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A personalised dashboard helps in choice of topics of interest, and a 'Briefing' feature brings important updates three times a day on a single page.

The user experience will be better, richer, and seamless across the different digital properties of *The Hindu* in the coming months.

The site has been in 'test' mode since February 2019, and has already garnered a significant number of sign-ups.

IN BRIEF



Centre trying to weaken J&K, says Mehbooba

SRINAGAR
Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti alleged on Saturday that attempts were being made by the Centre to weaken Jammu and Kashmir politically and economically. She asked the people to unite against "divisive forces." PTI

Two Jaish militants gunned down in Shopian

SRINAGAR
Two Jaish-e-Mohammad militants — Abid Wagay and Shahjahan Mir — involved in the killing of many civilians and police personnel were on Saturday gunned down by security forces in an encounter in Shopian district of J&K, the police said. PTI

DMK wants top police officials shifted

CHENNAI
The DMK has written to Ashutosh Shukla, DGP (Elections), seeking transfer of many police officials and also relieve the Assistant Executive Engineers of the Corporation of Chennai from the 'Flying Squads' to ensure free election.

Wings clipped



United effort: Jet Airways employees staging a protest seeking the revival of the airline, at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on Saturday. •R.V. MOORTHY

U.K. should apologise, says Minister

We need closure on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, says Hardeep Singh Puri

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

On the 100th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said here that an "appropriate expression of apology" was needed for closure.

Clarifying that he was speaking as an individual, Mr. Puri said: "We need closure. I'm not asking for X or Y. I'm speaking as a private person."

He was addressing the audience at the launch of the English translation of 'Khooni Vaisakhi' (Bloody Vaisakhi), a protest poem written in Punjabi by a survivor of the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy, and renowned writer, the late Nanak Singh.

The poem was translated by the writer's grandson, diplomat Navdeep Suri.

When asked whether the British government should apologise for the massacre, Mr. Puri told reporters: "There should be an appropriate expression of apology or regret, more than regret, apology. It's not something that just happened. Somebody took the decision and it was completely wrong and it became the turning point in the freedom struggle."

When asked about U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May's recent statement of regret about the incident, Mr. Puri said "that's not an apology, it's regret".



100 years later: People paying homage to commemorate the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in Amritsar on Saturday. •AP

War of words over Rahul's visit to Golden Temple

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMRITSAR**

The Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal engaged in a bitter war of words on Saturday over Rahul Gandhi's visit to the Golden Temple, with the latter demanding an apology from the ruling party's president for Operation Blue Star and the former accusing Akalis of indulging in "shallow" politics.

Mr. Gandhi, accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, visited the

Golden Temple on late on Friday night, soon after his arrival in Amritsar to mark the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

"Rahul's visit is just to gain political mileage. He should have tendered an apology for Operation Blue Star of 1984," Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said in Bathinda.

The Indian Army had carried out Operation Blue Star in June 1984 to flush out mil-

itants hiding in the Golden Temple complex.

The Union Minister's comments drew sharp reactions from the Congress. "Did you, your husband @officeofssbadal or his father, Parkash Singh Badal, ever apologise for your great grandfather, Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia's lavish dinner to Gen. Dyer on the day of Jallianwala Bagh massacre? He was later knighted in 1926 for his loyalty and his deeds," Ms. Singh tweeted.

'Sex on false promise of marriage is rape'

Supreme Court says rape offends a woman's esteem, dignity

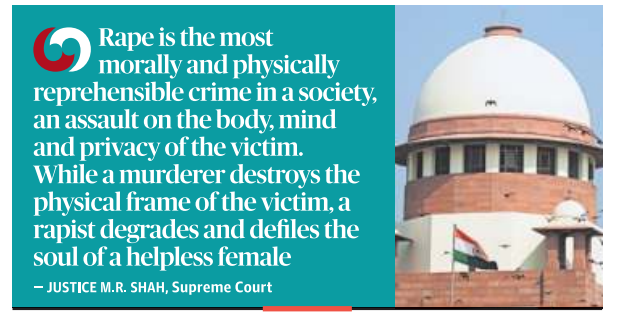
**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

The fact that the victim and her rapist have married other people and gone their separate ways will not erase the crime. The rapist would still have to answer for his crime, a Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and M.R. Shah concluded in their recent judgment.

The case concerns the rape of a woman by a government doctor in Chhattisgarh in 2013. The man had engaged in a physical relationship with her at his home on the promise of marrying her. At the time of the crime, he was already engaged to marry another woman. He later broke his promise to the victim.

On the basis of an FIR filed, the man was convicted of rape. The conviction was confirmed by the High Court. He was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. The apex court was appealed to.

In his judgment for the Bench, Justice Shah ob-



Rape is the most morally and physically reprehensible crime in a society, an assault on the body, mind and privacy of the victim. While a murderer destroys the physical frame of the victim, a rapist degrades and defiles the soul of a helpless female
— JUSTICE M.R. SHAH, Supreme Court

served that it was clear from the evidence that the man's intention was to cheat the victim. She would not have consented to the sexual act had he not promised her marriage. "It was a clear case of cheating and deception," the Supreme Court held.

The court said such incidents were on the rise in modern society.

"Rape is the most morally and physically reprehensible crime in a society, an assault on the body, mind and privacy of the victim. While a murderer destroys the physical frame of the victim, a rapist degrades and defiles the soul of a helpless female.

Rape reduces a woman to an animal, as it shakes the very core of her life," Justice Shah wrote in the judgment.

The court said rape is the "most hated crime". "It tantamounts to a serious blow to the supreme honour of a woman, and offends both her esteem and dignity," the judgment said.

The mere fact that both the victim and her attacker have married separately and moved on does not erase the horror of what was committed on her. The rapist must face the consequences of the crime.

The court, however, reduced his sentence to seven years' imprisonment.

Stringent norms likely for medical devices

Notify them under drug laws: Board

**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI**

In a move that would give end users more protection while using a medical device, the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), India's top drug advisory body, has recommended that the Health Ministry should notify all medical devices under the drug laws.

When enforced, this translates into medical devices being treated as drugs, more stringent tracking systems, mandatory reporting of all adverse reactions and registration of device before it is allowed into the market.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting earlier this month and the recommendations, when brought in for implementation by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, would be introduced in a phased manner to help the manufacturers/importers adhere to the new laws.

Currently of the 5,000-6,000 medical devices in the Indian market, there are

only 23 notified medical devices under government control. When enforced, such devices will be recognised as drugs under Section 3 (b) (iv) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Call for separate law

The decision, however, has not gone down well with the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMED) which has sought a separate medical devices-specific law.

Forum co-ordinator Rajiv Nath said the medical device industry wanted experts from their field to be part of the DTAB as special invitees.

"Also it's imperative to have a separate law as devices are engineering items and not medicines — an X-Ray machine by no stretch of imagination can be called a drug. The penal provisions need to be risk proportional as you can't have the same penalty for the manufacturing failure of a spectacle and a contact lens or an intraocular lens," said Mr. Nath.

Car drags toll plaza worker for eight km

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GURGAON**

A toll plaza employee was dragged on the bonnet of a car for nearly eight km on NH-8 on Saturday and reportedly assaulted, the police said. The victim, Ashok Kumar, tried to stop an Innova car at Kherki Daula toll plaza at around 12.40 p.m., they said.

"The car with four occupants, in a bid to flee without paying toll tax, hit the boom barrier," DCP Rajesh Singh said.

"Mr. Kumar came out of the booth and the errant driver hit him hard, following which he fell on the bonnet. The driver then pressed the accelerator paddle," he said. The victim in his statement said he saved himself by holding on to the car's wipers.

"The miscreants took Mr. Kumar to an isolated place some in Manesar and assaulted him," the officer said. "The incident was captured on CCTV cameras. Efforts are on to trace the culprits."

Bengal BJP leaders brandish arms at Ram Navami rallies

Part of our tradition, says State unit chief Dilip Ghosh

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA**

The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday organised a number of Ram Navami processions, including some where party leaders and supporters brandished arms.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condemned the rallies, saying the BJP was trying to "sell religion for

political gains".

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh was seen brandishing a sword and a mace at a procession at Kharagpur. Mr. Ghosh, who is contesting the Medinipur Lok Sabha seat, said the processions "were part of tradition and had nothing to do with politics".

"Ram Navami rallies are a part of our tradition. These arms are to protect ourselves. It has nothing to do

with election. If anyone has a problem with armed rallies then they should change their thought process," he said. The BJP and affiliated Hindutva outfits conducted processions at Howrah, Kolkata, Bankura, Jhargram, and North and South 24 Parganas.

Interestingly, Trinamool leaders also led Ram Navami processions at a few places, including in north Kolkata.

Former IL&FS Financial Services CEO arrested

Ramesh Bawa is SFIO's second arrest

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

Making its second arrest in the IL&FS case, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) on Saturday arrested former IL&FS Financial Services chief Ramesh C. Bawa, official sources said.

They said Bawa, who had served as managing director and CEO, was arrested on the grounds of abusing his powers through fraudulent conduct. He granted loans to entities that are not cre-

ditworthy and caused wrongful loss to the company and its creditors.

Earlier this month, SFIO arrested former IL&FS vice-chairman Hari Sankaran. The sources said IL&FS Financial Services Ltd. had borrowings of ₹17,500 crore through debt instruments and bank loans. Provident, pension, gratuity, and mutual funds, and public and private sector banks, are among entities that invested in these debt instruments.