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2018	98	154	154
2017	105.34	152	152
2016	116	168	168
2015	107.34	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)	
2014	205 (incl. CSAT Marks)		

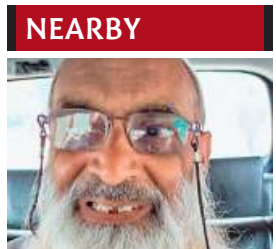
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### Serial blasts convict, who jumped parole, arrested

**LUCKNOW**  
Jalees Ansari, a Mumbai serial blasts convict, who went missing while on parole, was arrested on Friday in Kanpur, the Special Task Force of the Uttar Pradesh police said. Ansari, 68, convicted for the 1993 blasts, went missing on Thursday while on parole from Rajasthan's Ajmer Central Prison.

NEWS PAGE 13

### HC issues notice to CBI on Kuldeep Sengar's plea

**NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi High Court issued notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation on a plea by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a minor girl in Unnao in 2017, challenging his conviction in the case. A Bench of Justices Manmohan and Sangeeta Dhinagra Sehgal asked Sengar to deposit the fine amount of ₹25 lakh in two months.

CITY PAGE 3

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## Citizens can skip question on place of birth of parents in NPR form, says Centre

No documents are required to be shown by people during the NPR and Census exercise: Minister

**VIJAITA SINGH**  
NEW DELHI

Officials of non-BJP-ruled States on Friday asked the Registrar General of India (RGI) to remove the column on "place of birth of mother and father" in the proposed National Population Register (NPR) to be updated simultaneously with the Census exercise in April-September.

The RGI and the Home Ministry had convened a day-long conference to discuss the modalities to be adopted during the house-listing phase of Census 2021 and the NPR. During the meeting, presentations were given on the objectives of the Census and the NPR and their benefits and on the use of mobile app, which will be used in the Census for the first time.

RGI and other Home Ministry officials told the State representatives that respondents could skip the questions in the NPR form if they wanted and answering them was not mandatory but 'voluntary', a senior government official said.

West Bengal and Kerala, citing maintenance of 'public order' had earlier told the RGI that the NPR exercise should be halted.

Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said no one



**Registering dissent:** Bhim Army chief Chandrashekar Azad (in blue turban) with his supporters during a protest at the Jama Masjid in Old Delhi on Friday. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR (REPORT ON PAGE 2)

would be pressured to collect details for the NPR.

### Minister's assurance

"No documents are required to be shown by people during the NPR and Census exercise. People can give the details they want to. NPR should not be linked to the National Register of Citizens (NRC)," Mr. Reddy said. The conference was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Punjab Assembly urges Centre to repeal CAA

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Assembly on Friday passed a resolution urging the Centre to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, terming the idea behind it "inherently discriminatory". Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh told journalists that the State go-

vernment, like Kerala, would approach the Supreme Court on the issue.

In the Assembly, the resolution was moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Brahm Mohindra during the second day of the special session of the House.

CM'S CRITICISM PAGE 12

## SC asks govt. to respond to residents' plea

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the government to respond to a petition to declare a Union Ministry of Home Affairs' notification of July 31, 2019 to update the National Population Register (NPR) as unconstitutional and violative of the fundamental rights of dignity and equality.

The NPR exercise is scheduled to commence from April 2020. Rule 4 of Citizenship Rules provides for data collected for NPR to be used for National Register of Citizens (NRC).

A Bench led by CJI Sharad A. Bobde issued notice to the Centre on a petition filed by 20 residents from across West Bengal led by Israrul Hoque Mondal, represented by Supreme Court advocate M.R. Shamshad. The petition also challenges the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Nirbhaya killers to hang on February 1

President rejects Mukesh's mercy plea

**SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH**  
NEW DELHI

On a day President Ram Nath Kovind rejected the mercy plea of death row convict Mukesh Singh in the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape case, a Delhi court on Friday issued a fresh death warrant to hang all four convicts in Tihar jail at 6 a.m. on February 1.

Mukesh had submitted a mercy petition to the President earlier this week. He had followed this up with a petition at the Delhi court, seeking the postponement of his execution.

Additional sessions judge Satish Kumar Arora, who had previously ordered the execution of all four convicts on January 22, questioned why the other three convicts had not yet appealed against the death warrant or exhausted their legal remedies.

"Would it not be delaying tactics? How far can it be stretched," the judge asked.

The Delhi Prison Rules state that, "If the sentence of death has been passed on more than one person in the same case, and if an appeal or an application is made by or on behalf of only one or more but not all of them the execution of the sentence shall be postponed in the case of all such persons (pri-



(Clockwise from top left) Akshay Singh, Vinay Sharma, Pawan Gupta and Mukesh Singh •PTI

soner sentenced to deaths)." Currently, Vinay Sharma and Mukesh Singh have exhausted their option of a curative petition before the Supreme Court against the death sentence, while the other two – Pawan Gupta and Akshay Singh – are yet to approach the apex court with their curative pleas.

Sharma, Gupta and Akshay Singh – have also not filed a mercy plea before the President. Advocate A.P. Singh, representing Sharma and Gupta, said a case was pending before the Supreme Court on the question of Gupta's alleged juvenile status when the crime was committed.

MORE REPORTS PAGE 12

## Last NDFB faction in Assam calls truce

Two of its top guns are still at large

**RAHUL KARMAKAR**  
GUWAHATI

The last faction of the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) has called a truce. But two of its most-wanted top guns remain at large and within "sniffing distance".

On Thursday, the Central and Assam governments and the NDFB's Saoraigwra faction, or NDFB-S, signed a tripartite agreement in New Delhi for the cessation of operations.

The NDFB-S is the third and last faction of the outfit that was formed more than three decades ago for establishing a sovereign homeland for the Bodos – the largest plains tribe in the Northeast.

The truce was signed within a week of 50 members of the NDFB-S crossing

over to India from their hideouts in Myanmar.

Security forces officials entrusted with law and order in areas along the India-Bhutan border, where the NDFB-S had carried out some of the deadliest activities, say peace could be elusive unless the outfit's army chief G. Bidai alias Bishnu Goyari and his deputy Batha alias Binod Mushahary come on board too.

The security forces had come close to capturing Bidai and his loyalists during an encounter inside the Manas National Park bordering Bhutan on May 8, 2017.

"We are hopeful of Bidai and Batha joining the peace process," Hiren Nath, Inspector-General of Special Branch, told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## J&K panchayat bypolls likely in February, March

Poll notification expected on January 25

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Byelections for 12,776 panchayat seats in Jammu and Kashmir are expected to be held in four phases in February and March, a senior government official said on Friday. The polls are expected to be notified on January 25.

Panchayat elections were held in the former State of J&K in 2018 and a total of 27,281 panches and sarpanches were elected.

"These seats could not be filled in 2018; the byelections could be fought on party lines also. Security is an issue that will be discussed," said a senior government official.

Several sarpanches elected from south Kashmir are still living in hotels and government accommodation in Srinagar due to the threat



Voters at a booth in Budgam during the 2018 panchayat polls. ■FILE PHOTO

to their lives.

As many as 36 Union Ministers are scheduled to visit Jammu region and the Kashmir Valley from January 18-23 as part of an outreach initiative, a first since August 6, when the special status of J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked and the State was bifurcated into two Union Territories.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## BJP releases first list of 57 candidates

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday released its first list of 57 candidates for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections on February 8.

After a marathon meeting on Thursday night, the party's Central Election Committee, which included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, named 57 candidates but refrained from clearing a candidate against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal from the New Delhi seat.

BJP Delhi chief Manoj Tiwari said the list included 11 Scheduled Caste and four women candidates. The three sitting MLAs – Vijender Gupta (Rohini), Jagdish Pradhan (Mustafabad) and O.P. Sharma (Vishwas Nagar) – have been repeated.

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

## Kathak dancer's performance stopped in U.P.

**ANUJ KUMAR**  
GHAZIABAD

Noted Kathak exponent Manjari Chaturvedi was in for a shock when her qawwali performance was stopped midway by officials of the Uttar Pradesh government during an official cultural programme at a Lucknow hotel on January

15.

"I was scheduled to give a 45-minute performance called *Isq Ke Rang* (Colours of love) to recorded music at a three-day event where legislators were present. As it was recorded music, there was no way I could have crossed the time limit. When I was into my

third segment, a qawwali, the music stopped. I thought there was a technical glitch. But three officials came in front of the stage and one of them said, '*Yahan qawwali nahin chalegi* (Qawwali will not be played here)'," Ms. Chaturvedi told *The Hindu*.

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

## Two bull owners, spectator gored to death in T.N.

39 persons injured in Alanganallur jallikattu; 100 injured in Tiruchi, Karur and Pudukottai districts

**R. RAJARAM**  
SANJANA GANESH  
TIRUCHI / MADURAI

Two bull owners and a spectator were gored to death in separate incidents at jallikattu events in Alanganallur in Madurai and Avarangadu in Tiruchi on Friday.

At Alanganallur, V. Sridhar, 27, from Sholavandhan, who was attempting to lead a bull through the *vaadivasal*, the entry to the bull taming arena, was gored by his bull while he was trying to ensure its passage through the narrow path between the holding area and the entry point.

He was rushed to the Government Rajaji Hospital



Youth take on a bull at the Alanganallur jallikattu, near Madurai, on Friday. ■G. MOORTHY

(GRH) but he succumbed to injuries later. He suffered deep rupture wounds above the stomach and below the

chest, GRH Resident Medical Officer A. Srilatha said.

As many as 39 persons were injured during the

events at Alanganallur. Thirteen persons with major injuries were taken to the GRH.

At Avarangadu, another bull owner, N. Palaniyandi, 55, from Sukkampatti village near Virallimalai in Pudukottai district, was gored to death.

Police sources said Palaniyandi was waiting to capture his bull, let out from the *vaadivasal*, a few metres away from the collection point when he was gored by another bull on his neck and sustained grievous injuries.

He was immediately rushed to the Government Hospital at Manapparai, where he died.

Police said over 100 persons were injured in jallikattu events at three places in Tiruchi, Karur and Pudukottai districts. The Valanadu police are investigating.

### Freak incident

In a freak incident, a spectator M. Chellapandi, 35, was brought dead to the GRH. He apparently swooned at the jallikattu event in Alanganallur and was given a carbonated beverage but collapsed soon after, Dr. Srilatha said. "We tried to resuscitate him but failed," she said.

The jallikattu season began on January 15 at Avaniapuram in Madurai.

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