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**JOURNALISM OF COURAGE** 

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# No exemption, be present, will expedite trial: Court to Pragya

**SADAF MODAK** MUMBAI, JUNE 3

THE SPECIAL Court hearing the 2008 Malegaon blast case Monday rejected an application from accused Pragya Singh Thakur, the newly elected BJP MP from Bhopal, seeking ex-

emption from appearance during the trial from June 3 to June 7.

As stipulated

earlier, Thakur will have to remain present before the court at least once this week. The court also referred to a Supreme Court

order, which had directed trials involving political figures to be expedited, and said that since Thakur is "now an MP and a CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

INDIA'S ECONOMIC RISE WILL HELP U.S.

BY SANJAYA BARU PAGE 14

## NATHULA: A GATEWAY OF FRIENDSHIP WHERE HEARTS MEET

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of Financial Express. The page is an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contains content paid for by advertisers. The page should be read as an advertisement.

# 3-language policy: NEP draft revised, 2 members object

RITIKA CHOPRA & SHYAMLAL YADAV NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

TWO MEMBERS of the government-appointed committee led by scientist K Kasturirangan are learnt to have objected Monday to their chairperson's decision to revise a contentious paragraph in the draft National Education Policy (NEP) 2018, dropping a reference to Hindi and English in the recommendation on the three-language formula.

Following protests by political parties, mainly in Tamil Nadu, on what they called the "imposition" of Hindi, the HRD Ministry, at Kasturirangan's behest, has shared a revised document on its website, which dropped the recommendation that stipulated the languages that students must choose to study from Grade 6.

Committee members Ram Shankar Kureel, former founder vice-chancellor of Baba Saheb Ambedkar University of Social

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN** 

WOMEN WILL have a choice to

travel free on buses and the

Metro in the national capital in

the next two-three months,

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal announced Monday,

calling it an investment in

women safety and their partici-

pation in the workforce.

NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

Women can travel free on

buses, Metro in Delhi: CM

EXPLAINED

# The formula, the opposition

THE THREE-LANGUAGE formula, dating back to 1968, means students in Hindi-speaking states should learn a modern Indian language, apart from Hindi and English and, in non-Hindispeaking states, Hindi along with the regional language and English. Tamil Nadu has always opposed this policy, and the new row is over the draft NEP proposing its continuation.

Sciences in Madhya Pradesh, and KM Tripathy, former chairperson CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Kejriwal told a press confer-

ence that the Delhi government

will bear the cost of implement-

ing the measure in some 5.500

buses run by the Delhi Transport

Corporation (DTC) and the Delhi

Integrated Multi-Modal Transit

System (DIMTS), and the 373-km

Metro network across Delhi NCR.

and their safety is paramount for

our government. Public transport

"Women feel unsafe in Delhi

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



# FIRST STOP SIACHEN

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Army chief General Bipin Rawat (left) and Northern Army Commander Lt General Ranbir Singh in Siachen, Monday. ANI REPORT, PAGE 8

# BUSINESS AS USUAL BY UNNY Let MEA It knows how China Promotes credish

# Ex-Army man declared illegal: Witnesses say police faked it

**ABHISHEK SAHA**GUWAHATI, JUNE 3

AN FIR was registered Monday against a former sub-inspector (SI) of the Border branch of the Assam Police — a special wing that deals with detection of suspected illegal foreigners residing in the state — for preparing an allegedly fabricated report against a retired serviceman,



Md Sanaullah, in 2008-09 which led to him being declared an "illegal foreigner" last month and

Sanaullah is

being held

detention

centre

in an Assam

subsequently arrested.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### **SEARCH OPS UNDERWAY**

# IAF transport aircraft with 13 on board lost in Arunachal

AN-32 took off from Jorhat base for Mechuka, not far from China border

ABHISHEK SAHA & SUSHANT SINGH GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

AN INDIAN Air Force AN-32 transport aircraft with 13 people on board went missing Monday while flying over Arunachal Pradesh. Officials said a massive search operation was underway.

The aircraft, which took off

The aircraft, which took off from Jorhat in Assam around 12.30 pm, was scheduled to land an hour later at Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh's newly created Shi Yomi district. The weather over the region was turbulent Monday, and the AN-32's last contact with ground staff was at 1 pm.

The 13 on board the aircraft comprise six officers, five airmen and two non-combatants (enrolled). Shi Yomi borders China to the north and is one of the remotest locations in the Himalayan state.

IAF PRO Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh said: "An AN-32 got airborne today from Jorhat at 1227 hours for Mechuka Advanced Landing Ground. The aircraft last contacted ground agencies at 1300 hours (ap-



contact with the aircraft. Since the aircraft did not reach the destination, overdue actions were initiated by Indian Air Force. A total of eight aircrew and five passengers were on board the aircraft."

He said no civilian was on

board. IAF aircraft C-130, AN-32, two Mi-17 helicopters and Indian Army ALH helicopters were trying to locate the missing aircraft.

The IAF spokesperson said

The IAF spokesperson said the aircraft had not been located until Monday evening. "Some ground reports were received on possible location of a crash site. Helicopters were routed to the location. However, no wreckage has been sighted so far," he said.

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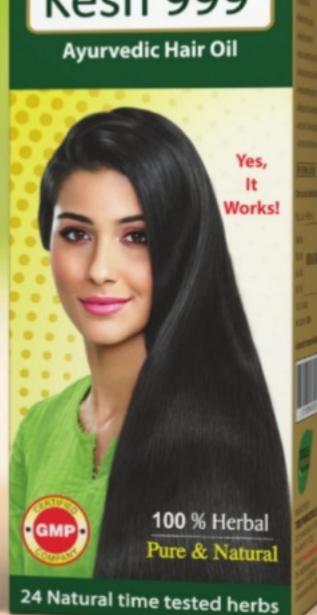
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