



Mansoor Khan, prime accused in Bengaluru ponzi scam, arrested

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U.P. puts SP leader Azam Khan's name on list of land mafia

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Forensic audit of IL&FS credit rating agencies finds serious lapses

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Lowry, Holmes in lead; Shubhankar set to make the cut

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## NEARBY



### Appeal filed to reopen Samjhauta case

NW DELHI  
A Pakistani woman has filed an appeal in the Punjab and Haryana HC against the acquittal of all accused, including Aseemanand, in the 2007 Samjhauta Express blast case.

NATION PAGE 9

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# Karnataka trust vote on Monday

Governor's second direction also ignored, Speaker adjourns Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Despite two directions from Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala to Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to hold the trust vote on Friday, the process got put off to Monday, with Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar adjourning the Assembly.

All eyes are now on the Governor's possible moves, while the Congress-JD(S) government seems to have got a chance to hang on at least till Monday. Coalition leaders are hopeful of the tide turning in their favour in the Supreme Court.

The adjournment came after a protracted discussion on whether a Governor



**Biding time:** Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy holding talks with MLAs in the Assembly on Friday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

could set such deadlines at all, but only after the Speaker extracted an assurance from the Chief Minister and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah that the trust vote would not be postponed beyond Monday.

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## JD(S), Congress move SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Amid the political turmoil, Karnataka JD(S) president H.K. Kumaraswamy and the Congress Legislature Party on Friday approached the Supreme Court with separate applications. Mr. Kumaraswamy said Governor Vajubhai Vala was intruding into the conduct of the trust vote and was even dictating the time it should be held.

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CONGRESS'S CHARGE PAGE 12

## Tough trek



**Long path to devotion:** Devotees near Mahagunas Top in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir while on their way to visit the Amarnath shrine earlier this week. Over 6,000 pilgrims offered worship at the cave shrine of Lord Shiva on Friday, officials said. ■ PTI

## Three killed in Bihar over 'buffalo theft'

Police detain two for interrogation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHAPRA

Three people were beaten to death by a mob in Saran district of Bihar on Friday, alleging that they attempted to steal a buffalo, the police said. The families of the victims denied the allegation.

Raju Nat, Bides Nat and Naushad Qureshi were attacked at Nandlal Tola of Pithauri village in the Baniapur police station limits in the

early hours. Two of them were killed on the spot. Another died of injuries on the way to hospital, Superintendent of Police Har Kishore Rai said. He said two or three people have been picked up for interrogation.

DSP Ajay Kumar Singh rushed to the village as a clash erupted between the alleged attackers and the family members of the deceased

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## Supreme Court questions need for NRC sample reverification

Centre, Assam had wanted July 31 deadline extended

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the plea made jointly by the Centre and Assam to indefinitely extend the deadline for the publication of the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) from July 31 to conduct a "sample reverification" to quell the "growing perception" that lakhs of illegal im-

migrants might have made it to the list.

The Centre and Assam had urged the court for more time to cross-check "wrong inclusions and exclusions" from the draft published on July 30, 2018. They said a 20% sample reverification of the names included in the draft should be conducted in districts bordering Bangladesh and a

10% reverification in the other districts. But the court voiced its scepticism. It referred to NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela's reports and said reverification seemed to have been done during the disposal of claims.

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INCLUSION OVER EXCLUSION EDITORIAL

## Dissent in Cong. over search for party chief

'Informal' process questioned by MPs

SOBHANA K NAIR NEW DELHI

A clutch of Congress leaders are planning to raise questions about the legitimacy of an informal process under way for selecting a successor to Rahul Gandhi, who resigned as party president in May. The MPs are likely to begin a public battle demanding that the Congress Working Committee be disbanded, and fresh elections

be held to put a new committee in place. "If the president has resigned, the CWC has to be automatically disbanded and there should be elections... If we can get elected under such adverse circumstances, why should nominated members decide the future of the Congress?" a Lok Sabha member said.

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## Finish Babri case in nine months: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The trial in the Babri Masjid demolition case, in which prominent BJP and Sangh Parivar leaders such as L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharti are accused of criminal conspiracy, should be completed in nine months, the Supreme Court ordered on Friday.

TENURE EXTENDED PAGE 12

## Priyanka stopped on way to U.P. village

Congress leader sits on road in protest, escorted to Chunar guest house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

The gunning down of 10 tribal people by a village head and his associates over a land dispute in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district on Wednesday, led to the unfolding of a political drama on Friday, with the State government preventing Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from travelling to the affected area to meet the kin of the victims.

The day began with Ms. Vadra first visiting the BHU trauma centre in Varanasi and meeting some of those injured in the firing.

### Section 144

However, when she moved towards Ghorawal in Sonbhadra, 80 km south, government officials stopped her in Narayanpur on the way to Mirzapur. The administration also imposed Section 144 of the CrPC in Sonbhadra, which restricts assembly of more than four



**No going back:** Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra sitting on a road in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday after she was stopped from proceeding to Sonbhadra. ■ PTI

persons. Flanked by her security guards and Congress leaders, Ms. Vadra sat on the road in protest and demanded that the officials show her the order or cite the law under which she is being prevented from going to Sonbhadra. She also offered to go there in a group of four keeping in mind Section 144.

Ms. Vadra was then taken to the Chunar guest house in a government vehicle.

She later tweeted that she was kept under arrest for nine hours and asked to furnish a bail bond of ₹50,000 to avoid 14 days of judicial custody.

She said she was prepared to go to jail but would not backtrack on her stand on meeting the kin of the victims.

"We have only come here to meet the families peacefully," she said. She blamed the government for 'lapses' leading to the incident.

"A big atrocity has taken place. What happened to the tribals in Sonbhadra is wrong."

Amid the development, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held the previous Congress governments responsible for the land dispute.

The then Congress government illegally transferred gram sabha land in the name of Adarsh Cooperative Society on December 17, 1955 through an order of the tehsildar, "to snatch the rights of locals."

**Illegal arrest: Rahul** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi came to his sister Ms. Vadra's support, saying her 'illegal arrest' was 'disturbing.'

In a tweet, he said: "This arbitrary application of power, to prevent her from meeting families of the 10 Adivasi farmers brutally gunned down for refusing to vacate their own land, reveals the BJP Govt's increasing insecurity in UP."

## Release pleas of Jessica, Mattoo murder convicts rejected

Manu Sharma, Santosh Kumar Singh rebuffed by Sentence Review Board

SAURABH TRIVEDI JATIN ANAND NEW DELHI

The Sentence Review Board, which is headed by the Delhi Home Minister, on Friday rejected the release pleas of the accused in the Jessica Lal and Priyadarshini Mattoo cases.

In April 2018, Jessica's sister Sabrina Lal, in a letter to the welfare office of Central Jail, Tihar, had mentioned that she had no objection to the release of Manu Sharma as he has spent 15 years in prison. He is serving life im-

prisonment in the murder case. It is the second time the SRB has rejected the premature release plea of Sharma.

The SRB also rejected the request of premature release of Santosh Kumar Singh, who is serving life term for the 1996 rape and murder of law student Priyadarshini Mattoo.

According to Delhi government sources, 205 cases were considered by the seven-member Board which, apart from the Delhi Home Minister, also consists

of a District and Sessions Court judge, a Joint Commissioner of Delhi Police, the Home Secretary, the Law Secretary, the Director General of Prisons and an external expert.

### 59 cases approved

"Of the total number of cases considered by it, the Board was of the view that release be recommended in 59 cases and 145 cases were rejected. One case which was on the list is undergoing adjudication in the Supreme Court, so it was not con-

sidered by the Board," a Delhi government source said.

Sharma's lawyer Amit Sahni said that his client has undergone more than 22 years of incarceration (with remission) and ought to have been recommended for release. He said he will challenge the rejection in Delhi High Court. "In spite of fulfilling all parameters for premature release, his case has been rejected yet again, while convicts who do not fulfil the parameters are released," Mr. Sahni said.

## Foreign national gang-raped

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

A 24-year-old foreign national was allegedly gang-raped by an autorickshaw driver and his friend on Thursday, the police said on Friday. The two accused have been arrested, they said.

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## Now, learn to be happy along with govt. officials

Bimonthly course on introspection opened to Madhya Pradesh public at ₹200 per session

SIDHARTH YADAV BHOPAL

Happiness is a universal virtue worth acquiring. It must be shared, and learning to embrace it collectively can be much more invigorating, so believes the Madhya Pradesh government.

Soothing the tempers of government officials since 2017, the Rajya Anand Sansthan (State Happiness Department) has now opened its doors to the general public.

"Before asking others to work on themselves, you should work on yourself," says Akhilesh Argal, CEO of the department. A bimonthly course on

introspection, Alpviram, can help you become a better human not by means of sermons, but by sharing experiences.

### Positive outlook

At day-long sessions every first and fourth Saturday in Bhopal, master trainers share their journeys to happiness. Until now reserved for government servants, the sessions have been opened to the public at ₹200 per session. "There is no religious angle. Each session has a different trainer," says Mr. Argal.

The department plans to expand the course to other districts, where 50,000 volunteers are running



A session on introspection in progress in Bhopal. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

programmes on happiness, supported by Initiatives of Change, Panchgani.

Temporarily renouncing home to rediscover oneself and know others pursuing a similar quest for happiness

can be revitalising, believes the department. Now, others can accompany officials, on government duty, to attend "Anand Shivirs" in Coimbatore, Bengaluru and Panchgani.

"If you attend a shivir as part of a group instead of individually, there is support and you never feel alone. You go there representing your State and inculcate a sense of cohesiveness," says Mr. Agal.

Around 10 of the 30-40 seats are reserved for the public to attend courses on 'Building Capacity to Live a Fulfilling Life', 'Inner Engineering Retreat' and the 'Art of listening to Yourself'.

Departments shell out around ₹20,000 for officials attending any of the four-day-long courses. Others can also avail of the subsidised price, but the registration window for them closes at least 10 days earlier.