



MARY KOM BECOMES WORLD NO. 1 WOMAN BOXER IN LIGHT FLY CATEGORY 28



LALU'S BAIL PLEA REJECTED, WON'T BE ABLE TO CAMPAIGN 17

BAN ON PANDYA LOOMING, VIRAT UNSURE WHETHER TO INCLUDE HIM IN 1ST ODI 25



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No place for gay sex in Army: Gen

The Army will not tolerate homosexuality or adultery in its ranks despite the recent Supreme Court judgments to decriminalise them. "The Army is conservative. We are a family. We are not westernised, neither modernised... We will not allow these (gay sex and adultery)..." Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat said. **P10**

94% pickpockets in Metro women

Around 94% of all pickpockets caught from the Delhi Metro last year were women, up from 85% in 2017. The Metro, however, was a much safer place for commuters last year with cases of pickpocketing reducing by more than half. Just 111 cases were reported as compared to 256 in 2017. **P9**

Maruti hikes car prices up to ₹10k

Maruti Suzuki India has hiked the prices of select models by up to Rs 10,000 with immediate effect to offset the adverse impact of the increase in commodity prices and foreign exchange rates. The recently launched version of Ertiga has been left out of the hike. **P23**

PMAY racket busted in city

A Delhi gang that cheated around 2,000 people from across the country by promising them homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been busted by the Crime Branch of Delhi Police. The kingpin has been arrested, while police are in pursuit of others involved. **P2**

Ayodhya hearing deferred, SC ruling unlikely before LS polls

Lalit Recuses Self As He'd Appeared For Kalyan Singh

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New Delhi: With the much-anticipated start to proceedings in the Ayodhya dispute in the Supreme Court stuttering again with Justice U U Lalit recusing himself and the court directing the regist-

FULL COVERAGE: P17

ry to inspect voluminous records in several languages, a verdict before the Lok Sabha elections appears unlikely.

Appearance as an advocate more than 20 years ago in a Babri Masjid demolition con-

NEXT DATE JANUARY 29

Hearing schedule will now be fixed on January 29

70-year-old dispute, first title suit filed in 1950 in Faizabad district court

In 1989 case was transferred to Allahabad HC, which gave verdict in Sept 2010 — 21 years later

HC heard 88 witnesses, examined 227 documents in Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Arabic, Gurmukhi, Persian and Urdu

If SC starts hearing in February, it will get only 12 weeks till April-end; constitution bench sits only three days a week



A Ram temple supporter protests outside the SC on Thursday

► Frivolous issues being raised to delay hearing, objection on Lalit painful, says VHP, P17

tempt case against then UP CM and others became the reason for Justice Lalit to withdraw from the five-judge bench on Thursday after senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for the Muslim par-

ties, drew the SC's attention to the matter. This forced the CJI Ranjan Gogoi-led bench to defer charting the schedule for arguments to January 29.

When the CJI and Justices S A Bobde, N V Ramana, Lalit

and D Y Chandrachud assembled, Dhavan pointed to the SC's November 20, 1997 order in the 'Mohd Aslam alias Bhure Vs Kalyan Singh' case that showed Lalit's appearance as an advocate.

₹8 lakh income cap, land criteria for 10% quota not final: Minister

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New Delhi: The Rs 8-lakh income and five-acre land criteria for beneficiaries under the 10% quota for the "poor among forwards" passed by Parliament on Wednesday is not final and is likely to change as the rules are framed, social justice and empowerment minister Thaawarchand Gehlot has said.

Asked whether the Rs 8-lakh income limit was too generous, Gehlot told TOI, "This measure of Rs 8 lakh and that of five-acre land hol-

NGO moves SC to nix bill, but backs quota

NGO Youth for Equality filed a PIL in the SC on Thursday seeking quashing of the legislation alleging that it violated the basic structure of the Constitution. However, subsequently, NGO president Kaushal Kant Mishra said that "in principle, it (quota for poor) is a welcome step". **P11**

ding and other such criteria are under consideration. This is not final. Ye thoda bahut kam, zyada ho sakta hai (This can be a little more or less)."

While the ministry is ex-

pected to draw the rules in about a week, the government has also asked the states to prepare their own criteria for exclusion. This will be applicable to jobs and education that fall under the purview of the states. "We will, over time, see how the states frame the rules. These can also be taken into consideration," Gehlot said.

The minister said the reference to the Rs 8 lakh annual household income and size of land holding was drawn from existing parameters for the creamy layer among OBCs when the constitutional amendment to include economic deprivation as a ground for reservation was being considered.

BJP appoints Chouhan, Raje, Raman as VPs

BJP president Amit Shah on Thursday appointed former chief ministers Shivraj Chouhan, Vasundhara Raje and Raman Singh as national vice-presidents of the party, an important responsibility ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. The decision is seen to create space for a new crop of leadership at the national level.

The party lost the recent assembly polls in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh where the three were the incumbent CMs. However, Shah's decision to appoint them to key posts shows that their role remains valued for the party. **P16**

Lawyer behind RTE takes TOI's 'lost votes' fight to SC

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Indore: Inspired by The Times of India's "Lost Votes" initiative, Indore's veteran lawyer, S P Anand — whose petition had led to the right to education being made a fundamental right for children — has moved the Supreme Court asking that it direct the Election Commission to ensure that people on the move can exercise their franchise no matter where they are.

Anand has requested an urgent hearing — before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls — as it is the "constitutional duty of the respondents, including the Union of India, PM and Election Commission, to ensure every eligible voter of this country can vote".

"TOI has raised a very important issue since due to jobs or other reasons, voters, who have temporarily moved to another city or state, often cannot vote as their name is not registered at the new place. Although they are eligible



to vote, they cannot," said the 89-year-old lawyer, asking: "Isn't denial of the right to vote to one-third (of India's) voters a fraud on democracy and the Constitution itself?" He pointed to TOI's January 6 report, which mentioned how the US, UK, Germany, Australia, Estonia and New Zealand had enabled their voters to vote from outside their hometowns. "The same modifications should be made in our Constitution



Veteran lawyer S P Anand has requested an early hearing

to ensure maximum participation of electors," Anand said. "The writ petition argues that the right to vote is a fundamental right. The prevailing practice — which requires voters to check voter lists and take steps to get their name included — should be held unconstitutional as it the binding duty of the respondents to prepare and revise the list," Anand said.

► Right to vote, P16

5 years on, Sheila back as city Congress chief

Five years after her ouster as Delhi chief minister, Sheila Dikshit (in pic), now 80, has again been appointed chief of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, reports **Ambika Pandit**. "I am honoured at the confidence shown in me and I know the role brings with it a big challenge," Dikshit said.



In a first for Delhi, Congress has named former minister Haroon Yusuf, Deven-

der Yadav and Rajesh Lilothia (both former MLAs) as working presidents under Dikshit. TOI was the first to report that Dikshit may be the new PCC chief. The change of guard comes in the wake of party president Ajay Maken resigning on health grounds. Dikshit's appointment as PCC chief was greeted by a crowd of supporters gathering at the house of the three-term CM. **P5**

Sedition charge against Assam intellectual

Assam-based intellectual Hiren Gohain, senior journalist Manjit Mahanta and RTI activist Akhil Gogoi were slapped with a sedition case on Thursday.

The case was registered for remarks made at a protest meeting on Monday — several speakers had raised the question of an "independent Assam" — a day before the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Lok Sabha. **P11**

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