WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 24 PAGES

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What a Matchester!

ANANTNAG FIREFIGHT LEAVES 2 MILITANTS, SOLDIER DEAD

Jaish militant whose van was used in Pulwama CRPF convoy attack killed in Valley gunbattle

Sajad Maqbool Bhat's killing is a big achievement, say J&K security officers

ADIL AKHZER SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

SECURITY FORCES in the Valley notched a big success Tuesday when Jaish-e-Mohammad militant Sajad Magbool Bhat, who owned the Maruti Eeco van that was used in the February 14 Pulwama attack which left 40 CRPF personnel dead, was killed along with another militant in an Anantnag village in South Kashmir.

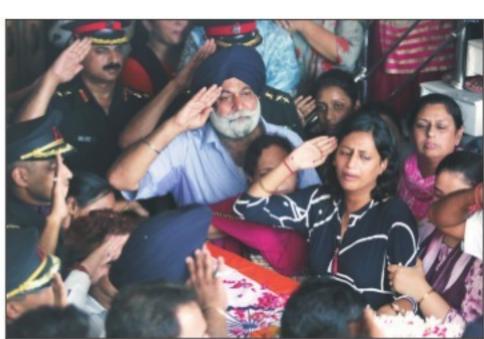
An Army soldier also lost his

life in the gunbattle which took place less than 24 hours after a Major and a militant were killed in a firefight in Anantnag district

Colonel Rajesh Kalia, Defence spokesman based in Srinagar, said: "Two terrorists eliminated today. One soldier martyred in the operation."

In an official release, J&K Police said a cordon and search operation (CASO) was launched by security forces at Marhama village in Bijbehara area of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Era Sharma bids farewell in Meerut, Tuesday, to her husband Major Ketan Sharma, who succumbed to injuries sustained in a gunbattle in J&K's Anantnag. Praveen Khanna

Om Birla is NDA's Speaker nominee: Grassroots

politician who rose through the BJP youth ranks

On WhatsApp, Major told family: 'Maybe my last photo'

SOMYA LAKHANI MEERUT, JUNE 18

"MAYBE THIS is my last photo," wrote Major Ketan Sharma around 7 am Monday while posting a photograph of himself on a family WhatsApp group. Hours later, he succumbed to injuries sustained in a gunbattle in South Kashmir's Anantnag.

On Tuesday, his hometown Meerut was enveloped in grief



Major Ketan Sharma of 19 Rashtriya Rifles

SHAMBHU SINGH NOW IN CUSTODY

Sabka dil jeeta!

Minister V K Singh calls ex-aide a fraud, had fulsome praise last year

Also told Delhi CP to act against cops who booked ex-aide for cheating

SHYAMLAL YADAV & MAHENDER SINGH **MANRAL**

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

LAST WEEK, Ghaziabad Police arrested Shambhu Prasad Singh, former political attache of Union Minister Gen (retired) VK Singh, for alleged fraud, cheating and forgery.

Four FIRs were filed against him, the first based on a complaint by the Minister's Private Secretary (PS) Surject Singh accusing Shambhu Prasad of "tarnishing the name and image of Hon'ble (Minister) by duping people... misusing his position... impersonating and cheating as staff of Hon'ble Minister" and "for taking illegal and unauthorised possession of files, documents...which are properties of the office of the Hon'ble

Minister". The complaint to Upendra Agarwal, SSP, Ghaziabad, on April 26, 2019, also said that after



VK Singh and Shambhu Prasad Singh (left). File

 Shambhu Prasad was appointed in June 2014 – complaints were received by the Minister that he was trying to "make illegal money." He was warned but after a "brief halt", he was back to "extorting money", the complaint said. And that he continued with his "nefarious activities" even after

Gen (retd) Singh's scathing indictment of his aide doesn't quite match with what the Minister has himself put on

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as his body was brought home.



"Mera sher putt goliyon toh nahi darda si (My brave son wasn't afraid of bullets). Where has my son gone? Just tell me what time Ranu (his nickname) will be back, I request you to return him CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Anand Grover,

NGO booked

by CBI, they

silence them

DEEPTIMANTIWARY

ACTING ON a complaint from

the Ministry of Home Affairs

(MHA), the CBI has registered an

FIR against the Lawyers

Collective, a rights issue NGO run

by senior lawyers Indira Jaising

and Anand Grover, for alleged

violation of the Foreign

Contribution (Regulation) Act

(FCRA) and criminal offences

under sections of the Indian

Penal Code and Prevention of

Mumbai on June 13, also names

Grover, unknown office bearers

of Lawyers Collective and un-

known private persons and pub-

lic servants. Suspected offences

listed include criminal conspir-

acy, criminal breach of trust, false

statement made in declaration

The FIR, registered in

Corruption Act.

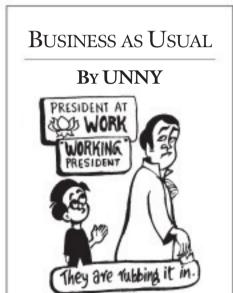
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

say attempt to

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

GIVE HONG KONG MORE SPACE

BY THOMAS ABRAHAM



MIHIR VASAVDA

out prejudice".

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

CLEARING THE way for

sportspersons from Pakistan to

compete in international events

held in India, the government assured the International Olympic

Committee (IOC) Tuesday that

visas will be granted to partici-

pants from all countries "with-

Olympic Association (IOA) to go

ahead with its bids to host mega

events, including the 2032

Olympics. In February, India was

on the verge of isolation after a

three-member Pakistani team

was refused visas for the shoot-

Thomas Bach and IOA president

Narinder Batra, Sports Secretary

Radhey Shyam Julaniya said the

government will "permit all

qualified athletes belonging to

Committee..." to take part in

"Such participation of

events held in India.

PAGE 1

ANCHOR

MIHIR VASAVDA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

PRAVIN JADHAV has spent half

his life in a shanty near a drain, in a household where two full

meals are a luxury. There's no

National Olympic

In a letter to IOC chief

ing World Cup in Delhi.

This allows the Indian

Govt rethink: Visas for

sportspersons from all

countries (also Pakistan)

PRADEEP KAUSHAL & HAMZA KHAN

NEW DELHI, JAIPUR, JUNE 18

TWO-TERM BJP MP from Rajasthan Om Birla was Tuesday named the NDA nominee for the Speaker's post in Lok Sabha. Birla, 57, represents the Kota-Bundi constituency and was earlier elected to the Rajasthan assembly twice before he contested the LS polls.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is learnt to have proposed Birla's name for the post. His election to the high office is cer-

Clears the way for

global event bids

BY REFUSING visas to

sportspersons from

Pakistan in February, India faced the risk of

not being allowed to

host big-ticket events

such as Olympics and

Asian Games. The assur-

ance ensures India stays

within global norms

against discrimination

in sports, including for

athletes shall be without preju-

dice to our principled positions

and policies on other political

matters, including issues such as

international recognition or oth-

erwise of country of origin of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

political reasons.



Om Birla with 16th Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan in New Delhi, Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

tain given the commanding position of the ruling NDA in the House and the absence of any

other candidate. Birla has the backing of not only NDA partners, including the AIADMK, but

IN PARLIAMENT

Biju Janata Dal as well.

President Ram Nath Kovind

It has been a long wait for

Birla, who cut his teeth as a politi-

cian in the Bharatiya Janata Yuva

Morcha, the BJP's youth wing. He

first had to wait for a chance to get

a party ticket in an assembly elec-

tion at a time when senior lead-

ers like Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

has scheduled the election for

UP readies law for pvt universities with rider — pledge no anti-national activity

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, JUNE 18

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THE DRAFT of a new Ordinance cleared by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Tuesday includes a provision which mandates an undertaking by new and existing universities that they will not

be involved in or allow "anti-national activities" on campus.

The draft "Uttar Pradesh Private Universities Ordinance, 2019", which aims to bring 27 private universities in the state under an umbrella law, also gives existing universities a period of one year to adopt all provisions of the proposed law. And universities found violating the provision on "Rashtra virodhi gatividhi (anti-national activities)" will face action.

In a statement, the UP government said that among the objectives for universities, "rashtriya ekikaran, dharma nirpekshata, samajik samrasta, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

and criminal misconduct. In 2016, the MHA had cancelled the FCRA licence of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KANISHAK

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being removed. record earlier.

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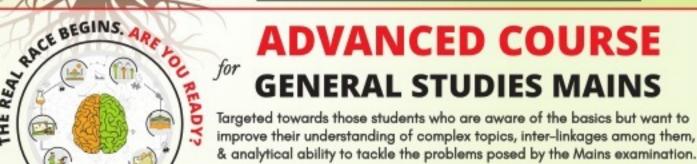
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from Satara teamed up with veterans Tarundeep Rai and Atanu Das to win a World Championship silver medal in the Dutch city of

up a bow — about six years ago, against his family's wish — was to escape poverty. Now, Jadhav is Olympicsbound. Well. almost. On Sunday, the 22-year-old

electricity and water is scarce. And the only reason he picked Olympics.

6 years after picking

up bow, daily wager's

son hits world silver

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



's-Hertogenbosch and book a quota for next year's Tokyo

Jadhav, who till a few years ago hadn't stepped out of Sarde village, was part of a team that conquered rivals from Norway, Canada, Chinese Taipei and the Netherlands before losing to China in the gold-medal match.