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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 11/12/2019

Violence mars protests against Citizenship Bill

Internet, SMS services suspended in Tripura for two days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI/AGARTALA

An 11-hour shutdown against the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill disrupted large swathes of the northeastern States on Tuesday, with protesters resorting to violence in some places and clashing with the police.

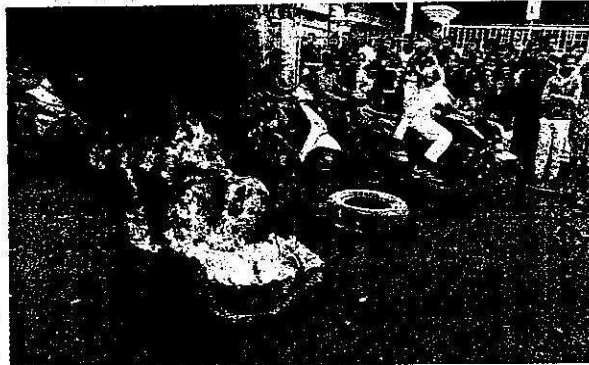
Several people, including security men, were injured as protesters damaged vehicles and shops in Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya's capital Shillong.

In Tripura, the government ordered suspension of Internet and SMS services for two days as paramilitary personnel opened fire in the air and lobbed teargas shells to disperse violent protesters in some areas.

Intense in Valley

The protests, spearheaded by the North East Students' Organisation (NESO), were the most intense across the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam and Tripura, the two States perceived to bear the brunt of migrants from Bangladesh who could be made citizens under the Bill if it becomes a law.

The other northeastern States, "insulated" by the Sixth-Schedule status and the Inner Line Permit regu-



Troubled times: Protesters burning tyres during the bandh in Guwahati on Tuesday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

lation, either shut down or held token protests to express solidarity with Assam and Tripura.

The Bill seeks to fast-track the process of granting citizenship to people belonging to six non-Muslim religious groups, who fled persecution from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan till December 31, 2014.

Anger against the Bill had been brewing over a week, affecting life and businesses in Assam and Tripura. On Tuesday, it snowballed into a spontaneous movement with local residents, including senior citizens, taking to the streets.

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Rajya Sabha will debate Bill today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday, will be taken up for consideration and passage in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Six hours have been allocated to debate the Bill to grant citizenship to undocumented non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, who came to India before December 31, 2014.

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