



Centre has not reduced fund allocation to States, says Nirmala

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Airtel, Vodafone Idea, Tata Tele likely to pay AGR dues today

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Ready for upcoming panchayat polls, release leaders, NC tells EC

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Ganguly says India will play day-night Test against Australia at Adelaide

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NEARBY



₹1-crore fine defies logic, says U.P. poet-politician

GHAZIABAD
A day after the Moradabad administration slapped a fine of ₹1.04 crore on Imran Pratapgarhi for violating Section 144 and participating in anti-CAA protest, the poet-politician said the notice is arbitrary and the language defies logic. He said he would approach the court against it.

NEWS PAGE 13

Take back NSA against Kafeel: AMU students

GHAZIABAD
AMU students protesting against the CAA on Sunday demanded that the charges slapped against Gorakhpur doctor Kafeel Khan under the National Security Act be withdrawn. They also condemned the Chennai police brutality against anti-CAA protesters.

NORTH PAGE 2

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EDUCATION PLUS PAGE 16 & 17

Will stand by decision on Art. 370, CAA: Modi

PM says these decisions were necessary in national interest

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Despite international pressure, the government will continue to stand by its decision to revoke Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday.

He said the country had "awaited" these decisions for many years. "In national interest, these decisions were necessary," Mr. Modi said at an event in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

"Despite the various international pressures, we stand by these decisions and will continue to stand by them," Mr. Modi said. The country was now taking decisions that were always left behind in the past, he added.

The Prime Minister's tough talk assumed significance in view of protests against the CAA in various parts of the country.

Launches projects

In Varanasi, Mr. Modi launched projects worth



Reaching out: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting people at Jangamwadi Mutt in Varanasi on Sunday. ■PTI

₹1,250 crore. He unveiled the statue of Deendayal Upadhyay, which, at 63 feet, is the largest statue of the leader in the country, as per the government. The Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Memorial Centre.

Mr. Modi flagged off the third corporate train, Mahaakaal Express, which links three Jyotirling pilgrim centres - Varanasi, Ujjain and Omkareshwar.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Modi attended the closing cere-

mony of the centenary celebration of Jagadguru Vishwaradhya Gurukul at Jangamwadi Mutt and released the translated version of 'Shri Siddhant Shikhamani Granth' in 19 languages. He also launched the 'Shri Siddhant Shikhamani Granth' mobile app.

Citing certain key decisions of his government, Mr. Modi referred to the trust set up for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and said it would work "rapidly."

(With PTI inputs)

Kejriwal extends olive branch to Centre after taking oath for 3rd term

AAP leader seeks Prime Minister Modi's blessings for development of the Capital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal took oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi for the third time at a swearing-in ceremony held at the Ramlila Maidan grounds on Sunday. Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal administered the oath of office and secrecy at the ceremony attended by thousands of AAP supporters.

Senior AAP leaders Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain, Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, Rajinder Pal Gautam and Imran Hussain were also sworn in as Ministers in the Delhi Cabinet. All six were Ministers in the previous AAP government.

The swearing-in ceremony, for which Mr. Kejriwal had invited all of Delhi, was turned into an occasion to thank the voters for bringing the AAP back to power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had been invited to the event, did not attend.

Setting his government's roadmap for the next five years, Mr. Kejriwal sought the Prime Minister "blessings" for fast paced develop-



The helmsman: Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia greeting the crowd after the swearing-in ceremony at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ment of the national capital and asserted that people may have voted for different parties, but he would work for all of them.

"We have forgiven our Opposition for whatever remarks they made. I would also like to request the Opposition to forget what

happened during the elections. I want to work together with all the parties for the development of Delhi. I want to work together with the Central government to make Delhi a world-class city."

Mr. Kejriwal termed himself Delhi's "son" and the "Chief Minister of all" people

irrespective of the party they voted for. "The two crore people of the national capital are my family," he said.

Special invitees

The AAP invited 50 people from all walks of life as special guests. The party said it was these people, whom it termed 'Delhi ke nirmata' (builders of Delhi) who had run Delhi in the last five years and were being acknowledged for their work.

Among them was Shabina Naaz, who has been working with night shelters around Chandni Chowk and Kashmiri Gate for the past five years. Ms. Naaz said, "When I got a call, I could not believe that it is really happening. I can tell you that only the AAP government can invite a person as unimportant as me."

Mr. Kejriwal credited the people of Delhi for giving birth to a new kind of "politics of work and performance."

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MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 4, 5

DELHI AT THE CENTRE

EDITORIAL

NO CONFRONTATION PAGE 12

Video of police brutality in Jamia library goes viral

Uniformed men seen raining blows on students

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

A video, purportedly from the CCTV footage from inside the Jamia Millia Islamia library, showing security personnel beating up students, has gone viral on social media.

On the night of December

15 last year, police personnel allegedly carried out a crackdown at the Jamia Millia, following protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, including entering the university library and assaulting students studying there. Police had said they had entered the campus after fire, who had set buses in the vicinity on fire, took shelter inside. Students, however, had alleged that security personnel had even

entered the research scholars' section of the library and assaulted students.

The footage shared late on Saturday, shows security personnel allegedly entering the section for research scholars and hitting students with canes. In a statement, Jamia Millia Islamia said the video had not been released by the university.

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OPPN. SLAMS POLICE PAGE 13



CCTV footage showing police beating up students at the Jamia Millia Islamia library on December 15.

Fear stalling investment: Montek

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Fear factor, a cumbersome tax regime and tax laws criminalising defaults have depressed private investments, noted economist and former Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said on Sunday.

Mr. Ahluwalia, speaking to *The Hindu* ahead of the launch of his book *Backstage: The Story behind India's High Growth Years*, asserted that the current

Budget did not do enough to change the situation. He said, "For a cyclical revival you have to look at the demand side and I don't think the actions taken so far will actually have the impact expected on the demand side."

"Private investment is subdued because of a lack of animal spirits. Banks are not extending credit because they're very cautious. People have also talked of a fear factor depressing investment. Many people say that

our tax laws have become so complex... that people are discouraged from adopting a high profile," he said.

In the book, Mr. Ahluwalia reveals that former PM Manmohan Singh had asked him whether he should resign after Rahul Gandhi denounced the controversial UPA ordinance negating the Supreme Court verdict on convicted lawmakers.

FULL INTERVIEW PAGE 13

ANOTHER REPORT PAGE 13

Fire wall



Creating a barrier: Forest staff clearing shrubs to make fire lines at the Mukurthi National Park near Udhagamandalam ahead of summer. Fire lines are strips without greenery or dried twigs to prevent forest fires from spreading. ■M. SATHYAMOORTHY

Protesters' march to Shah's house stopped

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protesters, who have been on an indefinite sit-in at Shaheen Bagh, marched towards Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence on Sunday but returned after police denied them permission.

"We have been protesting here peacefully and if we go there to meet him, we will go peacefully," said Shakila, a protester, explaining why no altercation took place between them and the authorities.

DETAILS ON PAGE 6

Chicken-killing monkeys trigger rethink on leopards

Beset by 'unmanageable monkeys', some parts of rural eastern Assam are turning to the spotted cats

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Some parts of rural eastern Assam are becoming more lenient towards the leopard. One of the reasons is "unmanageable" troops of monkeys that even kill chicken for food.

About six years ago, people of Nagheriting in Golaghat district had blocked an arterial National Highway to force the authorities into taking steps to check the population of rhesus macaques that raid their grain stores and kitchens. Nagheriting is about 80 km east of

Kaziranga National Park. "We went into the issue and found the monkeys were desperate enough to target hen coops and rip the chickens apart to eat the grain the fowl store in the sack-like crop before digesting," said Mubina Akhtar of NGO Kaziranga Wildlife Society.

A deeper study revealed the macaque "population explosion" was correlated to the dwindling population of leopards as well as the transformation in the landscape. This was because



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

traditional *kathoni* - small backyard patches of fruit trees - where leopards thrived. "Both macaques and leopards are highly adaptive and live close to humans. The *kathonis* sustained monkeys in the past, not requiring them to raid homes, while leopards preyed on the monkeys," Ms. Akhtar said. Wildlife officials said about 15 years ago, there were about 12,000 leopards in Assam, they said. The figure is likely to be less than 5,000 now. "There is a correlation between monkeys and

leopards although the changing landscape and availability of garbage have been major factors in the increase in monkey population across India," Qamar Qureshi of the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India told *The Hindu*. "Macaques such as the rhesus, Assamese and bonnet are omnivorous. But they might not kill chickens for their flesh," he added.

"Six-seven leopards used to be killed in Noragaon in Golaghat. People now let the leopards be or have them captured and released in the wild," Ms. Akhtar said.

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