father Mohammad Taqi, 54, a house painter, said "We have been told that he received two bullets — one in the hand and another on stomach. I saw the body yesterday."

His mother Qamar Jahaan, 50, told mourning relatives, "He had gone for Friday prayers and was returning when he was shot."

Vandals will be shot: Bengal BJP president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

WEST BENGAL BJP state president Dilip Ghosh has said that those destroying government properties will be shot. "*Dosh hok ba aksho hok, desher sompotti noshto korle guli khete hobe. Tash Assam e hok, ba Uttar Pradesh e hok* (Be it 10 or 100, those destroying our nation's properties will get bullets, whether in Assam or Uttar Pradesh or anywhere else)," Ghosh said when asked about the deaths in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country during the anti-CAA protests.

Ghosh was speaking to the media on the sidelines of a pro-Citizenship Amendment Act rally in Bankura.

The Trinamool Congress has reacted strongly to Ghosh's statement, accusing the Midnapore MP of trying to provoke people. "His statements are meant to provoke people and disturb peace. We do not expect anything better from him or his party colleagues," said TMC leader Tapas Roy.

Maharashtra govt announces farm loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh

VISHWAS WAGHMODE  
NAGPUR, DECEMBER 21

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday announced an unconditional crop loan waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh on outstanding loans taken from 2015 to September 30, 2019. The scheme, to be called Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme, was announced by Uddhav in the Assembly on the concluding day of its winter session.

"The government will waive farmers' loans of up to Rs 2 lakh, pending till September 30. I am announcing the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme today in the House. The scheme will start from March next year as the government will require two months for its rollout," Uddhav said in the Assembly. Besides, a special scheme would be offered for farmers who repay their loans on time, he said.

Uddhav said it would be a transparent scheme and the money would be directly transferred to the bank accounts of farmers. "Farmers will not have to meet any conditions. Our intention is to make as many farmers debt-free as possible. The loan taken for the current season, which will be pending next June, will be restructured. A separate incentive scheme will be announced in the next 15 days for farmers who are paying crop loans regularly," he added.

Jayant Patil, Minister for Finance and senior NCP leader, said the number of beneficiaries and total loan amount to be waived will be announced soon. "Loans of farmers, which have remained outstanding since 2015, would be waived. The total amount to be spent will be more than Rs 20,000 crore, as claimed to have been disbursed by the previous BJP-led government...no



CM Uddhav Thackeray

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** No clarity on financial burden

FARM LOAN waiver was one of the main components of the Common Minimum Programme of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress government. The new scheme comes two years after the Rs 34,000-crore loan waiver announced by then BJP-Sena government in 2017. There was no word on the exact burden the new scheme would put on the state treasury.

forms would be needed, no one will have to stand in queue and no online form submission would be needed, which was required for the previous government's loan waiver scheme," he added.

Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis alleged that the government had not fulfilled its original promise of full loan waiver. Staging a walkout from the Assembly, he alleged that the government has "backstabbed" farmers. He also questioned the government's failure to give assistance of Rs 25,000 per hectare to farmers who suffered losses due to unseasonal rain, a demand which Uddhav himself had made before he became CM.

Modi holds meet with ministers, reviews key sectors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday held a marathon meeting with the Council of Ministers, reviewed the performance of key sectors and held deliberations on a vision for the next four and a half years.

The meeting, which started 10.30 am and concluded after 6 pm, was attended by all the ministers in the Modi government. According to sources, discussions were held on two key sectors: rural agriculture and allied sectors, and infrastructure.

The government had set a target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 and has launched some schemes such as PM-Kisan. Sources said that the implementation of such flagship schemes was reviewed in the meeting.

It was also learnt that suggestions regarding the Union Budget 2020-21, which will be



PM Narendra Modi

presented on February 1 next year, were discussed.

This was the second meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Modi government that took oath on May 30 this year. The first meeting took place in June.

It was not clear whether the protests over the new citizenship law came up for discussion during the meeting. The issue may figure in a meeting of the Union Cabinet scheduled for Tuesday, as it is expected to approve a proposal of conducting the 2021 Census and updation of National Population Register (NPR).

Over 1,000 intellectuals, academics, scholars back new citizenship law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

MORE THAN 1,000 academics, intellectuals and scholars on Saturday came out in support of the new citizenship law, saying that it "fulfills the long-standing demand of providing refuge and citizenship to persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan".

The list includes Anand Ranganathan of JNU, Prof Prakash Singh of Delhi University, senior journalist Kanchan Gupta, Abhijit Iyer-Mitra, Senior Fellow, Institute

of Peace and Conflict Studies, Advocate J Sai Deepak, Guru Prakash of the Department of Law, Patna University, Professor Ainul Hasan, Dean of School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, Meenakshi Jain, Senior Fellow, ICSSR, Debasis Bhattacharya, Visva Bharti, Shantiniketan, Jiten Jain, Honorary Professor at Amity University, Professor AP Pandey, Vice-chancellor, Manipur University, Geeta Bhatt, Bhaskaracharya College, Delhi University, Professor Chandan Chaube, Delhi University, Professor Ajay Dubey and Pranav Kumar of JNU,

Suvrajyoti Gupta, Assistant Professor, OP Jindal Global University, Advocate Shubhendu Anand who is a Chevening Scholar, and Anil Kumar, Sri Ram College of Commerce.

In a statement issued in their "personal capacity", the 1,100 signatories said that "ever since the failure of the Liaquat-Nehru pact of 1950, various leaders and political parties like the Congress, CPI (M) etc cutting across the ideological spectrum have demanded the grant of refuge and citizenship to religious minorities from Pakistan and Bangladesh who mostly belong to the Dalit castes".

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03.	Upper Division Clerk	12
04.	Work Assistant 'A'/Hospital Work Assistant 'A'	20
Requirement of Zirconium Complex, Pazhayakayal, Tuticorin Dist., Tamil Nadu		
05.	Stipendiary Trainee Category-I	06
06.	Stipendiary Trainee Category-II	06
Requirement of PRP, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (a Unit of Department of Atomic Energy) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu		
07.	Stipendiary Trainee Category-II	06
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