

Top news stories of Saturday 18 January 2020
Curated by Divesh Bhatia, Final Year Journalism Student, SCMC

Pak refugees walk in BJP's CAA rally in Delhi

New Delhi, Jan 18- The BJP on Saturday organised a mega rally to show support for the CAA wherein a large number of 'displaced refugees' from Pakistan staged a foot march in the city. BJP working president J.P. Nanda addressed the rally and said most of the victims of 'religious persecution' in Pakistan who would benefit from the CAA are from lower caste and oppressed backgrounds.

The pro-CAA march and the BJP rally come about three weeks before Delhi goes to the polls on February 8 and days after intense anti-CAA protests had resulted in violence in various parts of the capital.

Cong-RJD form alliance for Delhi Assembly polls

New Delhi, Jan 18- Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), party of former Bihar CM Lalu Prasad Yadav, will fight elections together in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections. As per the alliance between the two parties, the RJD has been given four seats.

Delhi Congress incharge and party general secretary P.C. Chacko said that it has not yet been decided whether RJD will contest on its own election symbol or the Congress', or which seats the RJD will contest.

Two convicted for rape of five-year old girl

New Delhi, Jan 18- Additional Sessions Judge Naresh Kumar Malhotra on Saturday convicted two men, Manoj Shah and Pradeep Kumar, in the 2013 kidnapping and rape of a five-year-old girl who was found in a critical condition at a neighbour's rented accommodation. Arguments of quantum of sentence will be held on January 30.

NIA officially takes over sacked J&K dySP case

New Delhi, Jan 18- National Investigation Agency (NIA) officially took over the case of the Jammu & Kashmir dismissed Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Davinder Singh, under order from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Singh was arrested by the State police on January 11 when he was caught transporting three suspected Hizbul Mujahideen members near Mir Bazar in Kulgam district along with arms & ammunition.

AAP MLA Adarsh Shastri joins Cong before polls

New Delhi, Jan 18- After being denied a ticket from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Dwarka MLA Adarsh Shastri, grandson of former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, announced at the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee office on Saturday that he would be fighting the upcoming Delhi elections from the Dwarka Assembly seat on a Congress ticket.

Addressing the media, Shastri said that he couldn't compromise with his self-respect, and accused party chief Arvind Kejriwal of treating MLAs like "bonded labor", and of being silent of national issues.

Trump warns Khamenei be 'careful' with words

Washington, Jan 18- US President Donald Trump warned Iran's leader Ali Khamenei to be careful with his choice of words, in a heated Tweet on Saturday. In an another Twitter missive, Trump slammed the Iranian regime for leading thr country towards ruin and urged them to abandon terror and 'make Iran great again'.

WHO urges solutions for drug-resistant diseases

United Nations, Jan 18- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called for immediate solutions to combat drug-resistant infections due to declining private investments and lack of innovation in the development of new antibiotics.

Two new WHO reports reveal that while some 50 new antibiotics and 10 biologics are under development, only 32 of the total target WHO-priority pathogens and the majority have very limited benefits when compared to existing antibiotics.

Libyan conflict plunging children at risk: UNICEF

New York, Jan 18- UNICEF on Saturday voiced concerns over the deteriorating conditions of children in war-torn Libya. "Children in Libya, including refugee and migrant children, continue to suffer grievously amidst the violence and chaos unleashed by the country's longstanding civil war",

the agency's Executive Director Henrietta Fore said in a statement. Fore called on all parties to the conflict to protect children, end the recruitment and use of children, cease attacks against civilian infrastructure, and allow for safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to children and people in need.

China expands hold in Myanmar with 33 deals

Nay Pyi Taw, Jan 18- China and Myanmar on Saturday signed a total of 33 agreements, exchange letters and protocols during President Xi Jinping's visit to the country, celebrating 70 years of diplomatic ties. The agreements call for cooperation in sectors such as infrastructure, industrial and power projects, trade, investment and human resources.

Myanmar and China signed a concession agreement and shareholder's agreement for the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) deep seaport project, which will boost China's presence in the Indian Ocean.

4 dead in Utah shooting

Los Angeles, Jan 17- Four people were shot dead at a residence in Grantsville, a town of about 10,000 people in the state of Utah, local police said on Saturday.

Local police informed reporters that there was only one shooter, however they could not release the ages or names of the victims or suspects. The State Governor said that state officials were assisting local police with the investigation into the shooting, and also called on citizens to secure their firearms.

Goa gets ready to host 36th National Games

Panaji, Jan 18- With the 36th National Games of India in Goa fast approaching, excitement is building in the state and the government of Goa is leaving no stone unturned to make the games a huge success.

On Saturday, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the multi-purpose Indoor Stadium in Navelim, which has been named after the late Manohar Parrikar, ex-Chief Minister of Goa and former Defence Minister of India.

Goyal to lead Indian WEF team to Davos

New Delhi, Jan 18- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the Indian delegation to the 50th World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos from January 20th to 24th. The minister will hold bilateral meetings with ministers from Australia, South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, South Korea, and Singapore. He will also meet with CEOs, attend WEF sessions and roundtables on accelerating investments in Indian Railways and attracting global institutional investments in India, according to a statement on Saturday.

Khelo India becomes fully paperless games

Guwahati, Jan 18- The third edition of the Khelo India Youth Games, underway at Guwahati, has earned the distinction of being the country's first 'digital games' by going completely paperless. All processes of the Games have been done on a high-tech digital platform, official sources said. Representatives from each state were given a unique ID, allowing them to create a username and a password to update details of all athletes, officials and volunteers. The same IDs can be used for registering participants for future Khelo India Youth Games.

Minister urges NIC to give \$1tn to economy

Bengaluru, Jan 18- Union Minister for Law and Justice, Communications and Electronics and Information, Ravi Shankar Prasad on Saturday exhorted the National Informatics Center (NIC) officials to ensure at least one trillion US dollars of contributions to the nation's economy in the next five years through its digital technology support. He also lauded the NIC for developing

a technology which enabled over 16,000 courts to go digital in the country, including the Supreme Court and High Courts.

TV couple asks Izhaar to design marriage card

New Delhi, Jan 18- Popular TV actors Kamyra Punjabi and Shalabh Dang, who will be tying the knot in Mumbai on February 10th, has approached bespoke brand Izhaar to do the wedding cards for the guests for their big celebration.

Top news stories of Friday 17 January 2020

Curated by Gunjan Hariramani, Final Year Journalism Student, SCMC

West Bengal skips meet on Census, NPR

New Delhi, Jan 17 - West Bengal Government on Friday skipped the Centre's meeting on upcoming Census 2021 and updation of the National Population Register (NPR).

NPR begins in Delhi

New Delhi, Jan 17 - Meeting to sensitise senior officials and seek their cooperation for 'Census 2021' and process of updating National Population Register (NPR) began here on Friday.

Delhi to be under Draconian NSA

New Delhi, Jan 17 - Invoking extra ordinary powers under provisions of the National Security Act, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi has vested Delhi Police with powers of detention.

Nirbhaya convicts will hang on Feb 1 at 6 am

New Delhi, Jan 17 - A Delhi court on Friday issued fresh death warrants against the four convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case which had shamed contemporary India.

Investments welcome but within law: Goyal

New Delhi, Jan 17 - A day after 'Amazon doing no favour' jibe, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said investments were welcome but within the legal purview.

'We welcome all kinds of investments that follow the....

Economy to grow at 5.7% for 2019-20: UN

New Delhi, Jan 17 - The United Nations projects India's economy to grow by 5.7 per cent in the current fiscal and expects it to grow to 6.6 per cent in the next, adding that 'it will take continued structural forms to bring back growth to its....

Kashmir is a bilateral matter: Russian envoy

Moscow, Jan 17 - The Kashmir problem is a matter of direct talks between India and Pakistan and Russia doesn't support the initiative to discuss it within the United Nations, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Friday.

GSAT-30 launched successfully

Chennai, Jan 17 - India's latest communication satellite GSAT-30 was successfully launched from the Spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana during the early hours today.

2nd ODI: India beats Australia by 36 runs

Rajkot, Jan 17 - India produced a clinical all-round performance to beat Australia by 36 runs in the second ODI, leveling the three match series 1-1 at the Saurashtra Cricket Association stadium, here on Friday.

Rupee slips by 17 paise against USD

Mumbai, Jan 17 - The Rupee on Friday slipped further by 17 paise at 71.08 against the US Dollar on brisk demand for US Dollars by bankers and importers, the dealers at the Forex Market said.
The local unit that fell by eight paise to 70....

Iran's missile attacks left 11 US men injured

Washington, Jan 17 - Missile attacks by Iran on US bases in Iraq, staged on January 8, left 11 US servicemen injured, media reported.

Jaishankar meets EU High Representative

New Delhi, Jan 17 - External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar on Friday held bilateral talks with European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, and held discussions on global and regional issues.

Ukraine PM resigns

Kiev, Jan 17 - Ukrainian Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk on Friday tendered his resignation by submitting a letter to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Asakawa is new ADB President

Manila, Jan 17 - Masatsugu Asakawa from Japan assumed office as the 10th president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday.

see more..

Bishwa Ijtema second phase begins in Dosh

Dhaka Jan 17 - The second phase of three-day Bishwa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of Muslims after Hajj, began on the banks of the Turag river at Tongi, Gazipur on Friday.

Top news stories of Thursday 16 January 2020

Curated by Pratikshya Mishra, Final Year Journalism Student, SCMC

Putin selects Mishustin as Russia's new PM

Moscow, Jan 16 (UNI) Former Federal Tax Service head Mikhail Mishustin was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Russia, the Kremlin said on Thursday. It further said Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree to appoint Mishustin. Earlier in the day, the State Duma approved Putin's nomination of Mishustin for the PM's post.

Ex-PM Medvedev is dy-chief of security

Moscow, Jan 16 (UNI) Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday signed a decree introducing the post of Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council and appointed former prime minister Dmitry Medvedev for this post. Medvedev informed President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday that the entire government was stepping down. The announcement followed Putin's annual address to the parliament, during which the president voiced, among other things, initiatives to expand the parliament's powers in appointing members of the cabinet, Sputnik reported.

Postpaid 2G service restored in Kashmir

Jammu, Jan 16 (UNI) Messages like "Badhai ho...internet chal pada", "finally, we have connected again,", "badhiiiiiiii, aub ayega maza", "hurray, internet restored," hit the social applications like Facebook, Whatsapp and Twitter after mobile internet with 2G speed was restored on Thursday night in five districts of Jammu region. The Jammu and Kashmir Government spokesman on Wednesday had said that 2G service on post paid mobile phones will be restored only for accessing white listed websites but restrictions on social media shall continue.

India, Iran discuss events in West Asia

New Delhi, Jan 16 (UNI) India and Iran on Thursday exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the recent developments in the West Asia region and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The US has voiced reservation over JCPOA lately. But Iran has rejected suggestion including from British PM Boris Johnson to opt for a new 'Trump Deal' to replace nuclear deal or the JCPOA.

Nirbhaya case: Court seeks report from jail

New Delhi, Jan 16 (UNI) A Delhi court on Thursday directed Tihar jail authorities to file a proper report by Friday about the status of scheduled execution of convicts in the 2012 gangrape and murder case. Additional Sessions Judge Satish Kumar Arora passed the directions after the jail authorities said they have written to the Delhi government on the issue of scheduled execution on 22 January in view of pending remedies.

Amazon's \$1bn is no favour to India: Goyal

New Delhi, Jan 16 (UNI), Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said Amazon Global CEO Jeff Bezos's announcement that he will pump in one billion dollar in India, was not doing favour to India and investors should follow letter and spirit of law and not find loopholes. "They (Amazon) may have put in a billion dollars but if they make a loss of a billion dollars every year, then we'll have to finance that billion dollars. So, it is not as if they are doing a favour to India when they invest a billion dollars,' he said at the Raisina Dialogue here.

Rahul questions govt silence on J&K dySP

New Delhi, Jan 16 (UNI) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on January 16 questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Jammu and Kashmir Deputy SP Davinder Singh, who was nabbed for harbouring terrorists, and asked who was providing the officer protection and why. He also sought to know Singh's role in the Pulwama attack and how many terrorists he helped, demanding that the officer be tried by a fast-track court and given the harshest punishment for treason against India.

Rawat sees no end to war on terrorism

New Delhi, Jan 16 (UNI) In an indirect attack against Pakistan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat on Thursday said that countries which sponsor terrorism must be isolated diplomatically. He also said that the future of terrorism is going to be as dirty as conventional warfare. 'We might think there would be a happy ending, but there won't be. So if we think the war on terrorism is going to end, we are wrong,' the CDS said.

Delhi Air quality poor despite morning rain

New Delhi/Srinagar, Jan 16 (UNI) Despite rain in the morning, the pollution level in Delhi remained in the "poor" category on Thursday with the Air Quality Index (AQI) docking at 245, said Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR). The AQI was in the "poor" category at 235 in Chandani Chowk while at Mathura road it was at 166. Adjoining Uttar Pradesh's Noida recorded "very poor" air quality at 323.

US Prez impeachment articles sent to Senate

Washington, Jan 16 (UNI) Lower House of the United States Congress-- House of Representatives on Thursday passed a resolution to submit articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate for a trial. The resolution passed largely along party lines by 228 votes to 193, media reported.

'China-US trade deal will aid world peace'

Washington, Jan 16 (UNI) Chinese Vice Premier Liu He said here on Wednesday that the phase-one economic and trade agreement between China and The United States is much more than just an economic deal and that it would have an impact on world peace. He was speaking to the press after the signing of the phase-one trade deal at the White House on Wednesday.

Dhoni dropped from BCCI's A-List contract

Mumbai, Jan 16 (UNI) Former Indian captain MS Dhoni was dropped on Thursday from the BCCI's central contracts list for players for 2019-20. The 38-year-old wicket-keeper-batsmen hasn't played competitively since India's World Cup semi final exit in England.

Taliban kills 12 cops in Afghanistan attack

Kabul, Jan 16 (UNI) At least 12 police officials were killed while two sustained injuries in a Taliban attack on a police checkpoint in Afghanistan's northern province of Kunduz, media reported on Thursday. The Taliban movement has already taken responsibility for the attack that took place on Wednesday night. The movement claimed that 16 policemen, including three commanders, had been killed, news agency Sputnik said in a report.

Indonesia Masters: PV Sindhu ousted

Jakarta, Jan 16 (UNI) Indian campaign at Indonesia Masters 2020 came to an end after the ouster of World Champion PV Sindhu in the second round of the tournament, here on Thursday.

\$88m Assam project approved: World Bank

New Delhi, Jan 16 (UNI) The Centre along with Assam government on Thursday signed a loan agreement of USD 88 million with World Bank to help modernise Assam's passenger ferry sector that runs on its rivers including the mighty Brahmaputra.