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### CBI raids Hooda Rohtak house

CBI on Friday raided 20 places in Delhi-NCR, including Haryana ex-CMB S Hooda's Rohtak residence, two days after filing a criminal case against him for irregularities in acquisition of 1,400 acres in Gurgaon. **P 12**

### US gets 3-week shutdown relief

President Trump announced on Friday a deal with Democrats to reopen for three weeks the US federal government, shut down for five weeks by a row over funding for a US-Mexico wall. **P 28**

### Be sensitive to start-ups: PM

PM Narendra Modi on Friday said policy makers should look at start-ups with a fresh eye and advised greater sensitivity, days after seeking to address concerns related to 'angel tax'. **P 15**

## Govt reaches out to many Bharats with three Ratnas

### Woos Bengal & NE, Honours Sangh Icon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday announced the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, for former President Pranab Mukherjee, late Assamese singer Bhupen Hazarika

► **Gambhir, Chhetri among 112 Padma awardees, P 21**

and late social activist and RSS veteran Nanaji Deshmukh.

While the honour for Mukherjee is being seen as a political move, given the belief that

#### PRANAB MUKHERJEE

DEC 11, 1935-

President of India, July 2012-July 2017. Held several crucial berths, including finance, external affairs and defence, on multiple occasions. First became FM in 1982. It was also his last ministerial post, in 2012. Played a key role as UPA's chief troubleshooter



he was overlooked for the PM's post by then Congress chief Sonia Gandhi despite being one of the party's senior most leaders, the award for Hazari-

#### NANAJI DESHMUKH

OCT 11, 1916-FEB 27, 2010

The RSS veteran also participated in Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan movement and JP's anti-Indira stir. Janata Party founder-member. Left politics to work on rural reconstruction. Started Saraswati Shishu Mandir schools, which have proved to be a nursery for RSS's ideology of cultural nationalism



ka comes amid simmering anger against BJP in Assam over the Citizenship Amendment Bill. The recognition for Deshmukh, a revered figure for RSS

#### BHUPEN HAZARIKA

SEPT 8, 1926-NOV 5, 2011

Singer, lyricist, musician, poet and filmmaker, popularly known as the Bard of Brahmaputra and Sudhakantha (honey-throated). Won Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (highest Indian recognition given to practising artists) in 1987 and Dadasaheb Phalke Award (India's highest honour in cinema) in 1992



workers and sympathisers, will go down well among the saffron fraternity.

► **'Served nation', P 21**

### CBSE boards: Hard copy exam papers to stay

The CBSE will continue to conduct its class X and XII board exams via hard copy question papers. CBSE's solution to paper leaks — double encrypted question papers of 2018 which were printed at the exam centres 30 minutes prior to the test — will be a backup option for the 2019 board exams as an "emergency" measure. The board has cited logistical reasons for its decision. **P 12**

### Special flight to bring back high-value target?

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New Delhi: Intense speculation that Air India could be readying a mission that involves sending a long-range non-stop flight to bring back a high-value target early next week swept aviation circles Friday.

Sources were tight-lipped about the plane's destination and the passenger's identity.

However, as per the buzz, the flight will have three sets

of crew (one set is a captain and co-pilot) and 15 to 20 non-airline personnel. The aircraft is likely to begin its return trip after 14 hours, factoring in a mandatory 12-hour rest for the crew and a quick turnaround time.

There was no official confirmation. However, the buttoned-up response was not read as a categorical denial and this only further escalated the speculation.

### NDA faces threat in NE as AGP gathers support

NDA is facing the threat of disintegration in the north-east with AGP, which walked out of the ruling alliance in Assam, claiming on Friday that it had secured the support of Meghalaya's ruling NPP against the Citizenship Bill. AGP president Atul Bora said his party would meet MNF leader and Mizoram CM Zoramthanga next week. Both MNF and NPP are in the NDA. **P 22**

## Day after ICICI FIR, Jaitley cautions CBI against adventurism

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Union minister Arun Jaitley cautioned the CBI against "investigative adventurism" on Friday, a day after the agency named top bankers in an FIR lodged against former ICICI Bank CEO & MD Chanda Kochhar, her husband Deepak Kochhar and Videocon Group MD Venugopal Dhoot.

"Sitting thousands of kilometres away, when I read the list of potential targets in the ICICI case, the thought that crossed my mind was again the same — Instead of focusing primarily on the target, is a journey to nowhere (or everywhere) being under-

### Don't be overzealous, FM tells tax officers

Finance minister Piyush Goyal asked tax officers to refrain from being overzealous in tax administration. "Very often in the over-enthusiasm of tax administration, we become overzealous and that causes a lot of agony, particularly to the honest taxpayer," he said. **P 20**

► **'Fishing expedition', P 12**

## Nazeer, Bhushan join 5-judge Ayodhya bench

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New Delhi: Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on Friday drafted two new judges, Justice S Abdul Nazeer and Justice Ashok Bhushan, to the five-judge bench for the January 29 hearing of the legal battle for ownership of the 2.77-acre Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid disputed land. The politically sensitive ca-

se relating to the over century-old litigation has been pending in the SC since 2011. Justice U U Lalit recused himself from the case on January 10. This was followed by Justice NV Ramana withdrawing, citing personal reasons.

The bench is led by the CJI. The other two judges are Justice S A Bobde and Justice DY Chandrachud.

► **Earlier bench, P 15**

## Zee founder says sorry after rout in stock market

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Indian satellite TV pioneer and Zee chairman Subhash Chandra apologised to lenders and investors in an unprecedented open letter after shares of his group companies lost over Rs14,000 crore in a stock market hammering.

Some lenders sold pledged shares of Zee promoters

FULL COVERAGE: **P 29, 30**

while others triggered margin money calls as most group companies reported their biggest single-day declines on the bourses. Chandra admitted servicing the group's over-Rs 11,000-crore debt was challenging but vowed to repay every lender.

He said a "negative force" wouldn't like to see him pay off the liabilities and blamed it for insidious attacks through anonymous communications with the group's financial supporters.

## Govt considers SC/ST ordinance

The Centre is mulling an ordinance to undo the Allahabad HC's decision, upheld by the SC, ordering department-wise appointment of SC and ST faculty in government-run and aided colleges and universities. **P 13**

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