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'CAA in a week across country'

Union Minister outlines plans for swift implementation of law

PTI
KOLKATA

Union Minister Shantanu Thakur on Monday claimed that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA will be implemented across the country within a week.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal, on the other hand, dismissed the claim as a "poll rhetoric", while vowing to prevent CAA implementation in the State.

Thakur, the BJP MP from Bongaon Lok Sabha seat, which has a substantial population of the Matua community, outlined plans for the swift implementation of the contentious legislation within seven days.

Addressing a public rally at Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas district on Sunday evening, Thakur, also the union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said, "Ram Mandir has been inaugurated. Within the next one week, CAA will be implemented not only in

Don't accept IDs issued by BSF: Mamata

COOCH BEHAR/SILIGURI: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee criticised the BJP for raking up the CAA issue before the Lok Sabha polls and cautioned border residents against accepting separate identity cards allegedly issued by the BSF to avoid being caught in an "NRC trap".

The TMC supremo advised locals in Cooch Behar, particularly Rajbanshis, to ensure that their names are on the voters' list to "protect themselves" from the CAA. Banerjee's remark against the BSF prompted a denial



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during her visit to Cooch Behar district on Monday. — Photo: PTI

from the border guarding force which said "the BSF never issues separate identity cards". Banerjee said: "The BSF is torturing

people... it is trying to issue separate identity cards to people living in border areas. Never accept these cards." PTI

West Bengal but also across the country."

Continuing his critique of the TMC government in West Bengal for its staunch opposition to the CAA, he said, "This State govern-

ment claims that if you have voter and Aadhaar cards, you are a citizen of this country and can cast your votes. If that is the case, then why is it that thousands of people here have been de-

prived of their right to vote? The Chief Minister has to answer why these people have been deprived." He emphasised the imperative of implementing CAA to secure future generations.

Six killed as speeding truck hits car

STATE BUREAU
Nalgonda

Six members of two families, who were returning home after a temple tour, died on the spot in a road accident at Miryalaguda on the Narketpally-Adhanki road after midnight on Sunday.

The victims have been identified as Cherupalli Mahesh (32), his wife Jyothi (30) and their daughter Rishitha (6) from Nandipad in Miryalaguda mandal, and Bhuma Mahender (32), his wife Madhavi (30) and their son Liyansi (2) from Golenepally of Valigonda mandal in Yadadri-Bhongir.

According to police, the accident occurred when a speeding truck hit the car in which the victims were travelling from behind. The truck sped off immediately after the incident.

Mahesh and Mahender were cousins, with Mahesh residing in Vanasthalipuram and working as a photographer. They had planned a trip to some temples in Andhra Pradesh and left Hyderabad on January 26 in a car. They visited the Subramaneshwara Swamy temple at Mopidevi and the Sri Kanaka Durga temple at Vijayawada, among others. (SEE PAGE 2)

Ruckus over Min's remarks

Komatireddy 'mudslinging' BRS, ZP chief objects to comments

“Sandeep Reddy got ZP post because of his father's stature and not because of doing anything worthwhile...”

— K VENKAT REDDY, R&B Minister

“You are inaugurating the GP building built by the previous BRS gov't, yet are mudslinging the same gov't”

— A SANDEEP REDDY, ZP chairman

STATE BUREAU
Yadadri-Bhongir

Ugly scenes were witnessed at the inauguration of the Gudur gram panchayat office after a verbal duel triggered by Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy's remarks on the BRS, its leaders and even on the political lineage of Zilla Parishad Chairman Alimineti Sandeep Reddy.

After Sandeep Reddy spoke about the need to implement the six guarantees of the Congress government, the Minister, in his speech, allegedly resorted to derogatory comments on the BRS, former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao

and BRS working president KT Rama Rao. He is seen on video going to the extent of degrading the political lineage of Sandeep Reddy, who is the son of former AP Home Minister late A Madhava Reddy. The Minister, speaking on how MLAs should work for the people, said Sandeep Reddy got the ZP post because of his father's political stature and not because of doing anything worthwhile for people. Sandeep Reddy objected to this and said the Minister was inaugurating the GP building constructed by the previous BRS government and was still mudslinging the same government. (SEE PAGE 2)

Hidden marvel of Nizamabad

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Biden blames Hezbollah for attack

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Rahul, Jadeja out of 2nd Test

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ENTERTAINMENT
PAGE 12

Ranbir, Alia shake a leg

Video of them doing Jamal Kudu hookstep goes viral



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Defection not easy now, courtesy SC

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

There were times when an elected public representative could switch loyalties and continue in that elected post without much hassles. However, recent Supreme Court judgments and directions, especially after 2020, have targeted such practices, making it tough for an elected representative to continue in his or her post after defecting.

It was in May last year that the apex court passed a verdict hinging on the anti-defection law after the Maharashtra political crisis case reached its Benches. The verdict was to strengthen the hands of the Speaker in deciding disqualification petitions under the anti-defection law and putting the onus on the Speaker to act without

delay in such instances.

When the action was delayed in the Maharashtra case, the Supreme Court on October 30 set two deadlines for Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to complete the disqualification proceedings of members of Legislative Assemblies from the Shiv Sena and National Congress Party.

Taking note of the delay in the disqualification proceedings, CJI DY Chandrachud stated: "We don't want these proceedings to keep wrangling till elections are announced."

CJI Chandrachud also said the "sanctity of the Tenth Schedule has to be maintained" by the Speaker. The Tenth Schedule provides grounds for disqualification due to the defection of MLAs from one party to another. (SEE PAGE 2)

CM for digital health profiling of TS citizens

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday directed officials to prepare a digital health profile of every individual in Telangana and suggested linking the digital health profile card with a unique number to extend treatment in case of an emergency.

The health profile card will also be linked with the Arogyasri card.

During a meeting with Health Department officials here on Monday, he also discussed the issue of abolishing the mandatory requirement of white ration card to avail benefits under Arogyasri.

"Due to this clause, more people are demanding new white ration cards in the State," he said.

(CLEAR AROGYASRI BILLS TO GOVT HOSPITALS: CM PAGE 4)

Homeless drug addict hammers Indian student to death in US

NEW YORK

A 25-year-old Indian student, who recently earned an MBA degree in the US, was hammered to death by a homeless drug addict whom he had been helping for the past couple of days in Georgia State's Lithonia city.

The horrifying incident was caught on camera when assailant Julian Faulkner mercilessly struck Vivek Saini nearly 50 times on the head with a hammer.

Saini, a part-time clerk at a store that sheltered Faulkner, had shown kindness to the accused for almost two days and provided him with chips, a Coke, water and even a



jacket for warmth, M9 News Channel reported on Sunday.

However, Saini was struck on January 16 while going home as he, concerned for safety, requested Faulkner to depart or face police intervention. Police, arriving at the scene, found Faulkner standing over Saini's lifeless body.

The young student, who had migrated to the US two years ago after

Vivek Saini had shown kindness to the accused by giving him chips, a Coke, water and even a jacket

completing his B Tech, had recently earned a Master's in Business Administration.

Saini's family in Haryana mourns the loss of the promising young man, describing him as a brilliant student striving for a decent job.

His parents, Gurjeet Singh and Lalita Saini, are devastated and currently unable to discuss the tragic incident, according to reports. PTI

Centre tweaks family pension rules for women

NEW DELHI

In a path-breaking decision with far-reaching socio-economic impact, the Centre has allowed women employees to nominate their sons or daughters for family pension, instead of husbands, according to an official statement issued on Monday.

Previously, family pension was granted to the spouse of a deceased government servant or pensioner, while other family members became eligible only after the spouse's ineligibility or demise.

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare introduced an amendment to the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021. PTI

RTC to recruit 3,000 employees

CROMEIO
Hyderabad

After many years, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) is all set to start the process of recruiting nearly 3,000 employees, specifically aimed at facilitating services on recently established routes and new buses that are being procured, in a phased manner.

With rising passenger traffic, especially after the launch of free travel for women under the 'Maha Lakshmi' scheme and upcoming proposals to further expand the fleet, senior RTC officials have indicated that recruiting to strengthen the exiting services will be taken up. A decision has also been taken to

implement compassionate appointments apart from recruiting bus drivers and conductors.

Recently, the TSRTC revealed plans to offer 813 compassionate appointments and had, a few days ago, also handed over about 50 appointment letters to the deserving candidates from the kin of the employees who died. The State government has already promised the TSRTC to carry out compassionate appointments, take up additional appointments, fill vacant posts and address outstanding problems faced by current employees.

TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjan said the posts of bus drivers and conductors will be filled in the near future. (SEE PAGE 2)

Biennial RS polls for 56 seats on Feb 27

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday said the biennial Rajya Sabha polls will be held on February 27 for 56 seats as the tenure of incumbents, including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and BJP president JP Nadda, will end in April.

The vacancies also include seats held by nine Union Ministers, including Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The nomination process will begin on February 8 with the issuance of the notification, said the Election Commission in a statement. (SEE PAGE 2)

Patriotic fervour



AGE-OLD TRADITION: Military band personnel perform during the Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Monday. — Photo: PTI