



SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

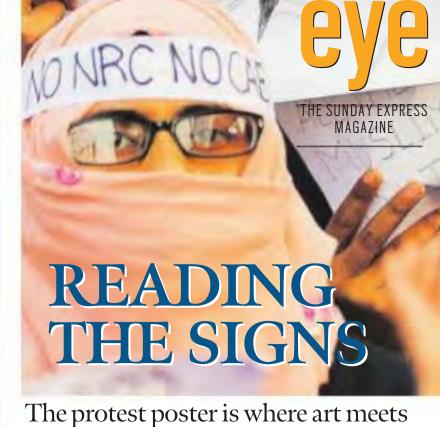
Battle ready

Beaming from billboards, focused on development, refusing to be drawn into national debates, it's a new Arvind Kejriwal to the forefront BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

Documents in Dindori

Amid citizenship debate, what 'kagaz' means in this Madhya Pradesh district where two in three people have no assets





agitation, poetry meets politics. Born during the freedom struggle, it embraces a new digital life with anti-CAA protests



Chhattisgarh: India's Trust

Strengthening the Trust of Women

- Campaign to eradicate malnutrition and anaemia
- New Opportunities for education and employment
- Empowering Women by reinforcing Folk Culture

Police denied it, but internal probe finds 2 of their men fired during Jamia protests

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

THE INVESTIGATION into violence during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) at New Friends Colony on December 15 has revealed that three bullets were fired by two police personnel in front of an ACP-rank officer — contrary to Delhi Police claims that not a single bullet was fired by them during the clashes.

This finds a mention in a "case diary" prepared by officers of the Southeast district police, The Indian Express has learnt.

The December 15 protests had spiralled into violence after a section of protesters, including both Jamia Millia Islamia students and local residents, tried to march to Parliament but were stopped by police at Mathura Road. As a section of protesters started pelting stones and set buses and private vehicles on

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MUST SAVE ASSAM

AJMALS': HIMANTA

MAHARASHTRA: NOT

THREATENS TO QUIT

SENA MINISTER

GIVEN CABINET RANK,

FROM 'MIYA POETRY.

Available in Both

INSIDE

PAGE 7

PAGE 6



During anti-CAA protest in Delhi on Dec 15. Express file

charge and eventually stormed the campus.

Hours after the protest, two (medico-legal case) reports.

EXERCISE BETWEEN MAY 15 AND MAY 28

Sushil Modi announces dates for Bihar NPR; no problem, says ally JD-U

PM, Shah have clarified, NPR extension of UPA govt process, says JD-U; Dy CM dares Mamata, Pinarayi to oppose Census

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, JANUARY 4

The JD-U, the BJP's partner in

Bihar's ruling coalition, said that

since Prime Minister Narendra

Modi had clarified that there is

no proposal to implement the

National Register of Citizens

(NRC) across the country, there

was no problem in going ahead

In the middle of last month,

with protests against the

Citizenship Amendment Act

with the NPR exercise.

the National Population Register (NPR) in Bihar will be carried out fire, police retaliated with lathibetween May 15 and May 28, senior BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister of the state Sushil Kumar Modi said on Saturday.

students of Jamia Millia Islamia, identified as Ajaz Ahmad (20) and Mohammed Shoaib (23), were admitted at Safdarjung Hospital, and a third, identified as Mohd Taimin (23), to Holy Family Hospital, with each alleging that he had received a bullet injury. Their claims were also recorded in the hospital's MLC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Bihar Dy CM Sushil Kumar Modi

(CAA) and the proposed countrywide NRC gaining momentum, JD-U vice president Prashant Kishor had said that party chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was against a nationwide NRC. With national spokesperson K C Tyagi confirming the decision to "say no to NRC", the JD-U had become the first BJP ally to come out openly against the NRC.

"Every state has to do it (the NPR exercise). It is the legal CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Mixed signals from Centre

AFTER AMIT Shah's assertions that a countrywide NRC exercise would be carried out, the PM said the NRC had never been discussed by the government. Shah later said NPR data would not be used for the NRC, but RS Prasad said that "some" NPR data "may or may not be used" for the NRC.



At the funeral procession of Major General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad on Saturday. Reuters

2012 ATTACK ON ISRAELI DIPLOMAT ONLY IRANIAN OP IN INDIA

Soleimani plotted terror in India, says Trump; Delhi walks diplomatic tightrope

KRISHN KAUSHIK& **DEEPTIMANTIWARY** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

MAJ. GEN Qassem Soleimani had "made the death of innocent people his sick passion, contributing to terrorist plots as far away as New Delhi and London", President Donald Trump said after the United States had killed the Iranian commander in Baghdad early on Friday.

India's Ministry of External Affairs had reacted cautiously to Gen Soleimani's assassination noting that "a senior Iranian leader has been killed by the US", underlining that "peace, stability and security in this region is of utmost importance to India" and it was "vital that the situation does not escalate further", and urging "restraint".

The MEA statement did not

WORLD

'REVENGE IS COMING':THOUSANDS MOURN SLAIN LEADERS IN IRAQ

SOLEIMANI MADE DEATH OF INNOCENT PEOPLE HIS SICK **PASSION: TRUMP PAGE 17**

mention Gen Soleimani by name: and India is yet to react to Trump's mention of his "terrorist plots" in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A shocked Iraq reconsiders its ties with US

FALIH HASSAN, TIM ARANGO & **ALISSA J RUBIN** BAGHDAD, JANUARY 4

AMERICAN OIL workers were fleeing Iraq on Friday, as fears grew of war between the United States and Iran. At sermons in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, worshipers chanted, "Death to America!"

And in Tahrir Square in central Baghdad, where anti-government protesters have gathered for months, a banner went up with a pointed message to both Iran and the US: "Keep your **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Sachin raps his govt on Kota deaths: 'We could have been more sensitive'

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, JANUARY 4

CRITICISING HIS own govern-



hospital on Saturday. Express

been "more sensitive and compassionate". He said that instead of pointing out the "misdeeds' of the previous government, the emphasis should be on "fixing

the hospital in December, seven more have died since the beginning of the new year.

In one of worst-hit UP towns, 6 deaths, 'no bullets found'

SHYAMLAL YADAV FIROZABAD. JANUARY 4

factories was among the worst affected in the recent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Uttar Pradesh. which were met with a police crackdown. Of the 19 deaths in alleged police action in the state, six happened in Firozabad, apart from injuries to 75, including 18 policemen, on December 20.

THIS TOWN of bangle and glass

The hospital version in most cases is that while the men carried bullet injuries, they had not found a bullet. Three of the victims were taken to Delhi's AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospitals, while one is being treated for spinal injuries at Apollo Hospital in the Capital.

The Firozabad police has maintained that they didn't fire a single bullet. In case of each of the six deaths, police told *The Indian Express*, they had regis-









Qureshi

tered a case and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was probing.

Dr R K Pandey, Chief Medical Superintendent of S N Hospital, Firozabad, where three of the post-mortems were conducted, told The Indian Express, "In two bodies we found there was entry and exit of bullets but no bullet was found inside. The third case was of a head injury and no bullet marks were found."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

rape to 'Islamic' Taj:

IIT-K prof's gems

Anti-nationals to

RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

THE ASSAULT on former INU

Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar at Patiala House Courts will deter "antinationals"; if Hindus had "known to rape... no Muslim woman could survive in India"; the ancestors of Indian Muslims were Hindus and Buddhists; the cost of building the world's tallest statue of Shivaji is justified since the government also spends on maintaining "Islamic sites" like the Taj Mahal.

These are the views of Vashi Mant Sharma, a temporary teacher at IIT-Kanpur, published in two of his books in 2017 and 2018. Sharma hit the headlines last month when he complained against a students' demonstration on campus, where a poem by Faiz Ahmed Faiz was read to express solidarity with students of Jamia Millia Islamia. The institute has set up a six-member



Vashi Mant Sharma

committee to inquire into his complaint, which, among other things, also claims the poem *'Hum Dekhenge'* hurts religious sentiments.

Sharma (32) is currently with the mechanical engineering department of IIT-Kanpur as part of the INSPIRE Faculty Scheme run by the Department of Science and Technology. Every year, the scheme offers postdoctoral researchers, in the age group of 27-32 years, contractual and tenure track positions for five years in basic and applied sciences.

Sharma has a Masters' degree and PhD from IIT-Bombay. Concentrating solar power and renewable energy are listed as

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ment over the deaths of children at the state-run J K Lon Hospital in Kota, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot said on Saturday that the state government's response could have



Sachin Pilot visited the Kota

accountability". While 100 children died at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Girl from Bihar village is rugby's 'international young player of year'

SHIVANI NAIK MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

SWEETY KUMARI loved her first spikes gifted by an athletics coach in Patna because she felt like she was flying on the cinder track, just skimming the ground. Moving to rugby thereafter, where she's emerged as India's explosive speedy wing, the 19year-old loved watching defenders fly — and fall in vain around her, as her blitzing runs eluded their pursuing dives. Over the

last few days, Sweety says she's flying a little above ground, excited about being picked as the "international young player of the year" by reputed women's rugby website Scrumqueens.

The year-end poll, a mix of 10 shortlisted nominations from across the world followed by a public poll, picked the Indian, who was earlier declared by Asia Rugby as the "continent's fastest player". Hailing from Nawada village in Barh tehsil of Patna, where she first ran the 100m dash in 11.58 seconds, Sweety chan-

nelled her pace into rugby, where she is nicknamed India's "Scoring Machine" by teammates. Earlier, playing in the XVs

against Philippines, Sweety received the ball from the flyhalf's kick, ran wide, stepped inside dodging a rival winger, shrugged off a second defender's tackle, bisected two onrushing tacklers (who collided), and finally leapt over the tryline, with two more defenders left clutching her ankles. "Six tacklers against Philippines and four in the next match with Singapore, nobody



Speed is a God gift, I train hard on rhythm: Sweety Kumari (19)

could catch me," she says. "They all try, they come from front and behind, and pull me. But nobody can match my speed," she adds, on her runs that helped India score their first Fifteens Test win against Singapore.

"She impressed from the start, but it was this year that she started making a big impact in Asia, at both sevens and fifteens. Described by Asia Rugby as the continent's fastest player, her explosive pace and power has resulted in her top scoring at most of India's sevens tournaments, as

tries in their first ever test match win against Singapore," *Scrumqueens* wrote. The fifth among seven chil-

well as scoring two outstanding

dren, Sweety followed an older brother into athletics, and ran sprints for her government school, district and state. "He's left sport, he gave up because it was hard work. Now, my father keeps scolding my siblings to study and tells them 'Sweety ki life toh set hai, usse kuchh seekho',"

A rugby coach pointed her

towards what was an unfamiliar sport, but she picked the rules quickly. "Pass behind, run in front was all I understood initially at a junior pre-camp. Then American coach Mike Fryday taught me to run wide on the flanks and not get caught by defenders. I'm also very smart and use my mind effectively. The speed is a God gift, I only train hard on the rhythm of running and stepping in and out at full speed," she says. Her father worked as a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2