



Will execute nothing in MP that divides society: Kamal Nath

MANOJ CGG

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

STATING THAT the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) cannot be “segregated” from one another or viewed in “isolation”, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath said on Sunday that his government would not “execute” anything which “divides society or has the potential to divide”.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, he said there was no crying need to amend the citizenship law or bring a nationwide NRC. The cry in the country, he said, was to get India out of economic distress. The overwhelming demand is for jobs and ensuring a fair price to farmers for their agricultural produce, he said. But the BJP government chose to amend the citizenship law and is talking about NRC to “divide society”, said Nath.



‘CAA, NPR, NRC can’t be segregated’

His remarks came a day after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) asked the central government to stop the NPR updation exercise and withdraw the contentious CAA. Congress president Sonia Gandhi had described NPR 2020 as a disguised NRC, in form and content. “As a party in government in several states, we must take a wise and uniform decision on NPR,” she had said.

The Left government in Kerala and the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal have already decided not to carry out the NPR exercise in their states.

Asked about NPR, Nath said: “All these things have to be taken

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Belur Math in West Bengal on Sunday. *Express*

PM on CAA: Pak will now have to answer for oppressing minorities

Won’t comment, we are apolitical, inclusive: Ramakrishna Mission

ATRIMITRA

KOLKATA, JANUARY 12

AMID THE ongoing protests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said some sections were trying to “misguide” the youth on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) which, he said, is “a law to provide citizenship, not snatch it away”.

Addressing a gathering at Belur Math, the headquarters of Ramakrishna Mission, on the second day of his visit here, Modi

said: “Aaj rashtriya yuva divas pe main phir se desh ke navjawanon ko, Paschim Bangal ke naujawanon ko, North-East ke naujawanon ko... zaroor kuch kehna chahti hun. Aisa nahin hain ke desh ki nagarikatwa dene ki liye raaton raat koi naya kanoon banaya gaya hain. Hub sabko pata hona chahiye ke doosre desh se kisi bhi dharam ke, koi bhi vyakti, jo Bharat mein aastha rakhta hai, Bharat ke samvidhan ko maanta hain, Bharat ke nagarikatwa le sakta hain, koi dudhda nahin hain is mein.”

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



MORE REPORTS

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DySP GOT GALLANTRY AWARD LAST YEAR

Decorated J&K cop with anti-hijack unit held with militants

Heinous crime, treating him like a militant, being interrogated: IGP (Kashmir)

BASHAARAT MASOOD & ADIL AKHZER

SRINAGAR, KULGAM, JAN 12

AFTER A day’s silence, the J&K Police admitted on Sunday that one of its decorated officers, posted with its anti-hijacking unit at Srinagar airport, was with top Hizbul Mujahideen commander Syed Naveed Mushtaq and his associates when they were arrested from a private vehicle, at a checkpoint on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, on Saturday evening.

The police officer has been identified as Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh, who was awarded the President’s medal for gallantry last year. On Thursday, when a team of 15 foreign envoys arrived in Srinagar on a two-day visit to J&K, Singh was among those who welcomed them at the Srinagar airport.

Besides Mushtaq and Singh, there were two others in the vehicle — Rafi Rather, a resident of Batpora, Shopian, who joined militancy in July last year, and Irfan Shafi, an advocate and resident of Diaroo Shopian, who was reportedly driving the vehicle when it was stopped at Wampoh, in Kulgam district. All the four have been arrested.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar said: “There was a very big operation yesterday. SP (Shopian) had an input that an i10 (car) with two militants had left from Shopian and was heading towards Jammu-Srinagar

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IGP (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar (centre) addresses a press conference in Srinagar on Sunday. *PTI*

Parliament attack, Afzal Guru shadow back to haunt J&K Police officer

MUZAMIL JALEEL & BASHAARAT MASOOD

NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, JAN 12

WHEN J&K Police arrested Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh, a decorated counter-insurgency officer who is currently posted with the security and anti-hijacking unit of J&K Police at Srinagar airport, along with two “most wanted” militants in a car in South Kashmir on Saturday, it brought back questions about his alleged role in the 2001 Parliament attack case and other big cases in Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2004, in a letter to his lawyer Sushil Kumar, Afzal Guru, then lodged in Tihar Jail for his involvement in the Parliament attack, had said that “DSP Davinder Singh”, then posted with J&K Police’s Special Operations Group at Humhama, had asked him to “take Mohammad”, a Pakistani national identified as one of those who carried out the Parliament attack, “to Delhi, rent a flat for his stay and purchase a car for him”.



Afzal Guru alleged Davinder Singh asked him to take co-accused to Delhi

Afzal had also named another police officer, Shanty Singh, who, along with Davinder Singh, reportedly tortured him at Humhama STF camp. He had also mentioned “Altaf Hussain, who is brother-in-law of SSP Ashaq Hussain (Bukhari) of Budgam”, who first “brokered” his release with Davinder Singh, and later took him to the DySP.

Afzal was convicted and hanged on February 9, 2013.

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QUEEN CALLS PRINCE HARRY FOR CRISIS MEETING
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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WHEN SPORTING ICONS FALL

BY SANDEEP DWIVEDI
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SANDEEP SINGH & ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THE IMPACT of nationwide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is beginning to show up on corporate numbers — from automobiles to restaurants and even watches.

Titan Company Ltd, India’s largest watchmaker that controls nearly half the country’s Rs 8,000 crore watch market, disclosed in

a regulatory filing that sales “in all divisions” in the second half of December were “impacted to some extent due to forced store closures due to the protests in the North East and in many other parts of the country”.

Top executives with at least two major car manufacturing companies told *The Indian Express* that December witnessed lower footfalls at showrooms across multiple locations due to the protests, and that

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After fertilisers, Centre wants food subsidy to directly benefit farmers

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA

NEW DELHI, JALANDHAR, JANUARY 12

FIRST IT was fertilisers, where the NDA government made disbursement of subsidy conditional upon actual sales to farmers getting registered on PoS (Point of Sale) machines in retail outlets. That reform measure — to ensure that the benefit of minimum support price (MSP)-based procurement of paddy and wheat goes only to farmers — is now being extended to food subsidy.

In Odisha, procurement of paddy during the ongoing 2019-20 Kharif Marketing Season

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EXPLAINED
Rationalising, brick by brick

THE NDA government has successfully eliminated or capped subsidies on fuel. But food and fertiliser subsidies, totalling over Rs 260,000 crore annually, are politically trickier. Hence, brick-by-brick rationalisation — of first stopping leakages to non-farmers and eventually targeted direct benefit transfers to smallholders — is the preferred approach.

Sheena Bora case: Software used by CBI to match skull raises eyebrows at trial

SADAF MODAK

MUMBAI, JANUARY 12

THE WEBSITE of FantaMorph states that it is an easy-to-use software for the creation of “fantastic photo morphing pictures and sophisticated morph animation effects”. There is a morphed image of a woman and a cheetah, and another of eight Hollywood stars, including Jennifer Lopez and Halle Berry.

The website claims that the software, available for use with a 30-day free trial or for US \$30-\$100 (Rs 2000-Rs 7000) for different versions, can be used to create screensavers, web graphics, music videos, movies, advertisements, even greeting cards.



FantaMorph used in screensavers, greeting cards

But it doesn’t claim anywhere that FantaMorph can be used as a forensic tool — for facial superimposition.

And yet, the CBI is relying on this software, along with other forensic evidence, to claim in a Mumbai court that a skeleton

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In Mysuru, old railway coaches signal new journey for struggling government school

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ANCHOR

RALPH ALEX ARAKAL

MYISORE, JANUARY 12

FOR YEARS, this government school in Mysore struggled to survive, operating from rooms inside a railway colony, its strength down to 60 students. This weekend, it got two permanent classrooms designed to draw the envy of schools across the country.

The classrooms are two real train coaches, refurbished with stairways, brightly painted exteriors, and fans, lights and colourful illustrations inside.

So much so, that South Western Railway (SWR) officials claim the bogies-turned-class-



One coach will hold classes, the other will be an activity area. *Express*



rooms in Ashokapuram are a first in India.

“The school was operating from buildings and rooms of the railway quarters in the premises for over two decades. The coaches, which were officially

declared unfit for use, were refurbished to provide the students a fun and conducive atmosphere for learning,” says P Srinivasu, chief manager, Railway workshop, Ashokapuram.

“The school has seen a major drop in strength over the years as we lacked good infrastructure and permanent buildings. At present, we have 60 students from classes 1 to 7, mostly from families below the poverty line,

and four teachers. Now, we hope to attract more students,” says Jayalakshmi S, the headmistress.

Of the two coaches, one has been divided into two classrooms — for classes IV and V — and the other is a meeting and activity area for the students.

According to officials, a chunk of the budget of Rs 50,000 for this SWR initiative, was used for the “major challenge” — get cranes to lift the coaches across to the school. “Everything else, including painting, designing, getting fans, lights, books and stationery, was done with the help of donations raised from Railway staff and other like-minded citizens,” says Srinivasu.

Bio-toilets have also been installed outside. The next step: Remodel metal scrap from coaches to provide a roof for the entire school premises.

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