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## 1) After Cabinet nod, Citizenship Bill ready for tabling in House

**It will not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on Wednesday paving the way for its introduction in Parliament on December 9. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar told the media the interests of everyone have been taken care of and “people will welcome it as it is in the interest of the nation.” The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 by seeking to grant citizenship to undocumented non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who came to India on or before December 31, 2014.

**Govt. confident RS will pass Bill** - While the fate of the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha is a foregone conclusion, the government seems confident of clearing it in the Rajya Sabha too, where the BJP does not have the required numbers.

**Opposition slams Bill** - Senior Opposition leaders, including Congress leader Shashi Tharoor and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, said the Bill was unconstitutional. “The basic idea of India has been violated in the Bill,”

### Criticism

- 1) Religion cannot determine Nationhood.
- 2) Shashi Tharoor criticized it is against the basic idea of India
- 3) Assam Govt criticized this bill is against the Assam Accord 1985, Assam govt believes it will affect Culture, language and even our political structure.
- 4) protest arised in North east India

### Easing the path

Salient features of the Bill cleared by the Cabinet on Wednesday:

- It inserts **December 31, 2014, as the cut-off date** for members of the Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Parsi, Jain and Sikh communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan **to be eligible to get Indian citizenship**
- **All cases against a non-Muslim illegal migrant** before any authority, including foreigners tribunals or courts, **shall stand abated**
- It will enable a person who does not have proof of birth of his parents in support of his being of Indian origin to apply for citizenship by **naturalisation on completion of six years residency**
- It reduces the **mandatory requirement of 12 years stay to five years** to be eligible for citizenship
- It will not apply to the **tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura** as included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and to **Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, which are protected by the Inner Line Permit**

## 2) End of reservation for anglo Indians?

Union Cabinet approved a proposal to extend the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for 10 years but a question mark prevailed over whether it has extended reservation for two seats in the Lok Sabha for the AngloIndian community.

Provisions for reservation for **SCs/STs and Anglo Indians are extended under Article 334 (a) and (b) of the Constitution**. While the Union Information and Broadcasting **Minister Prakash Javadekar confirmed that the SC/ST reservation under 334(a) was extended by 10 years**.

he said details of the Bill would be clear when it is tabled in Parliament in the ongoing session. **Two members of the Anglo Indian community have been nominated in the Lok Sabha since the adoption of the Constitution, under article 334(b)**. Sources said the reservation for members of the AngloIndian community had been done away with “for the time being”.



### 3) CM announces 11,000 hotspots across the city

The inaugural ceremony of first 100 WiFi hotspots will be held on December -16



**Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** on Wednesday announced **the installation of 11,000 hotspots across Delhi as part of the free WiFi scheme promised by the Aam Aadmi Party in its 2015 manifesto.** “Minimum Internet connectivity and data usage have become a requisite for the people in this digital age. Considering the importance of the Internet, the Delhi government has decided to provide free Internet,” **the Chief Minister said.** **Of the 11,000 hotspots, around 4,000 would come up near bus stands and the remaining 7,000 across marketplaces with each constituency to get 100 hotspots each, he said.** “The work order has been passed, the installation is already in progress and the inaugural ceremony of the first 100 hotspots will be held on December 16. The total expenditure on the installation will be around ₹100 crores,” Mr Kejriwal said. **“The people of Delhi will be able to locate a WiFi connection after every 500 metres, with the hotspot connections supporting a radius of 100 metres.** Every user will get free 15 GB data per month, with a data limit of 1.5 GB per day. On average, the maximum speed of the connection will be 200 Mbps, but the estimated speed will be between 100 and 150 Mbps,” he said. Each hotspot, Mr Kejriwal said, would be able to support 150200 users simultaneously. The Delhi government will pay the rent every month to the company for each hotspot installed, he added.



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## 4) Govt. procured only 3% of pulses, oilseeds proposed for this season

**PM-AASHA target was 37.59 lakh metric tonnes; just 1.08 lakh tonnes purchased**



Less than **3% of this season's sanctioned amount of pulses and oilseeds have actually been procured so far under the once hyped PMAASHA scheme**, Agriculture Ministry data show. Arrivals of these crops began in October and will end by February. A total of **37.59 lakh metric tonnes** of procurement had been sanctioned under the Centrally funded scheme.

The PMAASHA or **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan** was announced with great fanfare in September 2018, as an effort to ensure that farmers growing pulses, oilseeds and copra actually get the minimum support prices

they are promised for their crops each year. **Apart from initiatives to allow cash payment to farmers or procurement by private traders, PMAASHA's main feature was a price support scheme whereby Central agencies would procure pulses and oilseeds directly from farmers.**

**'Holistic approach'**

The Centre had budgeted **₹15,053 crores** over two years to implement the scheme apart from an additional government credit guarantee of **₹16,550 crores** for agencies. The highest sanctioned procurement is in Maharashtra, where **10 lakh tonnes of soybean procurement were sanctioned**, apart from **58,000 tonnes of moong and urad dal**. However, barely **1,709 tonnes** have been procured in the State, including just **14 tonnes of soybean**.

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## 5) The many structural flaws in India's higher education system

**It is crisisridden, understaffed and underfunded**



The furore surrounding fee hikes at the Jawaharlal Nehru University has spurred deeper questions about the quality of university education. **India's higher education system is structurally flawed and underfunded. This crisis will affect innovation and human capital, the two pillars of labour productivity and GDP growth while cheating India's largest demographic of its potential.**

The latest **'India Skills Report'** suggests that **only 47% of Indian graduates** are employable — a problem exacerbated by startlingly low faculty figures.

**Faculty shortage:** **Faculty vacancies at government institutions are at 50% on average** However, Indian universities persist in separating research and teaching activities, depriving students of exposure to cuttingedge ideas. **Monetary incentives for academia are practically nonexistent, and Indian R&D expenditure at 0.62% of GDP.**

**Macroeconomic impact** -Such flaws could affect macroeconomic indicators such as labour productivity, which is determined by innovation and human capital, among other things. The government released a Draft National Education Policy (DNEP) in June 2019, which proposed ambitious reforms. **The DNEP aims to double education spending to 6% of GDP, and close the researchteaching divide in higher education.** The government needs to recognise the systemic anger at play, and ensure that higher education's role in innovation and human capital is not ignored. The DNEP is a great firststep, but the reforms must be pushed through and must lead to legislation that will fund researchbased universities. Only this can bring a culture of discovery and accountability to India's higher education institutions.

## 6) Climatedisasters on the uptick

### India ranked fifth for water shortages, crop failures and flooding

Worsening heatwaves are taking a heavier toll on rich as well as poor countries, according to an annual ranking that measures the damage done by extreme weather to human life and economies.

The Global Climate Risk Index, published on Wednesday by environmental thinktank Germanwatch, rated **Japan as the mostaffected country in 2018**, while **Germany was in the third position**. Both of the industrialised nations were hit hard by heatwaves and drought that year, as was **India in fifth position** — which suffered water shortages, crop failures and worst flooding, Germanwatch said in a report.

**In 2018, a severe summer heatwave in Japan killed 138 people and caused more than 70,000 people to be hospitalised with heatstroke and exhaustion,**

Across Europe, extreme heat spells are now up to 100 times more likely than a century ago, says the report. Powerful storms also left a trail of destruction in 2018, with the **Philippines second in the climate risk index**.

**Madagascar was the fourth** most weatheraffected country as two cyclones killed about 70 people and forced 70,000 to seek refuge.





## 7) Nod for Data Protection Bill

Classifies passwords, financial data as 'sensitive personal'

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved **the introduction of the Personal Data Protection Bill in Parliament**, the government announced. **The draft Bill classifies 'sensitive personal data' as including passwords, financial data, health data, sex life, sexual orientation, biometric data, genetic data, transgender status, intersex status, caste or tribe, and religious or political belief or affiliation.** The draft Bill says that such sensitive personal data can be processed only with the explicit consent of the person, and this consent needs to be informed, clear, and specific, as defined by the Bill itself.

Right to be forgotten - The draft bill also has a provision for the right to be forgotten, where the person **"shall have the right to restrict or prevent continuing disclosure of personal data"**. Personal data is to be stored in India but can be processed outside with the consent of the person.

The draft Bill also specifies penalties for not following its provisions, including a **penalty of ₹5 crores or 2% of turnover**, whichever is higher, if no action is taken on a data leak. **The Personal Data Protection Bill will likely be introduced in Parliament during the ongoing Winter session.**



