

## Centre signs pact with Assam, Bodo outfits for ‘permanent solution’

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

AT A time when Assam has been roiled by protests over the new citizenship law, the Centre Monday signed a tripartite agreement with the state government and different Bodo groups, including four factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), for a “permanent” solution to the Bodo issue.

The Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) with Bodo groups will pave the way for re-organisation of areas under the Bodoland Territorial Council re-



Shah, Sonowal and others on Monday. PTI

gion, enhance the powers of the BTC, increase Assembly seats from 40 to 60, rehabilitate surrendered militants of NDFB and bring a special development

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## US alert for India: 25,000 child porn cases uploaded in five months

MOHAMED THAYER  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 27

OVER 25,000 cases of suspected child pornography material were uploaded across social media platforms in India in the last five months, according to reports shared by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the US with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

A Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) official told *The Indian Express* that the reports show Delhi topping the list when it comes to uploading Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are the other top states, the official said.

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## CAA rules: Applicants to be asked to submit proof of religion too

Assam’s demand for time-bound applications set to be accepted

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

UNDER THE rules for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, currently being drafted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), besides proving that they came to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh before December 31, 2014, applicants will also have to submit ‘proof of religion’.

According to a Home Ministry official, this can be done by producing any Indian government document — acquired before December 31, 2014 — in which the applicant has declared his/ her religion as Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Parsi, Jain or Buddhist.

“For example, if someone has enrolled his/ her children in a government school, he/ she would have declared their religion. If someone has acquired Aadhaar before December 31, 2014 and has declared his/ her religion as being from among the six mentioned in the Act, it would be acceptable. Any form of government document declaring religion will be accepted,” said the official.

The CAA allows immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to apply for Indian citizenship through the naturalisation process if they are either Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Parsis, Jains or Buddhists. The legislation grants citizenship on the basis of the assumption that these communities have faced religious

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## Minister Thakur chants *desh ke gaddaron ko*, poll rally crowd completes *goli maaro...*

LIZ MATHEW & ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

AS CAMPAIGNING in Delhi gathered steam for the Assembly elections, BJP leader and Minister of State (Finance) Anurag Thakur, addressing an election rally Monday, repeatedly chanted “*Desh ke gaddaron ko*” and had people responding with “*goli maaro saalon ko*”.

It roughly translates to “What should be done with traitors of



MoS Anurag Thakur at a BJP poll rally in Rithala, Delhi

the country? Shoot them”.

Speaking at a rally in Rithala which was to be addressed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and his cabinet colleague Giriraj Singh, Thakur led the chanting with “*Desh ke gaddaron ko*”, and people completed the slogan each time with “*goli maaro saalon ko*”.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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## Bengal fourth state to pass resolution against CAA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 27

WEST BENGAL on Monday became the fourth state — after Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan — to pass a resolution in the

Assembly against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

The resolution, tabled by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Partha Chatterjee at a one-day special session of the Assembly, was also supported by Congress and

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## EU distances itself from its lawmakers’ anti-CAA move: Not our official position

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

WITH FIVE key political groupings in the European Parliament — these range from centre-right to far-left — moving resolutions slamming India’s Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the European Union Monday said the opinions expressed by the European Parliament and its members “do not represent the official position of the European Union”.

French diplomatic sources underlined that France, a founding member of the European Union, considers the new citizenship law an “internal political matter of India” and that European Parliament is an institution “independent of member states” and the European

INSIDE



RIGHT TO KNOW HOW MANY FOREIGNERS: RAJNATH ON NRC

PFI FUNDED PROTESTS: ED TO HOME MINISTRY  
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Commission.

This distancing of the EU and France from the European Parliament, sources said, comes CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## OPEN TO TWEAKS: PURI

# Putting 100% on table, Govt renews push to sell Air India

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 27

IN ITS second attempt in less than two years, the government Monday invited expressions of interest to sell its entire 100 per cent shareholding in its national carrier, Air India Ltd. Along with it, the government will also sell Air India’s 100 per cent holding in Air India Express, a low-cost carrier, and 50 per cent share in Air India-SATS, a joint venture in which Singapore Airport Terminal Services holds the balance 50 per cent.

In the preliminary information memorandum, the government has made a number of key changes in its attempt to make it more attractive for bidders.

In March 2018, the government had offered to sell only 76 per cent holding in Air India but did not find any suitors. Now bidders need to have a minimum net worth of only Rs 3,500 crore compared with Rs 5,000 crore earlier. For a scheduled Indian airline operator, there is no net-worth criteria. Further, the government has frozen the long-term liability to be bundled with the sale at Rs 23,286.50 crore.

The government has set March 17 as the deadline for submitting the expression of interest. The qualified bidders would be intimated on March 31, effectively taking the process over to



Bidders are going to get 45 days: MoS Puri

EXPLAINED  
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## 3 key changes to sweeten offer

THE THREE key sweeteners to attract buyers: 100% stake on offer compared with 76% last time; lowering minimum net-worth criteria for bidders and freezing long-term liability. Air India unions have met the Govt but prolonged global slowdown and political opposition from within could affect the disinvestment process.

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the new financial year.

Said Minister of State (Independent Charge) Civil CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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