

## With CAA in sight, UP Govt identifies 32,000 refugees in 21 districts



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**LUCKNOW** - The state government has started the process to identify refugees for the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, said UP minister Shrikant Sharma on Monday. "The notification for the CAA (by the Centre) has been issued and all district magistrates in UP have been asked to collect data," Sharma told PTL.

In the first list, over 32,000 refugees have been identified in 21 districts of the state and the exercise is going on in the entire state as per information I have from the state home department, Sharma added. There are 75 districts in the state. When asked about the countries they belong to, Sharma said, "They are from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh."

The districts from where the first list has arrived included Saharanpur, Gorakhpur, Aligarh, Rampur, Pratapgarh, Pilibhit, Lucknow, Varanasi, Bahraich, Lakhimpur, Meerut, Agra. Sources said Pilibhit has the maximum number of refugees. However, the exact number is yet to be disclosed by the state government.

"The exercise is going on and as the data comes, we will update figures," Sharma said. An NGO, NagrikAdhikarManch, has also prepared a 116-page report, "Uttar Pradesh Mein Aaye Pakistan, Afghanistan Evam Bangladesh keSharnarthyonkiAapbeeti (Un-

keUtpeedankiKahani)" and sent it to the state and the Centre.

The state government has not confirmed whether it was taking the report into account or not. "We have got the report of the NagrikAdhikarManch," a senior official said, who refused to elaborate. The Centre last week had issued a gazette notification announcing that the CAA has come into effect from January 10, 2020.

The Act grants citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (47 of 2019), the Central government hereby appoints the 10th day of January, 2020, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force," the notification said.

The CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11.

According to the legislation, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 due to religious persecution will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

There have been widespread protests against the Act in different parts of the country. In UP, at least 19 persons were killed in anti-CAA protests.

## People Shouting Slogans Against Modi, Yogi Will Be Buried Alive: BJP Leader



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**NEW DELHI** - BJP leader Raghuraj Singh has said people raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be buried alive. Singh made the statement on Sunday while addressing a rally in Aligarh to create awareness about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Warning "these handful of people, one per cent criminal and corrupt people, saying murdabad to Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Adityanath", Singh said, "I will bury you alive."

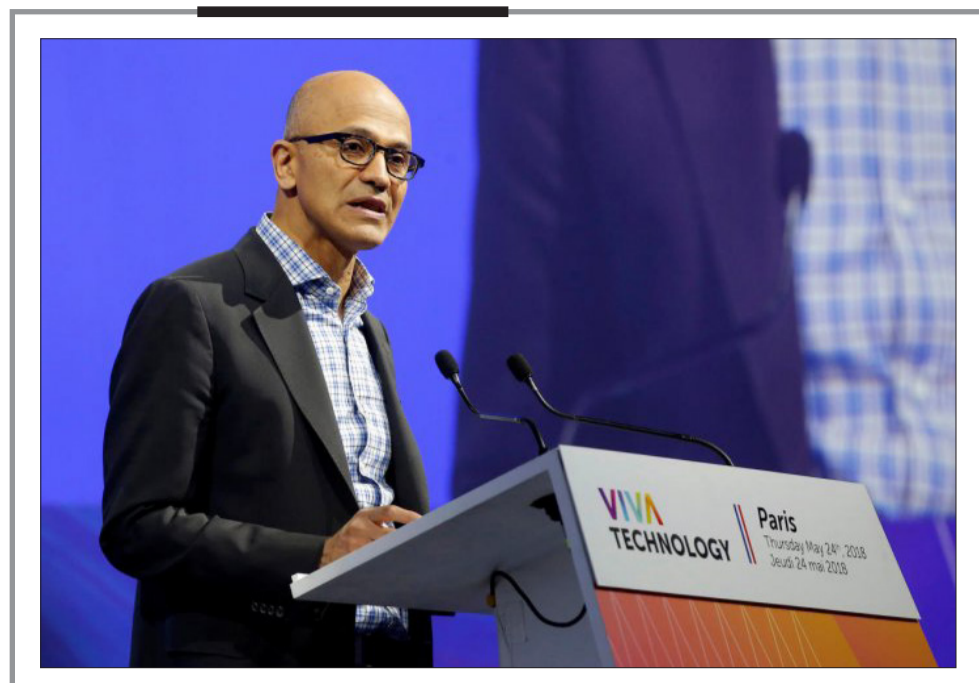
"Yogi and Modi are not the ones who will get perturbed.

Yogi-Modi will run the country and run it like this only," Singh said. "Those taking money from Dawood Ibrahim and troubling our officers, and Muslims will be beaten up badly," he said.

Singh, who hails from Aligarh, was apparently referring to protests held by students of Aligarh Muslim University against the Citizenship Act recently.

The BJP immediately distanced itself from Singh's controversial remarks, with party spokesperson Chandramohan saying "Raghuraj Singh is neither a minister nor an MLA."

Labour Welfare Council chairman Sunil Bharala said Raghuraj Singh is an adviser in a unit of labour department.



## Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella Voices Concern Over CAA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW YORK:** Microsoft's Indian-origin CEO Satya Nadella on Monday voiced concern over the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), saying what is happening is "sad" and he would love to see a Bangladeshi immigrant create the next unicorn in India. His comments came while speaking to editors at a Microsoft event in Manhattan where he was asked about the contentious issue of CAA which grants citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

"I think what is happening is sad... It's just bad... I would love to see a Bangladeshi immigrant who comes to India and creates

the next unicorn in India or becomes the next CEO of Infosys," Nadella was quoted as saying by Ben Smith, the Editor-in-Chief of New York-based BuzzFeed News.

In a statement issued by Microsoft India, Nadella said: "Every country will and should define its borders, protect national security and set immigration policy accordingly. And in democracies, that is something that the people and their governments will debate and define within those bounds."

"I'm shaped by my Indian heritage, growing up in a multicultural India and my immigrant experience in the United States. My hope is for an India where an immigrant can aspire to found a prosperous start-up or lead a multinational corporation benefiting Indian society and the economy at large."

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## Economist Bhaduri Gives Up JNU Emeritus Professorship Over 'Throttling Of Dissent'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Eminent economist Amit Bhaduri has given up emeritus professorship at Jawaharlal Nehru University, alleging mis-handling of the current situation by the university administration.

In his letter to the vice-chancellor of JNU, Bhaduri expressed pain at throttling of dissent by the university administration.

"It pains me but I feel it would be immoral on my part without registering my protest to remain a silent observer in this larger, sinister scheme of throttling dissent which is unfolding now at the university."

"...I am giving up my emeritus professorship at JNU," he wrote in his mail, which was made public by him.

Bhaduri had joined the university as a young professor in 1973. He left it in 2001.

He noted that during his years at JNU, the university passed through various phases of justified or unjustified student's unrest and even temporary shutdown of the teaching.

"What is difference now is not only incompetence of handling of situations by the authorities, but a deliberate attempt to throttle the free and lively atmosphere of debate and discussion for which JNU was known all over the country," he asserted.

Bhaduri further alleged that



the current attempt by the administration to destroy that atmosphere of freedom of expression is in line with a larger and more sinister plan, of which JNU VC is 'appears to be pivotal part'.

"You seem determined on imprinting your administration's narrow-minded world view, and shut all other windows of ideas to the students," he wrote.

The eminent economist also expressed hope that his returning the honour will send the right message to the JNU administration.

Last week, eminent economist and JNU professor C.P. Chandrasekhar had withdrawn from the newly-constituted 28-member Standing Committee on Statistics (SCES), chaired by former

chief statistician Pranob Sen, citing the situation in the university.

The committee was constituted last month to improve the quality of data amid criticism of the government over political interferences and is scheduled to meet on Tuesday.

Violence broke out at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) earlier this month as a mob of masked men, armed with sticks, attacked students and teachers and damaged property on the campus, prompting the administration to call in the police.

Many sustained injuries and were admitted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre here, JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) president Aishwarya Ghosh suffered a head injury.

## Hardline Hindus Protest Huge Indian Jesus Statue



Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Hundreds of Hindu activists affiliated to India's ruling party rallied on Monday to protest a planned Jesus statue that will rival Rio de Janeiro's Christ The Redeemer for size.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has long been accused of intolerance towards other religions and of wanting to remould officially secular India as a Hindu nation, which it denies.

The protests in the southern state of Karnataka were led by RashtriyaSwayamsevakSangh (RSS), the BJP's hardline parent organisation, and others clutching saffron flags as around 1,000 police stood by.

"We want to stop (the statue), since it goes against the spirit of communal harmony and encourages religious conversions which is rampantly carried out by Christian missionaries," Prabhakar Bhat, a top RSS functionary told Indian media.

Construction of the white granite statue 114 feet high, slightly shorter than the Rio monolith although the base will be bigger, stopped soon after it started last month after objections.

Many Hindus believe the hill where the statue is set to stand in the Christian-dominated village of Harobe is the abode of a Hindu deity, although no temple exists there.

The BJP-run state government accused the previous administration of the main opposition Congress party of illegally allot-

ting the plot of land. Less than one per cent of Karnataka's 65 million people are Christian, compared to around 2 per cent in Hindu-majority India as a whole.

The state witnessed a wave of attacks on Christians and churches by Hindu radicals in 2008 over allegations of seeking to convert Hindus, including with cash.

Last year six members of a Hindu group were arrested for attacking a group of Christian pilgrims in the state.

The state government has been routinely accused of discrimination. It banned a festival to commemorate a Muslim king who fought the British East India Company.

India has witnessed a surge in crimes against its religious minorities and shrinking of religious freedoms since Modi swept to power in 2014.

Last year the US Commission for International Religious Freedom said that religious freedom was on a "downward trend", with a "campaign of violence, intimidation, and harassment against non-Hindu and lower-caste Hindu minorities".

The government rejected the report.

Over the past month India has been rocked by protests against a new law making it easier for persecuted religious minorities to obtain citizenship, but not if they are Muslim.

Combined with a mooted national register of citizens, it has stoked fears that India's 200 million Muslims will be marginalised.

## JNU Violence: Delhi HC Asks Whatsapp, Google To Provide Information Sought By Police



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI** - The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked WhatsApp and Google to provide information related to the JNU violence to police.

The court also asked police to seize at the earliest phones of members of two WhatsApp groups on which the January 5 violence was allegedly coordinated.

Justice Brijesh Sethi directed the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration to provide at the earliest the CCTV footage of the violence sought by police.

The court's observations came on the plea filed by JNU professors AmeetParameswaran, Atul-Sood and Shukla VinayakSawant seeking directions to the Delhi Police Commissioner and Delhi government.

On January 5, a mob of masked men stormed the campus and targeted students in three hostels, unleashing mayhem with sticks, stones and iron rods by hitting inmates and breaking windows, furniture and personal belongings.

Three FIRs have been registered at Vasant Kunj (north) police station in connection with the incident.

## 'Take Money From Congress But Vote For Me': Owaisi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SANGAREDDY:** AIMIM chief AsaduddinOwaisi on Monday asked people to take money from Congress leaders and vote for his party in the upcoming municipal elections in the state.

Addressing a public gathering in Sangareddy district, the AIMIM leader also took a jibe at Congress and said they speak of secularism but BJP and Congress are the two faces of the same coin.

Citing that there is no difference between Congress and BJP, Owaisi said "Congress party has RSS in its heart in

BJP is in their mind. They speak of secularism. These three things brain, heart and tongue should be at one point. When the heart speaks then the brain admits it and tongue will speak," he said.

"On January 22, please use your votes wisely. People in Congress have a lot of money, take it from them. You'll be getting it due to me, just vote for me. If they are giving you (money) then take it. Whatever they give, take it and loot it. I say to Congress to raise the rate, my price is not Rs 2000 only, I am worth more than that," Owaisi said.

Polling for municipal elec-

tions will be held on January 22 and the results will be declared on January 25.

The Lok Sabha MP from Hyderabad also condemned the violence in Bhainsa town of Telangana's Nirmal district.

"I appeal to Telangana Chief Minister KCR that the incident which happened in Bhainsa is condemnable. I request CM to initiate necessary action on the responsible persons. I also request KCR to give compensation to the people who suffered a loss in communal violence. I also request the people of Bhainsa to maintain peace," he said.

Police have imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in Bhainsa till January 15, which witnessed clashes between two groups.

According to Telangana Police, clashes took place between two groups who started pelting stones at each other in the late hours on January 12, which turned violent resulting in 13 houses and 26 vehicles being set on fire. Three police officials, including District SP and DSP who were part of the police team that reached the spot sustained injuries in the violence.

## KritiSanon To Gain 15 Kgs For 'Mimi'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI** - Actress KritiSanon will be putting on 15 kilos for her role in LaxmanUtekar-directed film Mimi.

Backed by Dinesh Vijan, "Mimi" is based on SamruddhiPorey-directed Marathi feature Mala AaiVhaaychya, which won the National Award for best feature film in Marathi in 2011. Kriti said the film is close to her heart and she wants to give her best.

"For me, putting on so many kilos is actually a challenge as it's very new for my body. I have to in a way fight my metabolism and increase my calorie intake to gain that much weight in a short time."

"But I'm excited to see the transformation. It's a role very close to



my heart and I want to give it everything I can, even if that means not taking up any other work in the process," the actor said in a state-

ment. Mimi also features actors Sai Tamhankar and Pankaj Tripathi in key roles.