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## SACAA thumbs down CM's confidence in Amit Shah's verbal assurances on CAA



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 22 DEC:**

The recently-formed Sikkim Against Citizenship (Amendment) Act Forum has rejected Chief Minister PS Tamang's satisfaction with the verbal assurances made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah with regard to the extension of CAA in Sikkim.

Addressing a press conference here today, SACAA members strongly condemned the CM's stand which was most recently made at his party's Rolu Picnic anniversary celebrations on Saturday. SACAA member, Pas-

sang Sherpa rued that the State Government appears to be happy and satisfied with the verbal assurance of the Union Minister and insisted that a verbal assurance cannot save Sikkim from CAA.

He further expressed disappointment with the Chief Minister not making any mention of the Inner Line Permit option being promoted by SACAA.

Given the present situation, ILP was the surest protection for Sikkim against CAA, he claimed.

Mr Sherpa added that the State Government

was still not clear on its stand on the implementation of CAA in Sikkim.

Another member, Nawin Kiran Pradhan, reiterated that SACAA was completely opposed to the implementation of CAA in Sikkim and the explained that SACAA was formed to bring awareness among the people about the impact of CAA's implementation in Sikkim.

He informed that the forum plans to organize awareness drives and take recourse to poster-ing, rallies and other mediums to take their intervention further.

## Contradictions in claims of there being no fake COIs: SIBLAC



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 22 DEC:**

Claims that there are no fake Certificates of Identification in Sikkim are "totally wrong" and "contradictory," SIBLAC convenor, Tseten Tashi Bhutia, claimed at a press conference here today.

His comments were in response to such a report submitted by the Committee instituted to look into allegations that there fake and forged COIs in circulation in the State.

Mr Bhutia said that the findings of this committee were in contra-

diction with an Order issued by the Additional District Collector (East) cancelling the COIs of a person here and his entire family after the same were found to have been acquired fraudulently.

These two episodes are contradictory to each other and the report an attempt to mislead the Judiciary, Mr Bhutia insisted.

It was on the basis of this report that the case filed on the basis of allegations that there were 31,000 fake COIs in circulation in Sikkim was dismissed, he argued.

The ADC-East's order in question, Mr Bhutia added, also led to the cancellation of all movable and immovable properties and documents procured on the strength of CoI in question.

He further informed that SIBLAC will submit a memorandum to the government requesting re-verification of Sikkim Subject Certificates and CoIs.

Chong Bhutia and Nim Pintso Bhutia who had filed the case of fake COIs also addressed the press conference and released copies of the order of the ADC.

## FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR SIKKIM-IFFCO JOINT VENTURE Integrated processing units to boost marketability of organic produce

**SAGAR CHHETRI  
RANGPO, 22 DEC:**

The foundation stone of two Integrated Processing Units of Sikkim Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Organics Limited was laid by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang [Golay] in the presence of Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, who was present as the chief guest at Rangpo in East Sikkim on Sunday.

Sikkim IFFCO Organics Ltd is a joint venture of between fertilizer co-operative, IFFCO, and the Government of Sikkim, with the aim to promote and market organic produce of the country, especially from Sikkim and other north-eastern States of India. The major commercial crops of Sikkim which IFFCO will focus on are ginger, turmeric, large cardamom and buckwheat.

It is informed that the initial cost of the project is Rs 50 crore and manufacturing is scheduled to begin from December



next year.

It is informed that all SIFFCO products will be certified 100% organic.

The upcoming integrated organic food processing units at Rangpo are also India's largest single organic processing units and expected to

boost the organic trade with Americas and European Union.

It is informed that Sikkim IFFCO has already signed MOU's with Blossoms Biodynamics, USA, to use their marketing and distribution network in the North American

markets and with Centar Dr Rudolfa Steinera, Croatia, for marketing Sikkim in Croatia and the European Union.

In his address, the Union Minister informed that the Centre will extend all possible support to assist agricultural de-

velopment in Sikkim.

He mentioned that the upcoming units will help transform the life of farmers by increasing their production and by taking local organic produce of Sikkim to international markets.

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## Bhaichung explains his questionable remarks to limitations of time in TV debate format

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 22 DEC:**

Under fire for leaving out mention of the Nepali community in his comments during a TV news debate on the Citizenship Amendment Act, Bhaichung Bhutia, while accepting that statement was "debatable," insisted that there was no communal slant in it and explained it to the limited time available in a TV debate format which does not allow for elaborate explanations and details.

Addressing a press conference here today, the Hamro Sikkim Party working president stressed that his comments need to be seen in the context of the question asked.

The comment, he said, was made in the context of the minorities of the State and was not a comment on the indigenous people of the State per se.

He, however accept-



ed, that the information provided by him in was debatable but insisted that there was no communal aspect to it.

"The data placed

during my interview may be wrong and is debatable, but I have surely not made any communal statement during the whole telecast," he said.

The television format, he pointed out, allows very limited time and one is pressed to accommodate everything in that limited

time, he added.

Mr Bhutia has urged people to go through the entire discussion to understand the context and urged people not to jump to conclusions based on what he called "rumours being spread by some vested interests."

Claiming that he was the "most secular person," he said that he has always raised his voice in the Centre with regard to the interests of all the people of Sikkim.

He also informed that during a recent meeting with the Union Home Minister, he had raised various issues related to the implementation of CAA in Sikkim, re-verification of COI, and other issues related the State.

He said that his party will now form a committee to discuss various issues and frame a memorandum which will then be submitted to the Union Government.

## Protests continue in Delhi, Police maintain tight vigil

**NEW DELHI, DEC 22 (PTI):** On a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a rally in the national capital, a number of protests against the amended Citizenship Act were held in the city even as police maintained a strict vigil and carried out flag march in sensitive areas.

A large number of people took out a 'solidarity march' in South Delhi on Sunday in support of Jamia Millia Islamia students and those facing police action during protests against the contentious law.

Holding placards, people shouted 'Inquilab Zindabad' and demanded scrapping of the law

during the march in Alaknanda area. A group of Jamia students also participated in the protest.

Although the Delh Police made elaborate arrangements to ensure that there was no protest around the Ramila Ground where Prime Minister Modi addressed rally, areas like Jantar Mantar, Jamia Millia, Nizamuddin, and Connaught Place witnessed multiple peaceful demonstrations.

In view of several violent protests against the CAA in the city in the last few days, a group of AIIMS doctors has decided to provide immediate medical attention to those injured during clashes with police personnel.

"We will run two ambulances with doctors to provide medical facility to those protesters injured in the violent protest," Dr Ajay Verma, a psychiatrist of All India Institute Medical Sciences, said.

Members of the LGBT community also hit the streets, voicing opposition against the CAA and NRC at the Jantar Mantar and expressed concern that a countrywide National Register of Citizens will lead to "exclusion" of most of them.

Rituparna Borah, who hails from Assam's Lakhimpur district, said it's very difficult for the queer community to get necessary documents. "What if my parents throw me out of the house. People elope,

leave their house because of violence. In such a situation, all they have is an Aadhaar card.

In Seelampur, which was rocked by violent protests against the new legislation, and neighbouring areas, the Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel again carried out flag march.

Besides the Delh Police, Rapid Action Force has also been deployed in the area as a precautionary measure to deal with any situation. Police also reached out to people and thanked them for maintaining peace in their areas.

The protest by the students of Jamia Millia Islamia on Sun-

day entered its eight day, with senior CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury joining them. He slammed the Modi government over the new law which he described as "against the Constitution".

"Every religion has its holy book. The entire country has only one holy book, which is our Constitution. We will fight for the protection of our Constitution and rights..." Yechury told a gathering near Jamia Millia Islamia, stressing that protest against the contentious law should be peaceful.

At the Jantar Mantar, people from the Northeast gathered, lamenting that the protests against the CAA were given a

"Hindu-Muslim colour" and the voices from the region fighting for the rights of indigenous people ignored.

The protesters, including students and civil society members, said they were deeply hurt and distressed by the police "brutality" on those against the Citizen Amendment Act, but "our protest is about our rights".

"We will not let others hijack our agenda. We are here to speak about our people. You cannot always ask one to take more people," Tripura's royal scion Pradyot Deb Barman, who is also present there, said.

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