

Govt implements **Citizenship Amendment Act**

NEW DELHI, Mar 11 (PTI)

THE Centre on Monday implemented the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, a move that comes four years after the contentious law was passed and paves the way for citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The rules were notified days ahead of the expected announcement of the Lok Sabha elections. With this, the Modi Government will now start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from the three countries.

Union Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered on another commitment and realised the promise of the makers of the Constitution.



People in support of the CAA.

(File photo)

"These rules, called the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 will enable the persons eligible under CAA-2019 to apply for the grant of Indian citizenship," a Home Ministry spokesperson said.

"The applications will be submitted in a completely

online mode for which a web portal has been provided," the spokesperson added.

The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the President's assent but there were protests in several parts of the country against it, with many



■ Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 grants citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants (such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains,

Parsis and Christians) from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who came to India before December 31, 2014.

■ The nine States where Indian citizenship by registration or naturalisation is given under the Citizenship Act are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra.

■ The promise of implementing the controversial CAA was a major poll plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in West Bengal. BJP leaders consider it a plausible factor that led to the rise of the BJP in West Bengal.

Opposition parties speaking out against the law calling it "discriminatory". The law could not come into effect as

rules had not been notified till now.

"These rules will now enable minorities persecuted on reli-

gious grounds in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to acquire citizenship in our nation.

"With this notification, PM Shri Narendra Modi ji has delivered on another commitment and realised the promise of the makers of our Constitution to the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians living in those countries," Shah said on X.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should be framed within six months of presidential assent or the Government has to seek an extension from the Committees on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Since 2020, the Home Ministry has been taking extensions at regular intervals from the Parliamentary committee for framing the rules.

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SC rebukes SBI on electoral bonds, directs it to furnish details to EC today

NEW DELHI, Mar 11 (PTI)

CHASTISING the SBI, the Supreme Court on Monday ordered it to disclose the details of the electoral bonds encashed by political parties to the Election Commission by the close of the business hours on March 12 and warned the country's largest public sector lender that the court may proceed against it for "wilful disobedience" if it failed to comply with its directions and deadlines.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, while dismissing the State Bank of India's plea



The five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud during hearing on the SBI's plea seeking more time to disclose Electoral Bonds, in New Delhi on Monday. (PTI)

seeking extension of time till June 30 to disclose the details, also

directed the EC to publish the information shared by the bank on its official website by 5 pm on March 15.

The order was passed by the bench, which also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra. In a landmark verdict delivered on February 15, the same five-judge constitution bench had scrapped the Centre's controversial electoral bonds scheme that allowed anonymous political funding, calling it "unconstitutional", and ordered disclosure by the Election Commission of donors, the amount donated by them and the



RTI activist Lokesh Batra talks to the media after electoral bonds case hearing at Supreme Court, in New Delhi on Monday. (PTI)

recipients by March 13.

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China protests over PM's visit to Arunachal

■ **By K J M Varma**

BEIJING, Mar 11 (PTI)

CHINA on Monday said it lodged a diplomatic protest with India over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh last week, reiterating its claim over the area by saying, India's moves will "only complicate" the boundary question.

Prime Minister Modi on Saturday dedicated to the nation the Sela Tunnel built at an altitude of 13,000 feet in Arunachal Pradesh that will provide all-weather connectivity to strategically located Tawang and is expected to ensure better movement of troops along the frontier region.

The Rs 825 crore tunnel, constructed on the road connecting Assam's Tezpur to West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, is being billed as the longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world at such an altitude.

The Sela Tunnel will provide for better movement of troops and weaponry to various forward locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, according to military officials. China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet, routinely objects to Indian leaders' visits to the state to highlight its claims. Beijing has also named the area as Zangnan.

India has repeatedly rejected China's territorial claims over Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the state is an integral part of the country. New Delhi has also dismissed Beijing's move to assign "invented" names to the area, saying it did not alter the reality.

Agni-5 with a range of 5000 km first flight tested

The indigenously developed Agni-5 missile can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China as well as some regions in Europe under its striking range.

- PM congratulated DRDO scientists over the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile, capable of deploying multiple warheads

NEW DELHI, Mar 11 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated DRDO scientists over the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile, capable of deploying multiple warheads.

“Proud of our DRDO scientists for Mission Divyastra, the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology,” Modi said on ‘X’.

Sources said that with the test of Mission Divyastra, India has joined the select group of nations that have MIRV capability

This will ensure that a single missile can deploy multiple warheads at different locations, they said.

The project director is a woman and it has a significant contribution from women, the sources said.

The weapon system is equipped with indigenous avionics systems and high-accuracy sensor packages which ensured that the re-entry vehicles reached the target points within the desired accuracy.

The capability is an enunciator of India’s growing technological prowess.

The Agni-5, with a range of 5000 km, is developed considering the long-term security needs of the country. The missile can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China as well as some regions in Europe under its striking range.

The Agni 1 to 4 missiles have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km and have already been deployed.

India has been developing capabilities to intercept hostile ballistic missiles both inside and outside the earth’s atmospheric limits.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the scientists of DRDO for the maiden flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple



Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.

In a post on X, Rajnath Singh said, “India today successfully tested Mission Divyastra - the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology and joined the select group of nations who have MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry) capability. Congratulations to our DRDO scientists and the entire team for this exceptional success. India is proud of them!”

Peace gradually returning to Manipur: CM

IMPHAL, Mar 11 (PTI)

MANIPUR Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday said that peace has been gradually returning to the State, particularly over the last four months.

Addressing the public at a function for the distribution of welfare benefits, Singh said, "We are working hard for peace to return. Peace has begun to return in the last four months compared to the period following the outbreak of violence on May 3 last year."

Reflecting on the May 3 incident, Singh expressed regret, saying, "What was unfortunate was that we didn't anticipate there would be targeted and deliberate attacks on the government."

Singh elaborated, "We thought it was a simple rally for the students," referring to the rally organised by the All Tribal Students Union Manipur against the demand for Scheduled Tribe status by the Meitei community.

Singh, however, pointed out that the attacks were isolated to one or two places, with no incidents reported in other parts of the hill districts.

"At that time, security personnel and police were inadequately deployed as it was a sudden attack leading to loss of lives and property and for which I express my sincere condolences," Singh said.

"However, the government has taken up steps so that such incidents do not occur again. Efforts to deploy State forces at vulnerable and hotspot areas are almost over," he said and urged the people to restore "the old Manipur prior to the outbreak of violence."

President on 3-day visit to Mauritius

Murmu gifts RuPay card to Roopun

Murmu arrived here earlier in the day on a three-day state visit during which she would be the chief guest at the country's National Day celebrations on Tuesday.

In a post on X, the official handle of the President of India said that President Murmu had a warm and cordial meeting with President Roopun at the Presidential State House.

"The two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the unique and multi-faceted bilateral relationship, including

through capacity building, science & technology, and collaboration in various developmental projects," it said, sharing a few photographs of the meeting.

President Murmu also appreciated the Ayurvedic Garden which was set up on the grounds of the State House last year, it said. In a series of posts on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Murmu was warmly received by Roopun at the State House ahead of their bilateral talks.