



N.E.W.S. PAGE 15

Once upon a time in Morbi

In 1974, an agitation from an engineering college led to the overthrow of state govt. Now there are no unions, and LEC is unaffected by CAA

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

The New New Delhi

Architect-planner Bimal Patel shares his blueprint of the planned revamp of the Capital's Central Vista



A witty friend and a generous mentor, Akbar Padamsee was an artist who merged philosophy, aesthetics in his work

CWC MEETING

Cong turns up heat on govt: Stop NPR and withdraw CAA

NPR is disguised NRC; states ruled by Cong must take wise decision: Sonia

MANOJ CGG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE CONGRESS on Saturday asked the Centre to immediately stop the process of updating the National Population Register (NPR) — the first indication that Congress-ruled Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab may not participate in the massive nationwide exercise.

Kerala and West Bengal have already rejected the NPR. A senior Congress leader indicated that the party's governments in the states could bring Assembly resolutions against the NPR exercise. "If state legislatures pass resolutions, it will assume an altogether different dimension," the leader told *The Sunday Express*.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
NPR opposition gets more heft

THE FIVE states ruled by the Congress account for a little more than 16% of India's population. West Bengal and Kerala, which have already decided to stop NPR, are another 10.3%. The Congress has the potential to influence governments in Maharashtra and Jharkhand (12.01%). These add up to almost 40% of population.



PM Modi, Mamata in Kolkata. PTI

ANOTHER REPORT, P 6

Mamata tells Modi to withdraw CAA, then joins dharna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 11

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said she had asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to repeal the new citizenship law because it was dividing the country.

After a "courtesy meeting" with Modi at Raj Bhavan, Mamata went to a *dharna* organised nearby by her party's students' wing against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), and the National Population Register (NPR).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXEMPT US: MEGHALAYA PAGE 7

SUNDAY STORY

PAGE 11



Here's looking at you

SUNDAY PROFILE
M Jagadesh Kumar
Vice-Chancellor, JNU
PAGE 14



GOING, GOING, GONE

One of the two towers of Alfa Serene in Maradu, Kochi, is brought down Saturday, nine months after the SC sought demolition of four apartment complexes for violating CRZ norms. The other tower (right) was destroyed soon afterward. AP

PAGE 8

After days of denial, Iran admits it shot down Ukrainian aircraft

Anger on Tehran streets, protesters ask Ayatollah Khamenei to step down

NASSER KARIMI & JOSEPH KRAUSS
TEHRAN, JANUARY 11

IRAN SATURDAY acknowledged that it shot down the Ukrainian jetliner that crashed on Wednesday, killing all 176 people aboard, in a "disastrous mistake", after the government had repeatedly denied mounting ev-

idence that it was responsible.

The plane was shot down early Wednesday, hours after Iran launched a ballistic missile attack on two military bases housing US troops in Iraq in retaliation for the killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in an American airstrike.

The rare admission by Iran's Revolutionary Guards raised a host of new questions, such as



176 people were killed after the plane was hit. *The NYT*

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 17

No special relief, J&K land curbs may be for agricultural plots only

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE PROTECTION for land ownership and against acquisition in Jammu and Kashmir may be restricted to just agricultural land, and not be on the lines of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Besides, Ladakh is unlikely to be included under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution which grants tribal regions autonomy of administration and legislation.

Sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which is formulating provisions on these issues in consultation with the local administrations of the two Union Territories, said while protection of jobs for local people may be guaranteed through requirement of 15 years of domicile in Jammu and Kashmir, land protection would remain confined to agricultural land.

"Matters are still being discussed, but protection against

INSIDE

GOVT EXPENSES TO BE CUT BY 20% P 6



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Star Labs CEO Pranav Mistry with his parents in Las Vegas before his presentation.
Nandagopal Rajan

Maker of dreams and artificial humans: Meet Indian star of biggest tech show

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN
LAS VEGAS, JANUARY 11

THE NEON stall at the annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES) was an anomaly — it had no products to show, just some large screens with human-looking characters going about some pre-programmed functions. Yet, it was one of the biggest crowd-pullers at the Las Vegas Convention Centre — hundreds

streaming in for a glimpse of the world's first artificial humans.

Three days after he first showcased his creations to the world, the brain behind the NEONs — NEO (new) + human — still seemed nervous before his daily live demonstration. In the front row were the parents of Pranav Mistry, president and CEO of Star Labs, the independent unit of Samsung that is behind the latest creation.

"As I grew up in India, in a

small village, I always used to ask: can we make technology more human?" Mistry started his session, with a white neon sign above saying NEON, and flanked by screens showing his creations. The boy from Palanpur in Gujarat is no stranger to the limelight, having taken the stage at many Samsung keynote events showcasing products he has created for the Korean giant.

But this time it was different. There was no Samsung logo be-

hind for reassurance: the Star Labs president was on his own. And that seemed to be the freedom that Samsung has given the IIT-Kharagpur graduate who joined the company as director of research in 2012. Mistry was known as the person behind the UI and UX that millions of Samsung consumers used daily. NEON is not much different — it is almost like a human interface to make technology more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2