

Headlines At a Glance - 28th Jan 2020

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Centre signs peace agreement with banned organisations in Assam

The government on Monday signed an accord with one of the dreaded insurgent groups of Assam — the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) — providing political and economic bonanza and a move that is expected to boost peace in the Northeast. The All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU), which has been spearheading a movement for a Bodoland state was also signatory to the accord. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal were present as the Centre signed the tripartite agreement with the representatives of factions of banned organisations. The pact provides political and economic bonanza to the tribals, sans the outfit's key demand of a separate Bodoland state or union territory.

SOURCE: *India Today*

Andhra Pradesh Assembly passes resolution seeking to abolish the state Legislative Council

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Monday passed a statutory

resolution seeking to abolish the State Legislative Council, days after the YSRC government failed to get two crucial bills on its plans to have three capitals cleared by the opposition TDP-dominated Upper House. All 133 members present in the 175-member House, when the division vote was taken at 6 p.m., voted in favour and the resolution under Article 169 (1) of the Constitution was adopted unanimously. Speaker Tammineni Seetaram announced that the resolution was adopted by a majority as stipulated under Article 169 (1) related to abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States. The Telugu Desam Party boycotted the day's proceedings, protesting the government's decision to abolish the council.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

West Bengal

assembly passes resolution against Citizenship Amendment Act

The West Bengal Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a resolution urging the Union government to repeal the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). The resolution, moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Partha Chatterjee under Rule 169 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Assembly, was passed unanimously by the House, with Congress and Left members, along with those of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), supporting it. The BJP opposed it. The resolution noted that since the CAA was passed there was violence in "almost every State." In the CAA, "religion has been used as a yardstick to measure eligibility to apply for Indian citizenship" and "the ruling party in the Centre has been driving a wedge among the people using religion [thus] damaging human rights," it said.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

Horticulture

production in India at 310.74 million tonnes (MT) in 2018-19

Total horticulture production in 2019-20 is expected to be 313.35 million tonnes (mt), about 0.84 per cent higher than 2018-19, according to first advance estimates released on Monday. As per the final estimates, also released today, the total horticulture production of the country in 2018-19 was estimated to be 310.74 mt, only marginally higher than the previous year. Vegetables production was estimated to be around 183.17 mt, while fruits production was estimated to be around 97.97 mt. In 2019-20, fruits production is expected to be lower by 2.27 per cent in 2019-20 over 2018-19. It is mainly due to loss in production of grapes, banana, mango, citrus, papaya and pomegranate.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*

Govt.

invites bids to divest its entire stake in Air India

The government on Monday invited preliminary bids to divest

its entire stake in Air India, and the airline's subsidiary Air India Express along with its joint venture Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited. The last date for submission of bids is 17 March, and qualified bidders will be notified 31 March, according to bid document issued by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management. The government owns 100% stake in Air India, and its subsidiary Air India Express. AISATS is a joint venture partnership between Air India and Singapore Airport Terminal Services (SATS) Limited, which provides ground and cargo handling services.

SOURCE: *Livemint*