



99% Mumbaikars will now back the Coastal Road Project: Fadnavis

page 7



Double life term for all 10 found guilty in Kevin murder case

page 8



China's Communist Party mobilises against Hong Kong protests

page 14

Nagal goes down fighting to Federer in the US Open first round

page 20



NEARBY



Delhi govt. to expand ambit of free coaching

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government will expand the ambit of its free entrance coaching programme, which currently applies only to Scheduled Caste students, to also cover students belonging to Scheduled Tribe, OBC and EWS quota of general categories, said sources.

CITY • PAGE 3

Hawkers kill teacher for not buying headphones

NEW DELHI
A 27-year-old madrasa teacher was beaten to death by two hawkers outside the Old Delhi railway station after he refused to buy a pair of headphones, the police said on Tuesday. The incident happened on Monday night when Mohammad Owais from Uttar Pradesh's Kandhla arrived at the railway station.

CITY • PAGE 3

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OPPORTUNITIES • PAGE 15

Press Council criticises media curbs in J&K

Body to bat for press freedom in SC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Facing criticism over its stand in the Supreme Court that reasonable restrictions on free speech were acceptable when national interest was at stake, the Press Council of India (PCI) on Tuesday decided to tell the court that it opposes any restrictions on the media in Jammu and Kashmir.

Last week, the PCI sought to intervene in the petition filed by *Kashmir Times* executive editor Anuradha Bhasin, who challenged the restrictions on communications in the State imposed since August 5, when the government revoked the State's special constitutional status and split it into two Union Territories.

Phone and Internet services have remained sus-

N. Ram: action unjustified

The action of the PCI chairman backing the curbs on communication in Jammu and Kashmir was unjustified, N. Ram, Chairman of *The Hindu* Group Publishing Private Limited, said. ► PAGE 13

pend in the Kashmir Valley since then, while mobile internet remains cut in other areas of the State.

In a letter to all PCI members, PCI secretary Anupama Bhatnagar said Ms. Bhasin's petition was expected to come up in the court on Wednesday.

'FOR PRESS FREEDOM' • PAGE 13

'SC's caution not followed in Chidambaram case'

Singhvi recalls ADM Jabalpur case

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A 44-year-old caution from the Supreme Court, probably the only silver lining in one of the most controversial decisions of the court during the Emergency era, was ignored when the Delhi High Court refused to protect former Union Minister P. Chidambaram from arrest in the INX Media case on August 20.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi recalled the stricture in the Supreme Court on Tuesday while arguing Mr. Chidambaram's appeal against arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.

He referred to the "infamous" Constitution Bench verdict in the *ADM Jabalpur* case of 1975, which upheld the State's right to suspend personal liberty under the

Family presses for proof

P. Chidambaram's family on Tuesday dared the Centre to produce evidence of any undisclosed bank account, property or shell companies and accused it of demonising the former Union Minister. ► PAGE 12

draconian Maintenance of Internal Security Act during the Emergency. But still, Mr. Singhvi said, the Bench had warned the High Courts against tasting the "forbidden fruit" of sealed cover missives handed by probe agencies behind the back of the accused.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Jawan kills havildar, self in Chennai camp

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Upset at being punished for dereliction of duty, a jawan shot his superior and killed himself at a camp in Pallavaram on the outskirts of Chennai.

The deceased were identified as rifleman Jagseer Singh, 23, and havildar Praveen Kumar Joshi, 36, attached to the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles unit.

According to the police, on Monday night, there was an altercation between Singh, who was on quarter guard duty at the camp, and Joshi. Sources said Singh was pulled up for being careless as he reported late for duty. He was punished and ordered to do somersaults.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Wings clipped



Snared by wire: A chartered trainer aircraft crashed in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday after one of its wheels got stuck in high-tension wires as it landed at the Dhanipur airstrip. The police said all six passengers are safe. ► PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 9)

Process begins to free J&K political leaders in phases

Those who pose least threat to peace will be released first

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated a process to release at least 173 incarcerated leaders of the regional political parties, including those from the National Conference (NC), the Peoples Conference (PC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in phases in the coming days.

Sources said the Union Home Ministry had passed on directions to the police to finalise the names for release in the first phase. Those who "pose the least threat to the law and order situation" will taste freedom first.

Muharram procession

PC leader Imran Ansari, also a former Minister in the PDP-BJP government, will be among the first to be released as he has complained of "ill-health". Mr. Ansari, a prominent Shia priest, will be allowed to attend the 'Shia tazia' (commemoration) gathering on Muharram, the Islamic calendar's first month, which starts next week.

The police report suggests there are fears that the Muharram procession "may turn into an anti-India protest this time". Mr. Ansari would be key to preventing such a situation.



No work: Shopkeepers outside their closed shops in the tourist resort of Gulmarg on Tuesday. ► NISSAR AHMAD

Many Shia priests will be called in the coming days "to seek their assurances on the law and order situation."

Police sources said prominent "ailing and ageing leaders" of the regional parties might be considered first for release.

NC's Ali Muhammad Sagar, a former legislator and Minister, and PDP's Nayeem Akhtar, also a former legislator and Minister, were being considered for release in the first batch. However, former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah of the NC and Mehbooba Mufti of the PDP are unlikely to be released in the first phase "on account of fears of eruption of protests".

More than 173 mainstream leaders and activists have been arrested in the clampdown, coinciding with the August 5 decision to re-

voke the State's special status. *The Hindu* has been able to access official data on the detention of legislators, former Ministers and party leaders. Around 70 leaders from the NC, 79 from the PDP, 12 from the PC and 12 from the Congress are under detention in the Valley. Around 30 are lodged in Centaur Hotel, declared a sub-jail, and many remain detained in their houses.

Authorities lifted restrictions from 12 more police station areas, taking the number to 81 out of 109, even as the shutdown continued for the 23rd day. "Ten more will be added by Wednesday," said Information Director Syed Sehrish Ashgar.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12
POSTERS EMERGE • PAGE 13

Rare tarantula sighted in Villupuram district

The known habitat of Peacock Parachute Spider is in degraded forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh

S. PRASAD
VILLUPURAM

In an interesting find, researchers have sighted a critically endangered species of tarantula for the first time beyond its known habitat in the Eastern Ghats.

The spider belonging to the genus *Poecilotheria*, commonly known as the Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula was spotted by a team of researchers of the Pudukkottai-based Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF) in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in Villupuram district.

Chance spotting

The team of wildlife



Unusual home: The spider was sighted in the Pakkamalai reserve forests near Gingee. ► P. ARAVIND AATHI

researchers was involved in field work in the reserve forests recently when they sighted a Gooty Tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*) resting in a cave. The species was later cross-

matched with photographic evidence published by the Zoo Outreach Organisation and Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society. The species, known to be endemic to India, was

found at different locations in the reserve forests.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorised it as Critically Endangered.

According to K. Raman, founder of IBF, "The spider was sighted way back in 1899 by Reginald Innes Pocock on the basis of a single female specimen in Gooty. About 102 years later this species has been recorded at degraded forest between Nandyal and Giddalur in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh.

IUCN says on its website that it could not be said to occur naturally in Gooty, since it could have come from the Eastern Ghats at least 100 km away.

S. Vimalraj, a wildlife

researcher said the species had so far not been sighted in any other part of India or Sri Lanka except its known habitat in Andhra Pradesh.

Not surveyed before

According to Zeeshan A. Mirza, Researcher at National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, "This is an interesting find as this area has never been surveyed before. Species of this genus can be identified based on the banding patterns on the underside of the legs. Tarantulas are biological pest controllers and there is a huge demand for them by collectors in the pet trade. There is an urgent need to protect them."

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