

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



Accused in Malegaon 2008 blast case

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

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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

EXPLAINED
E.

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-Hindi-speaking 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

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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

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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.

Women can travel free on buses, Metro in Delhi: CM

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

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 participation in the workforce.

Kejriwal told a press conference that the Delhi government will bear the cost of implementing 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.

"Women feel unsafe in Delhi and their safety is paramount for our government. Public transport

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



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,



Sanaullah is being held in an Assam detention centre

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

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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 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-

prox). Thereafter, there was no 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 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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