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Supreme Court to hear 144 pleas on CAA today

NEW DELHI
A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde will on Wednesday hear 144 petitions against and in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act of 2019 which fast-tracks citizenship-by-naturalisation process for "illegal migrants" from six religious communities other than Muslims, who have fled persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

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Northeast colleges declare shutdown

GUWAHATI
Students' associations in the northeast have declared a total shutdown across universities and colleges in the region on Wednesday. The fraternity of the northeastern universities hoped the SC would address the "unconstitutional CAA and its ill repercussions".

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INTERVIEW
RAWI R. CHOKKALINGAM
CURRENT AFFAIRS
27th Jan 2020
Rising 8447007118

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 7

Questions on parents in NPR form may be dropped: Paswan

Even I don't know the date of birth of my parents, says Union Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The patriarch of key BJP ally Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) and Union Minister, Ram Vilas Paswan, on Tuesday said the government may consider the widespread demand to remove the questions on date and place of birth of a respondent's parents from the National Population Register.

"Even I don't know the date of birth of my parents, forget about producing documents proving the dates," Mr. Paswan told *The Hindu*.

He said the government would consider acceding to the demand and had repeatedly clarified that the production of documents would not be mandatory.

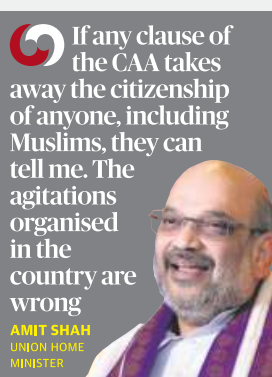
No MHA notification
So far, there is no official notification from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is helming the exercise, on changes to the NPR form. The government has not yet notified the NPR form.

Various State governments have insisted that these two questions should be removed from the NPR form because a vast majority of respondents will not be able to produce any proof of date of birth and place of birth of their parents.

As far as CAA is concerned, I want to say that no government can revoke citizenship of a genuine Indian citizen whether he is a Dalit or from the minority community



Today I have come to Lucknow to say it aloud that whoever wants to protest can protest, but the CAA won't be taken back



The NPR exercise by far, Mr. Paswan said, is similar to the Census, which happens at the turn of every decade.

"As far as the amended Citizenship Act is concerned because of which there are widespread protests, I want to once again say that no government can revoke citizenship of a genuine Indian citizen, whether he is a Dalit or from the minority community," Mr. Paswan added.

Even the amended Citizenship Act, Mr. Paswan said, didn't stop a person from any religion from ap-

plying for Indian citizenship following the laid down procedure in the usual course.

'No nationwide NRC'
On the National Register of Citizens (NRC), Mr. Paswan said there was no question of extending the exercise in Assam to the entire nation.

"When the Prime Minister of the country has already clarified that there has been no discussion or decision around implementing NRC across the nation, what is the point of having a debate on it," he added.

CAA will stay despite protests: Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) would not be withdrawn despite the on-going protests against it.

Addressing a rally here in support of the Act, Mr. Shah said, "Today I have come to Lucknow to say it aloud that whoever wants to protest can protest, but the CAA won't be taken back."

"If any clause of the CAA takes away the citizenship of anyone, including Muslims, they can tell me. The agitations and sit-ins, which are being organised in the country against it, are wrong," the Minister insisted.

The debate on the CAA was a "fight" between those who wanted the good of the country and those who wanted to "break the country into pieces", he said.

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Respondents can fill in Census data online

Self-enumeration option is not available in the first phase

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

In the second phase of the decennial Census exercise that will be conducted in February 2021, respondents will have the option to fill in details on their own, a senior government official said.

The 'population enumeration' phase of the Census – which is to be carried out from February 9 to 28, 2021 – will have the facility of on-line self-enumeration for the public.

An official explained that the respondent could register online and fill in the details and share the reference number with the enumerators when they arrive.

Around 30 lakh enumerators, who are mostly government officials and government school teachers, will each be assigned the responsibility of collecting details of about 650-800 people through both online and offline modes.

The self-enumeration option will, however, not be available in the first phase – the House Listing and Housing Census that is to be carried out from April 1 to September 30 this year.

The National Population Register (NPR), which has been objected to by several



Mammoth exercise: Thirty lakh enumerators will be assigned the task of collecting details across the country.

non-BJP ruled States, will also be updated simultaneously in the first phase.

A day ago, the Kerala Cabinet took a decision that the State government would fully cooperate with Census 2021 but it was hard-pressed to cooperate with the work related to the NPR as people were deeply concerned that it was a precursor to the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC).

States to be sensitised
Earlier, the Kerala and West Bengal governments had informed the Registrar General of India (RGI) to halt the NPR exercise, citing the maintenance of "public order."

Minister of State for Home

G. Kishan Reddy said on Tuesday that the NPR was a "constitutional obligation", and the Centre would keep on sensitising the States as disclosing information under the NPR is voluntary.

On January 9, the RGI notified the 31 columns for which the enumerators will seek response for the House Listing and Housing Census. The information asked would be whether the respondent has access to LPG/PNG connection, if the person owns a radio, transistor or television, has access to the Internet, and whether they own a laptop, computer, telephone, mobile phone, among other things.

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3 Bangladeshi migrants detained in Bengaluru

Lacked papers to prove Indian identity

JAYASIMHA K.R. BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police on Tuesday arrested three persons of a family, who they say are Bangladeshi immigrants, at Munnekolala village near Whitefield in southeast Bengaluru.

According to the police, Mohammed Lokman, 55, son of Sonali Ganji, a resident of Boressel village, Pimpri district, Bangladesh, along with his wife Jasmin Begum, 35, and son Raasel were arrested after receiving a tip-off from the locals.

The incident comes two days after around 150 makeshift houses on a piece of private land were demol-

ished by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike in adjoining Kariyamma Aghara near Bellandur in the southeastern part of the city.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, M.N. Anucheth, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Whitefield, said the three arrested had admitted to being Bangladeshi migrants.

"No identity cards to prove that they were Indians were found and a few Bangladesh identity cards, including national ID and birth certificates, were found," he said.

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The Hindu is the fastest growing English daily

It continues to lead in T.N. and Kerala

STAFF REPORTER CHENNAI

The Hindu's Total Readership grew by 11.8% over Q2 2019, registering the highest growth rate among the top 3 national English dailies.

The Hindu added 8,01,000 readers over Q2 to register a Total Readership of 75,74,000 in Q3 nationally.

The Hindu's Average Issue Readership grew by 9.6% over Q2 2019, registering the highest growth rate among the top 3 national English dailies.

The Hindu's all-India performance is attributed to sustained leadership in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and gains in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Karnataka, New Delhi and other parts of India.

In terms of both Total Readership and Average Is-

sue Readership, *The Hindu* continues to be the largest read English daily in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. *The Hindu's* Average Issue Readership in Tamil Nadu is higher than that of *The Times of India* and *The New Indian Express* combined.

L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer, The Hindu Group, said, "As an organisation, we have continually worked towards delivering quality journalism, and we will continue doing so. The results have yet again reiterated the trust our readers have on a brand that has a long-standing reputation for credible and accurate news. *The Hindu* has been witnessing a growing readership in many markets. We are thankful to our readers and advertisers for the confidence and consistent support."

Women protest outside Supreme Court

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A group of women gathered outside the Supreme Court on Tuesday night to protest against the CAA, a day before the court is scheduled to

hear pleas on the Act.

The police convinced the women to leave the area as it falls under high-security zone and their stir could disrupt the Republic Day preparations. "We requested them

to leave the area citing preparations for Republic Day parade and they agreed. One man who refused to leave has been detained at Tilak Marg police station," said DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singhal.

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DAF SESSION : by
Shri M.C. Gupta (Retd. IAS), Shri Anil K. Sinha (Retd. IAS)
Date : 23 January 2020
Time : 11:30 a.m.
Venue : Hotel Jay Pee Siddharth, 3 Rajendra Place, Delhi.

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Mock Interview Date : 24, 25 & 31 January, 2 & 3 February 2020
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Kejriwal files nomination after 6-hour wait

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal filed his nomination for the New Delhi Assembly constituency around 6.30 p.m.

on Tuesday, the last day to file papers, after waiting for over six hours.

Mr. Kejriwal had to wait at Jam Nagar House as 66 tokens were issued to candidates for filing their nom-

ination papers. The AAP chief had reached the office around 12.30 p.m. and received token number 45.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 4

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