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NEARBY

Now, 62 public figures pen letter to PM

KOLKATA

Two days after a group of prominent citizens wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to end lynching and "religion-based hate crimes", another group of public figures, including CBFC chief Prasoon Joshi, came out with a statement on Friday that sought to counter allegations made in the letter.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 13

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New anti-terror clause will not be misused, says official

The first ones to be designated will be Azhar and Saeed

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The proposed amendment to the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) that enables the government to designate individuals as terrorists will be used "sparingly", a senior government official said on Friday.

Once the anti-terror law is amended, the first ones to be designated on a priority basis will be Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad's Masood Azhar and Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed, the official said.

Rules yet to be defined

The government is yet to define the rules that will govern the Unlawful Activities Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The official said the entire process was non-judicial. It will be decided by officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the "burden of proof" will be on the government.

As of now, there are no specific provisions to initiate legal action against officials who have erred in their decision. The police will be able to act against the individual concerned based on the designation, though the jail term and other punitive actions have not been specified yet.

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Targeting terror

The UAPA (Amendment) Bill will enable the government to designate a person as a terrorist

- The proposal to designate an individual as a terrorist will come from security agencies
- The information will then be corroborated through multiple agencies
- The Home Ministry will examine the proposal. Once the Ministry is convinced, the proposal will be signed by the Home Minister
- The individual can then file an appeal with the Ministry
- The Ministry will have to decide on appeal in 45 days
- The individual can also file an appeal before an independent committee
- The UAPA, first framed in 1967, was amended in 2004, 2008 and 2013

Yediyurappa takes oath as CM, to face floor test on Monday

On first day in office, he announced sops for farmers and weavers

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

B.S. Yediyurappa took oath as the 31st Chief Minister of Karnataka on Friday, three days after the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) government. He is set to take the floor test on Monday to prove his majority. This is the 76-year-old's fourth stint at the helm of the State.

Mr. Yediyurappa's first announcements were sops for farmers and weavers. He said an additional sum of ₹4,000 in two instalments would be given to farmers from the State government under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, which will take the total benefit to ₹10,000, including ₹6,000 from the Centre.

Another term: B.S. Yediyurappa with Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala after being sworn in on Friday. ▪ K MURALI KUMAR

After a Cabinet meeting, he also announced waiver of ₹100 crore in loans borrowed by weavers before March 31, 2019.

He hinted that he would take a re-look at all the programmes of the Kumaraswamy government.

Mr. Yediyurappa was the lone person to be sworn in. He is expected to decide on members of his Cabinet after consulting party president Amit Shah. He is likely to visit New Delhi on Saturday.

Some JD(S) MLAs want to back BJP

In a late-night development, a section of JD (S) MLAs is said to have favoured lending outside support to the BJP. They have authorised former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to take a call, JD(S) leader G.T. Deve Gowda said.

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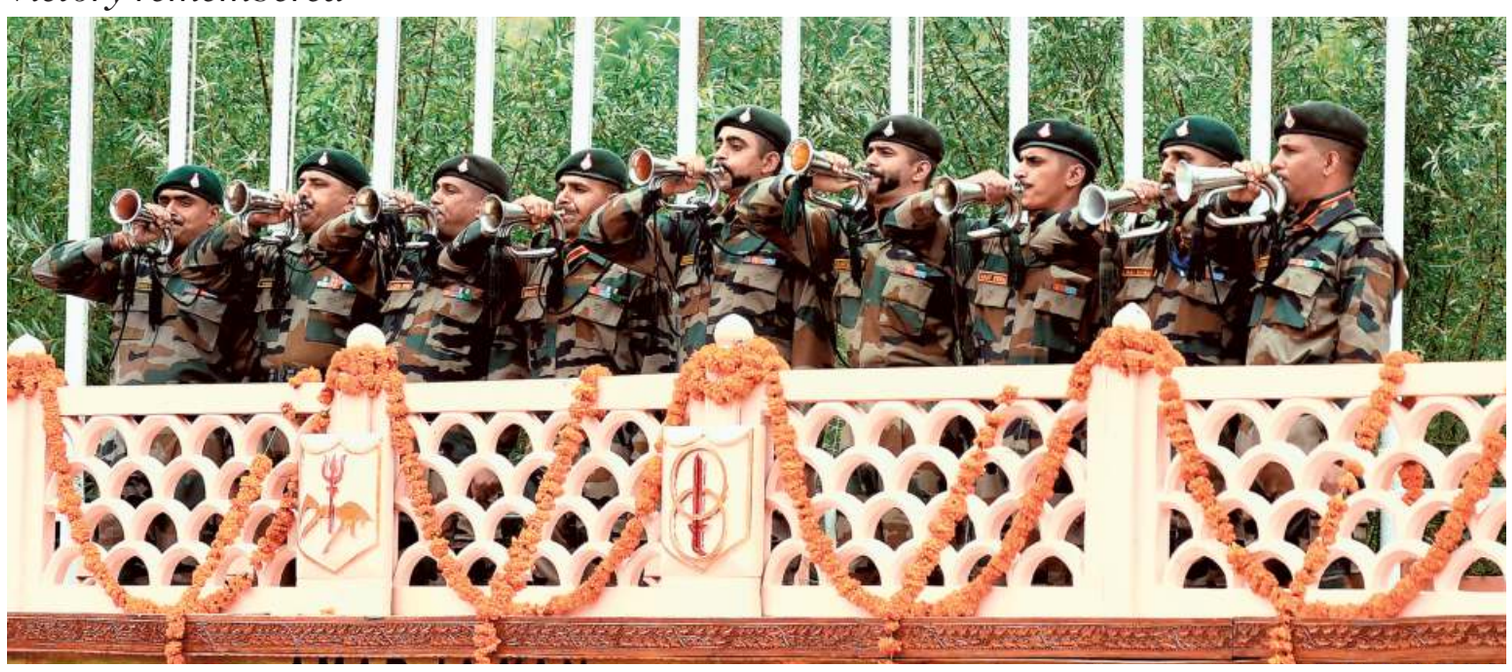
NO FULL TERM ▸ PAGE 8
SECOND SHOT AT POWER ▸ EDITORIAL

Victory remembered



Tribute to heroes: India on Friday commemorated 20 years of its victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War, saluting the supreme sacrifices of those who fell while recapturing several mountain heights from intruders. Soldiers at a memorial in Drass in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD (REPORTS ON PAGE 13)

Apologise or face action, Lok Sabha Speaker tells Azam Khan

SP member told to appear before Om Birla on July 29

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan has been asked to appear before Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on July 29 and tender an unconditional apology in the House for his "sexist" remarks against BJP member Rama Devi.

On Friday evening, the Speaker's office is said to have informed Mr. Khan of the direction to appear before Mr. Birla on Monday. "If Mr. Khan fails to apologise, he may have to face strict action," sources said.

All-round condemnation

Earlier in the day, members, cutting across party lines, condemned Mr. Khan's remarks and demanded "exemplary action" against him.

Azam Khan

Mr. Birla assured them that he would call a meeting of MPs of all parties to decide on the future course of action.

The matter was first raised, during the Zero Hour, by Union Minister Smriti Irani who said Mr. Khan's remarks during the debate on the Triple Talaq Bill on Thursday were a "blot" on all legislators, including men. "This is a blot on all legislators, including men. We cannot remain silent spectators... We have to speak in one voice that this is unacceptable," she said.

Supporting Ms. Irani, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that either Mr. Khan should tender an apology or he should be suspended from the House.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Respond to plea on lynching order: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought the response of the Central government, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the State governments to a plea for the implementation of its July 2018 judgment laying down preventive, remedial and punitive measures to combat lynching.

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, issued notice to the Centre and several States, including Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, on a plea by NGO Anti-Corruption Council of India. The NGO also sought a law to make lynching a cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offence, which has to be tried by a court of law in a time-bound manner.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

'No plans to advance Delhi Assembly election'

CEC clarifies after 'clerical error' triggered speculation; term of House ends in Feb. 2020

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Amid speculation in Delhi's political circles that the Assembly poll would be advanced by a few months, Election Commission of India officials said this week that they had no plan to hold early election.

Asked about reports of the Delhi Assembly poll being held along with those for Haryana and Maharashtra in October, instead of the expected February 2020, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said they were "factually incorrect".

Though the term of the Delhi Assembly is till February 22, 2020, Aam Aadmi Party leaders have expressed apprehension over the ECI advancing the election.

Recently, a "clerical error", according to an ECI official, led to renewed speculation about early election in the Capital. A June 26 communication to the Chief Electoral Officers of Jharkhand, Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi about "media monitoring and paid news" had been "inadvertently issued" to Jharkhand and Delhi, a corrigendum sent to the CEOs on Tuesday said.

AAP concern

Expressing concern, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said: "Our government got elected for five years by the people. Each government has its road map of delivering its promises to the people. We have been hearing that a section in the Central government wants early election because they are nervous of our ongoing works like the CCTV project."

Hitting out at the ECI, Mr. Bharadwaj said: "The Election Commission has lost much of its credibility in the last few years, so it's difficult to believe in their neutrality."

The BJP, however, dismissed AAP's apprehensions. Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said the Central government had nothing to do with the elections.

"AAP is afraid that they have not done any work and that they will not come back to power. They are engaging in gossip. Talk of the government advancing the election is completely baseless," said Mr. Gupta.

Cows exhale oxygen: Rawat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has kicked up a controversy by saying that the cow exhales oxygen, a claim rubbished by livestock and animal husbandry experts.

A video had gone viral on Thursday showing Mr. Rawat extolling the curative powers of the cow at a function here.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 13

Kayakers fight treacherous rapids at Pulikkayam

Seventh edition of Malabar River Festival starts with flagship event of adventure sports promotion society

AABHA RAVEENDRAN
KODENCHERI

Chalippuzha, the narrow yet wild stream that originates in the Western Ghats, is swollen and dangerous. Hence, when three kayakers plunged into the treacherous rapids all of a sudden, the sound of applause could beat that of the wild river. Thus began the 7th edition of the Malabar River Festival (MRF) at Pulikkayam in Kerala's Kozhikode district on Friday.

The MRF features the Malabar International White Water Kayaking Championship, one of the flagship events of the Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society (KATPS), which, in a short time, has won recognition in world kayaking circuits. The MRF is being featured in the event calendar of the International Canoe Federation and *Kayak Session*, a magazine, has named it as one of the top 5 kayaking destinations in Asia. With prize money worth ₹10 lakh, the highest in the world, it is popular among kayakers as well.

Participants from seven countries are in the event organised by the KATPS with the help of the Kozhikode District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) and Madras Fun Tools. Russian paddler Ivan Kozlachkov, Ian Vincent from Australia, Prashant Ale and Subba Gurung from Nepal, Christopher Cartledge from the U.K. and Chelsilyn Ball from the U.S. are taking part in the pro events, while Mohammed Salziali and Mohammed Kamis from Malaysia are taking part in the intermediate events.

Paddling hard: Kayakers from seven countries are taking part in the event at Chalippuzha, Kozhikode. ▪ S.RAMESH KURUP

Athletes from 13 Indian States, including national champions and personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Navy, are also here. At the MRF, the competitions are held in three categories, Slalom, Boater Cross and Down river race. The overall champions will bag the title of Rapid Raja and Rapid Rani in male and female categories. The festival will conclude on Sunday.

Four arrested for posting 'hate song' on social media

Video triggered outrage; arrests in Lucknow, Gonda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh police on Friday arrested four persons for allegedly composing and uploading a "hate song" on social media, which prescribes a place in the graveyard for those who do not chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

The video titled '*Jo Na bole Jai Sri Ram, bhej do usko kabristan*' was widely shared on social media last week and the police had received many complaints against the makers.

The four arrested persons were identified as Rakesh Kumar Verma, owner of the YouTube channel Janta Musical and Pictures on which the video was uploaded, writers of the song Mukesh Pandey and Santosh Yadav, and Varun Upadhyay alias Varun Bahar, the singer seen in the video.

Being quizzed

While Verma was nabbed from the Aliganj area of Lucknow, the other three were arrested from their home district Gonda, police said.

Kalanithi Naithani, Superintendent of Police, Lucknow, said the statements of the four were being recorded.

"They are being questioned to find out if they had uploaded such hate songs on other social media platforms."

In a video uploaded on his personal YouTube channel on July 24, Bahar appeals to *"Hindu brothers, the Bajrang Dal and the Hindu Yuva Vahini"* for their support. He also says that the song was not targeted against any caste or religion. "I sang this song for my religion, the religion I love," he said.