

Peace along China border can lead to eventual (boundary) solution: Army chief

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

A DAY after he said India reserves the right to pre-emptively strike at sources of terror in Pakistan, new Army Chief General M M Naravane expressed confidence that maintaining peace and tranquility along India's border with China will set the stage for an "eventual solution" to the boundary dispute.

Speaking to mediapersons Wednesday after receiving his first guard of honour as the Army Chief, General Naravane said operational readiness and modernisation will be among the top priorities of the Army under his leadership.

"While we have been paying attention in the past to the Western front, Northern front also requires equal attention. It is in that context we are going for capability development and enhancement of our capacitors in our Northern borders including the North-East part of the country," he said.

"The border question is yet to be settled. We have been able to maintain peace and tranquility along borders and I am sure

EXPLAINED

SIMPLY PUT
WHAT ARE ROLE, POWERS OF CDS?
PAGE 14

that situation will prevail. By maintaining this, we will be able to set the stage for the eventual solution," he said.

Highlighting the priorities of the Army under him, General Naravane said: "The priorities will always remain to be ever ready to meet any challenge and to be operationally prepared at all times. This will happen as a result of modernisation. We will continue to build up capabilities especially in the North and North-Eastern region of the country. We will also lay emphasis on raising the security awareness amongst rank and file."

"India can progress (in the next decade) only if our borders are secure... then only will be able to do our work and then only will there be development in the country. I want to assure my fellow citizens that all three defence services — Army, Navy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



THE CHIEFS & THE CDS

Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat (third from left) with (from left) Army chief Gen M M Naravane, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria in New Delhi Wednesday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

SAMBHAL POLICE RESPONSE TO PROTESTS

Rioting FIR has details, timeline, gives clean chit to police; FIR on killing is just one para

Killing FIR has no accused, no witnesses, no hospital record, family yet to get post mortem report

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
SAMBHAL (UTTAR PRADESH), JANUARY 1

IT'S A tale of two FIRs — and it reveals glaring gaps in the response of the Uttar Pradesh Police to the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

One FIR against 17 persons for alleged rioting and the other related to the killing of 23-year-old Mohammed Sheroz are two telling documents on the police investigation under way in Sambhal district.

In the former, the police has



Police personnel in the area where Mohammed Sheroz was killed in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh. *File* **RELATED REPORTS, P 9**

meticulously documented details of the alleged violence, the timeline of events, and slapped seven separate charges under the IPC against 17 named individuals. However, in the latter, the document is devoid of any detail, is completely silent on the murder — and just one section under the IPC has been slapped, records accessed by *The Indian Express* reveal.

This when both the FIRs are related to events that happened within 24 hours, in the same neighbourhood of Sambhal and registered at the same Kotwali Sambhal Police Station.

The stark contrast between the two FIRs is not just confined to the nature of charges.

In the FIR against 17 persons, who have been charged with rioting, the police have admitted they fired and have given a clean chit to their personnel on the grounds that the firing was done to control the mob and in self-defence.

However, in the FIR related to Sheroz, who had bullet injuries and was declared dead on December 20 by government authorities — he was one of the two killed in the district — no accused

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



U.S. TROOPS FIRE TEARGAS AS PROTESTERS SWARM EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD **PAGE 15**

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

REFORMS PUT RLYS ON TRACK

BY BIBEK DEBROY
PAGE 12

EXPRESS NETWORK



THOUSANDS GATHER AT BHIMA KOREGAON, INTERNET DOWN **PAGE 11**

CITY



BUSINESSMAN, WIFE, DAUGHTER FOUND DEAD IN VEHICLE **PAGE 6**

No to CAA: Prasad tells states to seek better legal advice, Pinarayi hits back

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

POLITICAL ACRIMONY over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act intensified Wednesday with Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad reading Constitutional provisions to state governments, saying they would have to implement the Act, while Kerala Chief Minister M Pinarayi Vijayan reminded the Centre that state assemblies have their own privileges.

A day after the Kerala House passed a resolution demanding the scrapping of the CAA, Prasad cited Constitutional clauses and asked state governments to get "better legal advises".

"It's surprising that the governments that have taken oath on the Constitution are talking anti-Constitutional that we will not implement the CAA. It's passed by Parliament... Laws passed by Parliament will be implemented throughout the country... Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, Parliament may make laws for the whole or any part of the Union of India," Prasad told reporters.

He cited Articles 245, 246 and 256 — that deal with the enactment of laws and demarcation of powers for the Union and the states — to assert that every state is obliged to implement rules made by Parliament, and said citizenship is a subject on which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

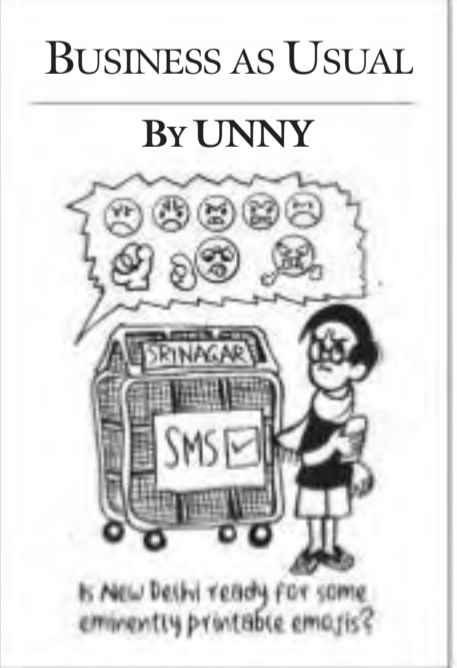
Save 5 top leaders, all detainees in J&K MLA Hostel set to walk

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 1

POLITICAL DETAINEES being held at the MLA Hostel in Srinagar barring five leaders are likely to be released by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in batches in January.

Sources told *The Indian Express* the five leaders unlikely to be released soon are Peoples' Conference chief Sajad Lone, National Conference general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, former IAS officer and Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement president Shah Faesal, senior PDP leader Naeem Akhtar and PDP youth wing president Waheed ur Rehman Para.

"Barring these five individuals, others are likely to be re-



leased in batches slowly. At least six individuals are scheduled to be released this week subject to their signing of release bonds," a source in the administration,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Two soldiers killed in J&K operation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JANUARY 1

TWO SOLDIERS, Naik Sawant Sandip Raghunath (29) and Rifleman Arjun Thapa Magar (25), were killed in an encounter with some "infiltrators" during a cordon-and-search operation in Nowshera on Tuesday night.

A Defence Ministry spokesperson, Lt Colonel Devender Anand, said the infiltrators were intercepted in Khari Thrayat forest when they were trying to sneak into India from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GROWTH OF 8.9% Y-O-Y

GST mop-up tops Rs 1 lakh crore, second month in row

Collections suggest improvement in revenue growth, higher compliance

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

AFTER TWO consecutive months of contraction in September and October, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in December (for November sales) rose over the Rs 1-lakh crore mark, a growth of 8.9 per cent year-over-year. In November too, the GST mop-up had topped Rs 1 lakh crore, but December figures were keenly awaited since the November collections were largely attributed to higher festive sales.

In December, GST collections at Rs 1,03,184 crore were marginally lower than the previous month, but a rise for the second month in a row indicates improvement in revenue growth and a higher compliance due to enforcement of more anti-evasion measures and a cap on input tax credit.

Until December 31, as many as 81.21 lakh GSTR 3B (monthly summary returns) were filed, 4.3 per cent more than 77.83 lakh in November. Also, a cap on input tax credit at 20 per cent of the eligible credit for businesses effective October helped in higher collections. This cap, which was only for buyers whose suppliers did not upload

EXPLAINED E. Opens space for GST 2.0

WITH the slowdown impacting GST collections, the Centre has started to tighten enforcement measures to check revenue leakages. In December, these efforts have shown results with number of summary returns increasing 4.3 per cent compared with the previous month. Monthly GST revenues stabilising at Rs 1 lakh crore level will give the flexibility to further streamline the GST structure.

invoices, prevented fraudulent claims and revenue leakage, said tax officials.

In fact, the input tax credit has been further curtailed to 10 per cent in the GST Council meeting on December 18.

The average GST revenue for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

4 chosen for manned mission to space, Chandrayaan-3 this year or next: ISRO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JANUARY 1

TO COMPLETE the unfinished job of Chandrayaan-2, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will send another moon mission, Chandrayaan-3, either this year or the next, and make a fresh attempt at landing on the lunar surface.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday, ISRO chairman K Sivan also announced that four Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots had been selected for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first attempt at a manned mission, and that they would begin their training programme from the third week of this month. ISRO intends to send the Gaganyaan mission by 2022.

Chandrayaan-2, launched in July last year, had failed to soft-land its lander and rover modules on the moon. Just a few hundred metres from the lunar surface, the spacecraft had developed problems in the last stages of its descent and was unable to reduce its speed at the required rate. It had crash-



ISRO Chairman K Sivan in Bengaluru, Wednesday. PTI

landed on the moon's surface. The Orbiter module of Chandrayaan-2, which is meant to orbit the moon and collect observational data over the next seven years, however, has been functioning normally.

Unlike Chandrayaan-2, the Chandrayaan-3 mission would not have an Orbiter module, Sivan said. It would only have a lander and rover components, and would be aimed solely at establishing ISRO's capability to land on an extra-terrestrial body, something that is essential before ISRO can undertake more missions to the moon.

Chandrayaan-3 has been necessitated by the failure of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

IN HIS first Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) as part of nation-building, urging Lok Sabha MPs to "make one village of his or her constituency a Model Village by 2016... after 2016, select two more villages... and after 2019... at least five model villages". He also asked Rajya Sabha MPs to "adopt one of the villages", saying "if we provide one model

village in each district of India, then the surrounding villages shall be automatically inspired to follow that model".

Five years down the line, official data shows that the progress of SAGY has been sluggish — about two-thirds of Lok Sabha MPs are yet to select gram panchayats under Phase-4 of the scheme. The total strength of both Houses is about 790 which include elected as well as nominated members.

In Phase-1 of SAGY, 703 MPs had adopted gram panchayats but that number went down to 497 in Phase-2 and 301 in Phase-3, showing a gradual decline in

subsequent phases. Since the launch of the scheme on October 11, 2014, less than two months after the Prime Minister's announcement, only 1,753 gram panchayats have been selected across four phases, way below the expected figure.

According to data available till the end of December 2019 on the website of the Ministry of Rural Development, only 252 MPs have adopted gram panchayats under Phase-4 of SAGY — 208 members of Lok Sabha and 44 members of Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha has a total strength of 545 members which includes 543 elected members



and two nominated members. Similarly, Rajya Sabha has a strength of 245 members which

GRAM PANCHAYATS SELECTED BY MPs UNDER DIFFERENT PHASE OF SAGY AS ON 31.12.2019

	Phase-1	Phase-2	Phase-3	Phase-4
MPs adopted gram panchayats	703	497	301	252
LSMPs selected gram panchayats	500	364	239	208
RSMPs selected gram panchayats	203	133	62	44

includes 12 nominated members. As on January 1, 2020, the total number of sitting members

of Rajya Sabha is 240 while five seats are vacant.

Under the SAGY, each MP