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### 3 Chanakya Mandal students scored all India highest 206 marks in 2019 interview, as always !

**Venue:** Siddharth Jaypee Hotel, Near Rajendra Place, Metro Station, Delhi.

#### SOME OF OUR PANEL MEMBERS

- **Lt Gen Dr. D B Shekarkar** (retd.), of Shekarkar Committee on Military Reforms.
- **Dr. D K Bhalla** (Ex-IAS 1986 Batch), Former Secretary of Lok Sabha
- **Prof. Nuzhat Parveen**, Dean, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia.
- **Shri. Dr. Bhoshan Kelkar**, IAS and Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence, Former 'Country Manager' for university relations of IBM India.

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NEARBY



EC serves notice on Thakur over remarks

NEW DELHI  
The Election Commission of India on Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur over his alleged inflammatory statements at a public meeting in the Rithala constituency. It called upon him to respond by January 30, failing which the commission will take action against him without further reference.

CITY > PAGE 2

Centre promoting strife, says Rahul

JAIPUR  
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused the BJP government at the Centre of promoting violence by raising divisive issues, which had set the citizens against each other and created an atmosphere of insecurity.

NEWS > PAGE 12

### CRASH COURSE

Starts TOMORROW 10:30am

#### 70+ QUESTIONS ASSURED

### MALUKA IAS

9910133084, 011-47340741  
53/6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, ORN, New Delhi-60

OPPORTUNITIES > PAGE 15

## CAA is meant to correct historical injustices: Modi

### PM slams critics for spreading rumours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Speaking on the recently enacted Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the law was a measure to correct "historical injustices" and to fulfill the BJP's "old promise" to religious minorities in India's neighbourhood.

Addressing cadets of the National Cadet Corp (NCC) at the annual rally after the Republic Day parade, Mr. Modi said his government was intent on solving decades-old problems facing the country, looking for lasting solutions where previous governments had only seen a law and order issue.

He mentioned the settlement of the Bru issue as well as the Bodo Accord concluded by the Home Ministry as



PM Narendra Modi

his government's work in the northeast.

Taking on critics of the citizenship law, Mr. Modi said it was being done to tarnish his image in the world. "These people are spreading propaganda that the decisions that the government took have affected my reputation in the entire world. These rumour-mongers must understand that I don't work for my reputation, but for India's reputation," he said.

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## Five MEP groups table resolution against CAA

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Five groups at the European Parliament tabled a joint motion resolution on Tuesday that "condemned" India's decision to adopt the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

In a boost for the government's efforts to counter the resolution, one group of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) with 66 members, that had earlier been a part of the resolution, decided to drop out.

The other five groups, representing a total of 560 of the 751 MEPs in the Parliament, have agreed to the joint motion, although it is unclear how many will finally vote for the resolution.

The final draft, that will be discussed and voted on, retains the strong language condemning the police action on protesters as a "brutal crackdown" particularly on university campuses, and severely criticises the detentions, alleged torture and the Internet shutdown undertaken in U.P. and other States.

The resolution also expresses concerns about the NRC, and calls on India to adhere to UN Human Rights Council procedures.

While the EU Parliament has little power to enforce its resolutions, the strong wording of the document could hamper the atmosphere for talks with India.

**'DISCRIMINATORY'** > PAGE 12

ON NPR

**Nobody knows their parents' birth date... We believe that the Central government should continue with the old format of NPR**

ON CAA-NRC

**We've already said NRC will not be implemented in the State and as far as CAA is concerned, the matter is now in Supreme Court and will be debated there**

ON PRASHANT KISHOR

**I want to make one thing clear. If he wants to remain in the party, he will have to adhere to the basic structure of the party**

**NITISH KUMAR,**  
BIHAR CM AND JD(U) CHIEF

cussion on the CAA. The JD (U) had voted to enable the law's passage in both Houses of Parliament.

**'Prashant can leave'**  
The JD(U) leader also remarked that it was up to the party's national vice-president Prashant Kishor to decide if he wished to stay in the party or leave. "It's okay if he stays, it's okay if he goes," Mr. Kumar remarked.

Observing that Mr. Kishor worked as a strategist for various parties, he said, "I want to make one thing clear, if he wants to remain in the party he will have to adhere to the basic structure of the party."

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## Parents' details will not be collected: BJD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal on Tuesday said the date and place of birth of parents would not be collected for the National Population Register.

BJD spokesperson Pinaki Misra said following objections from the State, the Centre had said Column 13 (2) of the NPR form was optional and it would not be applicable to Odisha.

DETAILS ON > PAGE 7

## On land, and in water



**In deep trouble:** Farmers from Rayapudi village in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, staging a 'Jal Deeksha' protest in the Krishna on Tuesday against the three capital proposal. ■ T. VIJAYA KUMAR

## African cheetahs to prowl Indian forests

SC lifts seven-year stay on proposal; forms committee to monitor progress

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday lifted its seven-year stay on a proposal to introduce African cheetahs from Namibia into the Indian habitat on an experimental basis.

The plan was to revive the Indian cheetah population.

In May 2012, the top court had stalled the plan to initiate the foreign cheetahs into the Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, fearing that they may come into conflict with a parallel and a much-delayed project to reintroduce lions into the same sanctuary.

The court was also worried whether the African cheetahs would find the sanctuary a favourable climate as far as abundance of prey is concerned.

However, on Tuesday, a Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde was nudged by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to take the plunge



The plan is aimed at reviving the population of the Indian cheetah.

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# 14 sentenced to life in Gujarat riots case granted interim bail

SC tells them to engage in 'spiritual and social service' till appeals are decided

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to 14 persons sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of 23 people in a Gujarat riots case of 2002, provided they keep aside six hours a week to engage themselves in "spiritual and social service".

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde said they could participate in seminars. The bail would continue until the court decides their appeals against conviction.

These convicts, some of them represented by advocate Astha Sharma, should not enter Gujarat. Ms. Sharma said the appeals were filed in the Ode massacre case. The top court has not published the order copy yet on its official website.

The Bench found that these people were convicted on the basis of the testimonies of one or two witnesses.

The court separated the appellants/convicts into two groups of six and eight. Six of them were convicted on the basis of testimony of one witness and eight on the accounts given by two witnesses. The former would remain in Indore and the latter group of eight men would

## A trail of death and destruction

- On February 27, 2002, the infamous Godhra train carnage took place, in which 51 'karsevaks' were killed during their return from Ayodhya
- A few days later, on March 1, a mob entered residential areas in Ode village, surrounded seven houses where Muslims lived and set them afire
- Many people took shelter at a nearby three-storied pucca building, but the rioters set it also on fire and 23 Muslims caught inside died
- The heat was so much that they were burnt to ashes and the three-storied building turned to rubble, the Gujarat High Court said



A file photo of some of the accused in the Ode carnage case being produced at a district court in Anand in 2012. ■ AP

**We have seen senselessness of violence and loss of innocent human lives. We cannot imagine the pain suffered by the victims who perished in the raging fire. We cannot judge the depth of sorrow and despair of their families. Communal frenzy can turn perfectly normal human beings momentarily into murderous monsters, leaving nothing but a trail of death and destruction**

GUJARAT HIGH COURT

stay in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

The Bench acknowledged the submission made by Ms. Sharma that these men had been released on parole, furlough, etc., and not committed any crime. They had also returned to custody.

### HC ruling

The Gujarat High Court had upheld the conviction of a total of 19 persons in the Ode massacre case.

Twenty-three persons of a minority community were

killed by rioters at Ode village in Anand district in central Gujarat.

The May 11, 2018 Gujarat High Court judgment of a Bench led by Justice Akil Kureshi narrated in detail the series of incidents which led to the deaths of the 23 victims.

On February 27 of 2002, the infamous Godhra train burning incident happened. A few days later, on March 1, an agitated mob collected in the surrounding fields and entered residential areas

which had "pockets of Muslim houses and shops". The mob started throwing stones and damaging property. The police could not control the rioters. The mob then surrounded seven houses where Muslim families lived and set them on fire by throwing burning rags at them.

Many of the people first tried to take shelter at a nearby three-storied building. However, many ran out, while 23 of them stayed back to meet a "gruesome fate".

# Air India flight waiting for nod from Beijing to evacuate Indians

Returnees to be in quarantine for two weeks: Health Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India has begun the process to evacuate nationals from the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, Hubei province of China.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday said the government was planning to send a plane to Wuhan and a special Air India flight had got the go-ahead from aviation regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The evacuation process will take some days, Mr. Jaishankar told reporters at Vadodara airport.

"The aircraft will fly Mumbai-Wuhan-Delhi as per requirement for passenger evacuation," a senior DGCA official said.

The 423-seater double-decker aircraft, with a 12-



**Taking stock:** A team led by Dr. Sujeeet Singh, Director, NCDC, reviewing facilities at the RML Hospital on Monday. ■ PTI

member crew, will fly as soon as China grants the required permissions, he said.

Officials said the government was also working on the issue on who will foot the tab for the evacuation.

Mr. Jaishankar, meanwhile, asserted that no Indian student had been found to be affected by the virus till date.

Union Health Minister

Harsh Vardhan said, "The Health Ministry is working to ensure that the Indians in China after their return will be kept in quarantine for two weeks even if they display no symptoms. This is to ensure that they are not carriers of the virus."

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ALARMING SPREAD > EDITORIAL  
DEADLY DISEASE > DATA POINT

## Sharjeel Imam arrested from Bihar village

Cases filed for 'seditious' speeches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

Jawaharlal Nehru University student Sharjeel Imam, who was absconding after cases were filed against him for "seditious and inflammatory" speeches at Aligarh Muslim University on January 16 and at other places, has been arrested from an area under the Kako police station in Jehanabad district of Bihar.

Kako is his ancestral village. He has been booked under several Sections of the Indian Penal Code.

"Yes, he has been arrested and police officials from Delhi have been interrogating him, and right now the judi-

cial process is on for his transit remand," Jitendra Kumar, Additional DGP(Headquarters), said in Patna. "We provided active cooperation to the Delhi police in the arrest," he added.

Sources in Jehanabad, however, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Imam was taken into police custody from Mallik Tola under the Kako police station when he was on his way, along with his lawyer, to surrender in a local court.

The Delhi police said that they had registered a case against Mr. Imam for "inflammatory" speeches opposing the CAA and NRC.

**SEE ALSO** > PAGES 4 & 5