

National News

On Assam citizens' list, SC rejects Centre, state demand for re-verification

Agency
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Rejecting the Centre and Assam government's pleas, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled out any re-verification of the Assam citizens' list, which is being updated to weed out illegal foreigners in the state. "The National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise won't be reopened, there shall be no sample re-verification of data. Those born after Dec 3, 2004 won't be included in NRC if a doubt of the parents is a doubtful voter or declared

foreigner by a tribunal or is contesting case," a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said. On the security of the date collected, the court said: "Regime similar to Aadhaar should be created to ensure security of NRC data. Exclusions should be published only online on August 31." "Only hard copies of lists of inclusions and exclusions should be provided at district offices. NRC must be updated according to law laid down in section 66A

judgment", the court said. A little over 4 million people in Assam, out of the 32.9 million in the state who applied to be included in the NRC, had been left out of the draft of the contentious document released in 2018. In another list released in June this year, the number of people left out of the draft NRC went up by over a lakh. Listing reasons for the exclusion, the office of the state coordinator of the NRC listed three categories. Firstly, those who are declared foreigner, doubtful voter or persons with cases

pending at Foreigners Tribunals or their descendants, as applicable, discovered after publication of draft NRC. Second, persons who were found to be ineligible while appearing as witnesses in hearings held for disposal of claims and objections. Third, are persons who were found to be ineligible during the process of verification carried out by the Local Registrars of Citizens Registration under provisions of Clause 4(3), after publication draft NRC on July 30, 2018.

'Trump's Kashmir mediation offer not on table anymore': India's envoy to US

Agency
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US President Donald Trump has made it clear that his offer of mediation on Kashmir is not on the table anymore, the Indian ambassador has said. Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Monday that America's decades-old policy on Kashmir has been no mediation but to encourage India and Pakistan to resolve their differences bilaterally. "President Trump has made it very clear that his offer to mediate on Jammu and Kashmir is dependent on both India and Pakistan accepting it. Since India has not accepted the offer of mediation, he has made it clear that this is not on the table anymore," Shringla told Fox News, the favourite news channel of the US president. On July 22, during his joint media appearance with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan at the White House, President Trump stunned India by saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought his mediation/arbitration on the Kashmir issue, a claim that was seen by many as outlandish and carrying little credibility. India asserted that no such request was made by Prime Minister Modi to the US president and all issues will have to be resolved with Islamabad bilaterally.



A week later, Trump climbed down from his previous statement, saying it was up to India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue but he was ready to assist if the two South Asian neighbours wanted him to help in resolving the issue. He said India made it clear to America that any discussion on the issue, if at all warranted, will only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally, which has long been India's stated position. Shringla said that America's policy on Kashmir has been no mediation but to encourage the two South Asian neighbours to resolve their differences bilaterally including on Kashmir, the pace and scope of which would be chosen by New Delhi and Islamabad. "That has been the United

States longstanding policy," he said in response to a question, referring to America's decades-old policy. Shringla said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was also very clear on the issue. "He says, this issue has to be resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan in keeping with the agreements that the two countries have signed: the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration," he said. "So, this is not an issue that is to be settled with, third parties. I think that was something that President Trump clarified and made clear," Shringla said. State Department Spokesperson Morgan Ortugas last week said that there is no change in its policy on Kashmir as it called on India and Pakistan to maintain restraint and hold direct

dialogue to resolve their differences. Responding to a question, Shringla said that the measures taken by the Indian government in Kashmir are temporary and preventive in nature. "When the decision was announced, the possibilities of cross border infiltration and terrorism, we know that there would be incitement to violence. We have simply taken preventive steps," he said. "The restrictions in Kashmir are being eased even as we speak. Tens of thousands of people came out to celebrate the festival of Eid. They went to mosque, they prayed, the shops are open. There's even traffic jams in several cities. And we are progressively easing on the restrictions," Shringla said.

Singapore just gave a verdict on who's winning the trade war

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Singapore just gave a verdict on who's winning the trade war. The answer is few countries, if any, in Asia. The deep cut Tuesday in the trade-reliant economy's growth forecast was disappointing, albeit not startling. There may be no expansion at all. Growth is likely to be between zero and 1% this year, compared with a previous projection of 1.5% to 2.5%. Surprising or no, it's tempting to see Singapore's funk as symptomatic of the state of the world. After all, the place rightly burmishes its efficient port and state-of-the-art airport, and links to global commerce and financial markets. Many firms choose Singapore as a base for regional or Asia-wide operations. If ever there was a city plugged into the ebb and

flow of capital, goods and trans-Pacific economic diplomacy, it's Singapore. And the world looks grim. The U.S. and China are fighting a trade-bordering-on-currency war, the domestic economies of both giants are cooling. Germany is flirting with recession, yields on 10-year Treasury notes are tumbling. Violence seems the order of the day in Hong Kong. And just for a bit of continuity, Argentina is in dire straits. Let's set some of this aside. Much of this laundry list of doom, while topical, has roots in long-term forces that have little or nothing to do with Singapore. What really matters is that trade and export supply-chain models that have served large parts of Asia very well are under strain. Even now, it's a leap to say the model is in terminal decline. You can say it isn't traveling well. The mood music in Singapore

policy-making has been dour. It was already clear that some outlook revisions were warranted from the first estimates of second-quarter performance. A few weeks ago, the government reported that GDP shrank an annualized 3.4% in April to June, a number that was borne out in Tuesday's final numbers showing a retreat of 3.3%. In Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's National Day message last week, he left listeners in little doubt that economic times have been better and that stimulus is in the cards. The Monetary Authority of Singapore is likely to ease policy when it reviews its stance in October, economists say. Fair enough. Central banks throughout Asia and beyond have responded to slackening conditions by reducing interest rates. Beyond immediate textbook responses, it's worth asking

deeper questions about the pillars on which Asia's most successful economies have built their gains. This goes beyond any one country. The basic development model for the region and, in some ways for emerging markets generally, was plug yourself into expanding trade and capital flows. Start with low-cost manufacturing, then move up the chain. Use the chain, and competition from neighbors playing the same game, to bolster education and regulatory frameworks. Attract service industries and, gradually, wean yourself from the lowest-cost stuff. Once China began opening its economy in the late 1970s, this model got greater impetus and credibility. Export and you couldn't go wrong. Remember the term "tiger" in reference to Asian economies? You need to go to the archives now to read that one.

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Participation of NER Craftpersons

Resulted, the participation created domestic market for the artisans and also creates awareness about the handicrafts sector amongst the visitors. The participation strengthens market linkages between marketers and craft producers. The products showcased during the participation were in a manner to provide an opportunity to expose the handicrafts of the country in a better way before the domestic visitors as well as foreigners visiting the country. The participants were provided all support related to their participation like display of products, interior and exterior of the theme pavilion etc. Besides above, the Council undertakes various publicity measures to promote their participation and crafts. The participants were of the view that participation in such events will increase the market opportunity for local artisans/craftsperson and



entrepreneurs of North Eastern Region. Display of variety and exclusive products will create awareness in Buyers and exporters about new products and design of the region. Artisans/craftsperson and entrepreneurs have received an opportunity to experience the participation in international fair and to meet directly with the buyers and understand their requirement and taste. During interaction with the established exporters and buyers the artisans also get motivated to become entrepreneur. The artisans from NE States with the support of DC (Handicrafts) has given opportunities for participation in IHGF Delhi Fair organized by EPCH to explore exports & undertake Brand image promotion campaigns in traditional as well as non-traditional markets, every year Council participates on an average 50 exhibitions abroad with exporters of handicrafts and conduct brand image promotion seminars for creating awareness and market intelligence & linkages.

JFA urges every Indian to observe I-Day

By a Correspondent
Guwahati/Aug 13,

Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) appeals to the people of northeast India to celebrate the 73rd Independence Day on 15 August 2019 in a befitting manner. The scribe's body argues that I-Day and Republic Day are two auspicious occasions for every Indian and they should pay respects to the martyrs of freedom struggle hoisting the National flag on both the sacred days. Incidentally, many separatist militant outfits of the region continue their diktats to sabotage the celebrations of I-Day. United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) and Coordination Committee (a conglomerate of militant groups of Manipur) have once again asked the people

to boycott the celebrations in the region. They even imposed a general strike in the region terming it as western part of southeast Asia from midnight of 14 August till the afternoon of 15 August. The scribe's forum denounces the armed militant outfits and pointed out that every patriotic Indian should observe I-Day and R-Day to pay his/her respects to the martyrs of our freedom struggle for their supreme sacrifices. Nobody should pursue confusions that the Tricolour belongs to the government machinery alone, but 'it's a priceless property of over one billion Indians'. JFA, in a media statement, added that a lot of martyrs from Assam including Kanaklata Barua, Mukunda Kakoti, Kushal Konwar, Tilak Deka, Bhogswari Phukanani, Nidhanu

Rajbangshi, Kamala Riri, Lerala Boro, Madan-Rauta, Hemoram Patar, Gunabhi Bordoloi with many others laid down their lives for the honour of the Tricolour. It specially appealed to all journo-bodies of the region, including local press clubs, press guilds, journalist union/associations etc to pay their homage to martyrs hoisting the National flag in their offices, residential colonies and localities on I-Day (and R-Day). Issued by JFA president Rupam Barua and secretary Nava Thakuria, the forum also requested city based media persons and patriotic citizens to participate in the forthcoming I-Day function at Guwahati Press Club, where the Tricolour would be unfurled at 11 am ceremoniously.

Sports News

BCCI shortlists six candidates for position of Indian cricket team head coach

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Six candidates, including incumbent Ravi Shastri, were on Monday short-listed for the high-profile post of the Indian cricket team's head coach. The six candidates are former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson, ex-Australia all-rounder and Sri Lanka coach Tom Moody, former West Indies all-rounder and Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons, ex-India team manager Lalchand Rajput, former India fielding coach Robin Singh and Shastri. The candidates will give a presentation to the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) headed by the legendary Kapil Dev, and a final decision will be arrived at by end of this week or early next week. Besides the country's first World Cup-winning skipper Dev, the newly-appointed CAC comprises Anshuman Gaekwad and former women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy. "These six will give presentation for head coach before CAC. It has been learnt that these six have been short-

listed for interview with the CAC," a senior BCCI official, privy to the development, told PTI. Before leaving for the tour of West Indies, captain Virat Kohli had said that he is in favour of Shastri continuing as the head coach of the Indian team despite the criticism he faced following the semi-final ouster from the World Cup. The current support staff comprising Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun, batting coach Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R Sridhar were given a 45-day extension following the World Cup, covering the ongoing West Indies tour from August 3 to September 3. While the names of Hesson and Moody have been doing the rounds for a while, Simmons, who has had successful stints with Ireland and Afghanistan cricket teams, is also in the fray now. Simmons also served West Indies for a brief while, helping them to victory in the 2016 World T20 tournament in India before taking over as head coach of the Afghanistan national team in 2017. Among the Indians, Robin

served as the fielding coach of the Indian team when it won the inaugural World T20 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's captaincy in 2007. Rajput, who was the head coach of the team when it won the World T20, also had stints with Afghanistan and Zimbabwe. Hesson recently parted ways with IPL franchise Kings XI Punjab. Hesson coached the Black Caps for six years, highlighted by their memorable run to the 2015 Cricket World Cup final in Melbourne, a semifinal finish at the 2016 World Twenty20 in India and a home Test series win over England in April 2018 which lifted them to third on the world rankings. India may have failed to win the T20 World Cup in 2016 and the ODI World Cup in 2015 and 2019, but the Shastri-Kohli duo helped the country climb to the top of the Test rankings with historic series triumph in Australia. Shastri was the team director till June 2016 until India lost in the World T20 semi-finals before being reappointed as head coach in 2017 after Anil Kumble's departure.