



on Sunday

## The Padma Vibhushans

Seven eminent persons were selected, four of them posthumously, for the top honour



**Arun Jaitley**

Late BJP leader and former Finance Minister



**Sushma Swaraj**

Late BJP leader and former External Affairs Minister



**George Fernandes**

Late socialist leader and former Union Minister



**Vishwesha Tirtha Swami**

Late seer of Pejawar, known for reforms in Hindu religion



**Anerood Jugnauth**

Former Prime Minister of Mauritius



**Chhannulal Mishra**

Hindustani classical singer from Varanasi



**M.C. Mary Kom**

Boxer, Olympic medallist and a Rajya Sabha member

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### NEARBY



#### EC imposes 48-hour ban on Kapil Mishra

**NEW DELHI**  
The Election Commission on Saturday imposed a 48-hour-long ban on BJP's Model Town candidate Kapil Mishra over his controversial tweets in relation to the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh.

CITY ► PAGE 2

#### Assam police file case against Sharjeel Imam

**GUWAHATI**  
The Assam police have registered a case against Sharjeel Imam, the alleged mastermind of the Shaheen Bagh protest against the CAA, for his "hate speech" against the State.

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# India, Brazil ink action plan to deepen strategic partnership

15 MoUs include deals on investment cooperation and facilitation, bioenergy

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

India and Brazil on Saturday concluded an action plan to deepen their strategic partnership as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro outlined efforts to further strengthen ties.

The two sides also concluded 15 agreements and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a variety of issues, including an investment cooperation and facilitation treaty, social security, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, bioenergy and cybersecurity.

"India and Brazil's strategic partnership is dependent on our similar mindset and



**Stronger ties:** PM Narendra Modi greeting Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro, as President Ram Nath Kovind looks on. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

values. In spite of the distance, we are together on several global forums. Today, we have agreed to take forward our partnership on several issues," Mr. Modi said at a joint press conference.

Stating that the needed le-

gal framework has been created to make investment better in both countries, he said India and Brazil, two big growing democracies, think similarly on several global issues. "From terrorism to the environment, India and Bra-

zil have a similar view on all such issues," he added.

Bilateral relations were elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2006 and 2023 will mark 75 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

"We have just signed 15 agreements. We have indeed further consolidated our working bilateral relations," Mr. Bolsonaro said.

Thanking Mr. Bolsonaro for agreeing to be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations, Mr. Modi said, "You will witness the diversity of India at the Republic Day parade on the Rajpath. Brazil is also a country that celebrates many festivals with fervour."

'VITAL ALLY' ► PAGE 11

# PMO reviews measures to combat coronavirus threat

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Saturday reviewed India's preparedness to deal with any outbreak of the new coronavirus (nCoV), amid mounting global concern over increasing number of cases in China, with 41 fatalities so far.

At a meeting chaired by P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Health Ministry officials presented an update about response measures, official sources said.

So far, 20,000 people from 115 flights at seven international airports in the country have been screened.

The sources said the National Institute of Virology laboratories are fully equipped to test for the virus and that all State and district health authorities have been alerted. Over 100 people are under observation in Kerala and Maharashtra following screening for possible exposure to the virus.

The first suspected case of the virus in Karnataka, a person who returned recently from Wuhan, has been kept under observation at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases.

India has also requested China to permit over 250 Indian students stuck in Wuhan, to leave the city, which

is under lock down to prevent a spread of the disease.

Earlier, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan at a review of preparedness, said, "No CoV case has been detected in the country so far." (With PTI inputs)

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VIRUS IN AUSTRALIA, EU ► PAGE 12

## Nirbhaya convict moves plea in SC

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Nirbhaya gangrape convict Mukesh Singh on Saturday moved a plea in the Supreme Court challenging the President's rejection of his mercy petition on January 17.

The petition, filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, has sought a stay of the execution of the death warrant. The sessions court had ordered the death sentence to be carried out on February 1.

Singh has asked the court to call for his medical records, dating back to the time of his arrest and incarceration, which were placed before the President for a decision on his mercy plea. He has also sought for the jail records of his solitary confinement.

This development comes shortly after the Supreme Court had rejected a juvenility plea by another Nirbhaya convict, Pawan Kumar Gupta.

Akshay Singh, Mukesh Singh, Pawan Gupta and Vinay Sharma had brutally gang-raped a 23-year-old paramedical student in a moving bus on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012. She died of her injuries a few days later.

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# 'Kashmir students back in Stone Age'

Internet curbs deny vital resources

**PEERZADA ASHIQ**  
SRINAGAR

From ferrying data in hard drives by air from more than 300 km away to downloading syllabi of professional courses, students in the cut-off Kashmir Valley are finding new ways to bypass obstacles to their education posed by the ongoing 147-day Internet shutdown.

Though the government has restored 2G services in dries and drabs, connectivity remains a major issue.

Peerzada Fawaz Qureshi, 22, pursuing B.Tech in Computer Science from S.S.M. Engineering College in Srinagar, is a fourth semester student and dreams

### SPECIAL

of making it big as a security researcher. Mr. Qureshi has already earned a name as an ethical hacker after identifying bugs on known platforms, including Facebook, Oath, Tesla, Uber, Mastercard and Adobe, in the past few years.

But his work, which also helped him earn money, has been at a dead end for the past six months.



Students using the Net at a Tourist Reception Centre in Srinagar. ■ AFP/FILE PHOTO

"It's a very, very tough competition online. I am out of the race since August 5 (when Internet services to the Valley were cut off). Internet to a security researcher is what water is to fish," Mr. Qureshi says.

"It has already impacted my job prospects. I cannot compete with those breathing hi-speed Internet in the rest of the country. It's like a student from the Stone Age competing with the Information Technology age. It will dent local engineers' employability in the corporate sector," he points out.

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# Five killed in Delhi building collapse

30 students were present at coaching centre when two upper floors came down

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Five persons, including four students, were killed after an under-construction building housing a coaching centre collapsed at Bhajanpura in the city on Saturday, fire officials said.

Atul Garg, Director of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), said around 30 students were attending classes when the two upper floors of the four-storey building collapsed, trapping the students in debris. "The fourth floor was under construction and did not have a roof. Thirteen people have been shifted to the nearby Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital," he said.

Umesh Kashyap, the owner of the building, is also among the dead.

The Fire Department received a call at 4.30 p.m., and rushed seven fire tenders to the spot, the officials said.

Sushil Sharma, who was among the first to reach the spot after the incident, said the locals entered the build-



**Fatal fall:** Rescue operations under way in the collapsed building at Bhajanpura in New Delhi on Saturday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ing through the roof of an adjoining building and started removing the students. His twin nieces, who are in Class X, study at the same institute. Luckily, they chose to study at home on Saturday.

#### Lucky escape

"My twin nieces, Palak and Payal, used to study here. Today, they were not studying at the institute but in the

house of the tutor and escaped death. The moment I got to know about the incident, I came here to see them. They are fine. The locals and I started the rescue before the police and the fire brigade arrived."

Arif Sultan, father of one of the deceased, Farhan Sultan, said, "My son was studying on the second floor along with 10-15 other students. My

daughter, who is in Class VIII, called me up and informed me about the incident. I rushed to the spot and climbed the stairs. I extricated my child after one and a half hours. He was not breathing. We took him to hospital where he was declared brought dead."

A team of the National Disaster Response Force also reached the spot.

## Will oppose Act, says Telangana CM

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao has made it clear that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act will be opposed tooth and nail, and that the State Assembly will pass a resolution against it.

Expressing his opinion on the CAA for the first time at a press conference here, the Chief Minister appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider the Act and said that in a democratic set-up it was better to review laws that were opposed by the people.

The TRS chief said India was a federal country and argued that States had their own rights to protect and the Assembly had a right to express its opinion on any law. The Chief Minister said the CAA had damaged India's reputation abroad.

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# Rajasthan resolution against CAA

Assembly urges Union govt. to repeal the contentious Act

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Assembly on Saturday passed a resolution urging the Union government to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), making the State the third one, after Kerala and Punjab, to confront the Centre on the issue.

The House also asked the Centre to withdraw the new fields of information that have been sought for updating the National Population Register.

The CAA violated the pro-

visions of the Constitution and discriminated against people on religious grounds in the grant of citizenship, said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal, while moving the resolution.

"The CAA is an onslaught on the secular structure of the Constitution," he said. "The Centre has not framed rules under the Act because it knows that they too will be challenged in the court."

"The CAA should not be implemented until the Supreme Court delivers its verdict on the petitions against

the impugned amendment," Mr. Dhariwal added.

BJP members moved to the well of the House and raised slogans against the resolution. Leader of the Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said the State Assembly was not empowered to challenge a statute enacted by Parliament and that citizenship was a matter under the Centre. He said the Congress should stop appeasing a particular community and doing "vote-bank politics".

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# Surveyors face wrath of anti-CAA protesters in Bihar

Mistaken for NPR-NRC data collectors, survey team held hostage by locals in Darbhanga district

**AMARNATH TEWARY**  
PATNA

As the protest against Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR) spreads to different parts of Bihar, people engaged in conducting surveys for private research and marketing companies are mistakenly being held hostages by residents.

A survey team of 12 people, including four women, doing research work for Lucknow-based Morsel Research and Development Pvt. Ltd. on behalf of a PhD researcher of Yale University in the U.S., was held hostage for hours on Friday in Jhagarua village under Jamalpur police station of Darbhanga district.



Women participating in an anti-CAA protest in Gaya. ■ FILE PHOTO

The Yale scholar, Shikhar Singh, is said to be doing research on the topic – "Role of social identity in political preferences".

The villagers held the surveyors hostage on the assumption that they were affiliated to a particular political

party and conducting the survey in support of CAA, NRC and NPR.

"We quickly reached the place and took them [surveyors] out of the village. Had we been late, the villagers would have attacked them," said Jamalpur police station

officer Anwar Ansari.

#### Second incident

Locals in Darbhanga told *The Hindu* that this was the second incident in the district in the last 10 days. "On January 17, a man conducting a survey for a Gurugram-based television company was attacked by people in Karamanj locality of Darbhanga town on the suspicion that he was collecting data for CAA and NRC," said a journalist. The man, identified as Prince Singh, was handed over to the police.

Similar incidents of people engaged in private research or marketing surveys being held hostage have been reported from other districts such as Champaran, Begusa-

rai and Bhagalpur. "People get angry the moment we begin our questionnaire, and yes, at some places they get violent too," said Binit Kumar, a man engaged in such surveys.

"In view of the anti-CAA, NRC protests in different corners of the State, there is a lurking danger for people hired and engaged by private companies for field research," a senior police officer said, adding, "I would suggest that they stay away from such work for some time."

"Protests against CAA, NRC, NPR are going on in different parts of the State. People seem to be seething with rage against this law," said retired professor and social activist N.K. Chaudhury.

**SRIRAM's IAS**

**IAS**

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**Whatsapp DAF to: 9871737522**

**DETAILS AND ADMISSION**

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