



Telangana HC orders re-autopsy of bodies of four rape accused
page 8



Farm loans up to ₹2 lakh will be waived, says Uddhav Thackeray
page 10



Pakistani professor sentenced to death for blasphemy
page 12

India meets West Indies in ODI series-decider at Cuttack today
page 17



PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

NEARBY



Bhim Army chief held in dawn drama

NEW DELHI
The Delhi police on Saturday arrested 27 persons, including Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Azad, in connection with the violence that erupted at Seemapuri in Shahdara and Delhi Gate on Friday. All accused have been sent to judicial custody.

NEWS • PAGE 11

Protests continue at Jamia Millia Islamia

NEW DELHI
Braving freezing cold on Saturday morning, a large crowd gathered at Jamia Millia Islamia for the sixth consecutive day to condemn alleged police brutality against students of the university, and continue their protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens.

CITY • PAGE 3

MAGAZINE • 12 PAGES
CLASSIFIEDS • PAGES 6 & 7

AMU sets up one-man judicial panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH (U.P.)

Aligarh Muslim University has set up a one-man judicial panel to conduct an internal inquiry into violent incidents that rocked the campus early this week.

“The inquiry into the violent incidents that took place on the campus on December 15 and 16 will be conducted by former Chief Justice of Chattisgarh High Court, Justice V.K. Gupta,” AMU Vice Chancellor Tariq Mansoor said on Saturday. “We are glad that Justice Gupta has given his consent for the same,” he said.

Prof. Mansoor said the university has decided to get the origin of the violence probed as it is not interested in suppressing any fact. “We are not interested in suppressing any fact and that is why we have taken such a prompt decision to ensure speedy justice,” he said.

Toll touches 16 in U.P. as protests continue

Fresh incidents of violence in Kanpur, Rampur; police claim they did not open fire at protesters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Protests against the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) continued in many parts of the country on Saturday, as the death toll from widespread violence in Uttar Pradesh rose to 16.

Fresh incidents of violence were reported from towns in Uttar Pradesh, while a bandh called by the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar affected road and rail traffic.

Protests in West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Maharashtra and the national capital were peaceful. Chennai continued to witness protests, with activists from several students' organisations, including the Students Federation of India (SFI) and the Untouchability Eradication Front, clashing with the police at the Dr. Puratchi Thalaiyar MGR Central Railway Station.

A 25-year-old youth died and several people were injured in clashes between protesters and the police in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, officials said. Many persons were injured in Kanpur, after protesters set the Yatimkhana police post on fire and threw stones at the police. Over 260 policemen were also injured, of whom 57 received gunshot wounds, IG (Law and Order) Praveen Kumar told PTI.



Fiery agitation: A vehicle allegedly torched by protesters during a demonstration against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Kanpur on Saturday. • PTI

The Uttar Pradesh police maintained that it did not open fire at protesters anywhere on Friday or Saturday, and firing came from agitators. “All the deaths that took place have been in crossfire, and this will become clear in the post-mortem examination,” DGP O.P. Singh told reporters. “Women and children were used as shields by the protesters,” he alleged.

“If anyone died in our fire, we will conduct a judicial inquiry and take action. But nothing happened from our side,” he said.

Internet services remain suspended in many parts of Uttar Pradesh. In Patna and several other towns of Bihar, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supporters picketed rail and bus stations and blocked roads.

While the BJP has announced a nationwide campaign to drum up support for the law, the Congress vowed to keep up the momentum of protests and announced a silent dharna at Rajghat for Monday.

As the BJP signalled that it would brazen out the protests, its ally, Shiromani Akali

Dal (SAD), called for bringing Muslims under the purview of the CAA and put a lid on the controversy. Party president and former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal said, “We strongly feel that the Muslim community should be included in it [the CAA].” The law fast-tracks citizenship for followers of six religions if they have fled from persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, and excludes Muslims.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 10
LAND RIGHTS LAWS • PAGE 10

BJP to conduct awareness drive

The BJP will conduct a mass contact programme to inform the people of the details of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, assure them that it is not against any citizen and bust the “myths” around it, the party said on Saturday. • PAGE 10

Cong. MP: include Ahmadiyyas

Congress MP Partap Singh Bajwa has urged the President to expand the ambit of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act to include the Ahmadiyyas in the list of communities eligible for citizenship. They had faced persecution in Pakistan since 1953 and Pakistan did not recognise them as Muslims, he said. • PAGE 10

Topper to shun convocation

Karthika B. Kurup, a gold medalist in M.Sc. Electronic Media at Pondicherry University, has decided to reject her medal and not to attend the convocation scheduled for Monday, demanding the withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. • PAGE 11

Trinamool team to meet kin of those killed in U.P. protests

Former Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi will lead delegation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A four-member Trinamool delegation, led by former Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi, will visit Uttar Pradesh on Sunday and meet the “grieving families of those killed in police firing in Lucknow”.

“Our delegation is going to Lucknow on a humanitarian mission to be with the grieving families of those killed and would meet the people injured in the incidents,” a press statement by the party's general secretary, Subrata Bakshi, said on Saturday.

The delegation will include Trinamool MPs Pratima Mondal, Mohammad Nadimul Haque and Abir Biswas.

The statement referred to the deaths of several people “in police firing in various



Dinesh Trivedi

parts of Uttar Pradesh on December 20 during the protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act”.

After almost five days of protest by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, which included long marches and public rallies, the Trinamool Congress has shifted its protests to sit-ins and rallies involving the party organisation as also its labour and peasant arms.

Ms. Banerjee has directed

her party to take out a procession in every sub-division on December 23, and take up a similar programme from north Kolkata's Simla Street to Belegghata Gandhi Bhavan in northeast Kolkata the next day.

Students' protest

Thousands of students from different universities of the city joined a march in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act from Shahid Minar in Esplanade area to the State BJP headquarters in north Kolkata.

A scuffle broke out near the BJP headquarters, but the police kept the students and the BJP supporters from coming face to face.

Earlier in the day, Congress supporters held protests against the CAA in front of Raj Bhavan.

‘Protesters say they were held after Friday prayers’

All 15 sent to two-day judicial custody; family of one claims he is a minor

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The 15 persons arrested in connection with Daryaganj violence on Friday have been sent to two-day judicial custody, senior advocate Rebecca John said.

The lawyer, who appeared before the court for all the 15 arrested persons on Saturday, said the police did not produce them till 4.30 p.m. after which the matter went to a duty magistrate. The matter is now scheduled for Monday, she added.

When asked about the profile of the accused, Ms. John said they are all from humble background, with one being a carpenter. “Most of them say they were picked up by the police when they were returning after Friday prayers,” she said.



Relatives of those arrested in connection with Friday's violence at the Daryaganj police station on Saturday. • R.V. MOORTHY

One of the 15 arrested persons may be a minor, said the senior advocate. “The boy's family said he was 15 years old but the police said they are verifying his age,” she said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa remained unavailable for comment.

In a parallel development,

a Delhi court sent 11 persons, arrested in connection with the violence in Seemapuri on Friday, to 14-day judicial custody. Metropolitan Magistrate Mayank Mittal sent them to jail as the police did not seek their custodial interrogation, said advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, who represented the accused.

The counsel submitted before the court that three of the accused had serious injuries and no prima facie case was made out against any of them. She further said the police had not placed on record any MLC (medicolegal case) to show the nature of injuries suffered by its personnel and sought to know the basis on which Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code was applied against the accused.

The police said the arrested persons damaged public property and hurled stones at the police. Some of the police personnel received serious injuries and, therefore, Section 307 was slapped against them, the police said. (With inputs from PTI)

SEE ALSO • PAGE 2

Govt. moves on plan for new Parliament House

DDA issues notification to change land use of plot near South Block to ‘residential’

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

A 9.5-acre plot opposite the existing Parliament House is likely to be used for the construction of a new Parliament building, with the government on Saturday moving to change the land use of the plot currently designated for recreational use to “Parliament House” in the Master Plan-2012 of Delhi.

In a notification by the Delhi Development Authority, the government sought objections and suggestions for a period of 30 days on its proposal to change the land use of the plot, after which the land-use change will be finalised.

The plot is opposite Parliament House, with Red Cross Road to its north, Raisina Road to its south and



Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

Parliament to its west, and is currently demarcated for recreational use in the form of a district park, according to the notification.

Changes aplenty

Making way for a residential space near the seat of power, a 15-acre plot located “North of Dalhousie Road, near South Block”, with South

Block to its north, Dara Shikoh Road to its south, part of South Block to the east and Rashtrapati Bhavan to its west, was proposed to be used for “residential” use instead of the existing “government office” and “recreational (neighbourhood play area)”, according to the notification.

This comes at a time the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, under which the DDA operates, is preparing for a revamp of Parliament, the Central Vista and government offices in the area. While the Ministry is yet to publicly share the exact plan, sources have said the Prime Minister's residence could be shifted closer to the PMO at South Block.

Also in the notification, the DDA proposed changing

the land use of a 15-acre plot on Church Road near the Central Secretariat bus terminal from transportation (bus terminal and parking) and recreational (neighbourhood play area) to “govt. office”.

The land use of a 7.7-acre plot to the south of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road that houses the National Archives was proposed to be changed from public and semi-public facilities to “govt. office” for 5.88 acres and recreational (district park) for 1.88 acres.

Another plot on “South of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road and East of Janpath”, spread over 24.7 acres, was proposed to be changed from public and semi-public facilities to government office on 22.82 acres and recreational (district park) on 1.88 acres.