

Ayodhya: Mediation fails, daily hearing from Aug 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

ANNOUNCING THAT attempts to find a mediated solution to the Ramjanmabhooni-Babri Masjid dispute have not made any headway, the Supreme Court Friday fixed August 6 to commence day-to-day hearing on appeals challenging the 2010 verdict of the Allahabad High Court on the division of the disputed Ayodhya site.

"We have received the report submitted by Justice (ret'd) FMI Kalifulla, Chairman of the Mediation Committee. We have perused the same. The mediation proceedings have not resulted in any final settlement. We, therefore, have to proceed with the hearing of the cases/appeals, which will commence on and from 6.8.2019 (Tuesday)," Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, heading a five-judge Constitution Bench, said.

CJI Gogoi is due to retire on November 7 and Friday's **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

ARMY, POLICE POINT TO PAK WEAPONS, INTEL ON TERROR

Jitters in Valley: J&K calls off Yatra, tells tourists to leave

Political parties in huddle, BJP stays away; Mehbooba leads delegation to Governor

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 2

AS SECURITY forces stepped up operations in the Valley and the Army corps commander and police chief spoke of "fresh inputs of increase in violence by terrorists", the J&K administration, in an unprecedented move, called off the annual Amarnath Yatra ahead of time and ordered yatis and tourists to leave the Valley immediately.

An estimated 11,000 tourists, including yatis and over 200 foreign visitors, are currently in the Valley, government officials told *The Indian Express*.

In an order issued Friday, Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary (Home), said: "Keeping in view the latest intelligence inputs of terror threats, with specific targeting of the Amarnath Yatra, and given the prevailing security situation in the Kashmir Valley, in the interest of safety and security of the tourists and Amarnath Yatra, it is advised that they may curtail their stay in the Valley immediately and take necessary measures to return as soon as possible."

This comes a day after Army chief General Bipin Rawat, Northern Army Commander Lt General Ranbir Singh and XV **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Lal Chowk in Srinagar after tourists and yatis were told to leave. Shuaib Masoodi **REPORTS, P8**

EXPLAINED
E.
Unprecedented, thickens fog

THE ORDER to tourists and yatis is unprecedented. Even at the height of militancy, the Yatra kept its date. This adds to the uncertainty in the Valley. The seizure of Pak-origin weapons strengthens New Delhi's case that the terror tap from across the border is still very much open.

Days ago, Governor said no need to panic but series of orders did just the opposite

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 2

THE UNPRECEDENTED order to curtail the Amarnath yatra abruptly is the latest in a series of government actions that has fuelled uncertainty and spread panic in the Kashmir Valley. People are queueing up at petrol pumps, outside grocery shops and ATMs, to stock up on supplies fearing the unknown. Airlines have waived cancellation charges, tourists are packing

up to leave, even the National Institute of Technology in Srinagar issued a notice, citing the district administration, that class work for all courses "stands suspended till further orders".

"We have inputs of a major militant strike on the Yatra and the tourists. There have been some recoveries too, as revealed by the Director General of Police and the Corps Commander in the press conference. That's why this decision," Additional DGP (Law and Order) Munir Khan **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Jaishankar and Pompeo in Bangkok, Friday. AP

Kashmir talks: Trump backs off, Jaishankar draws the line

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

HOURS AFTER US President Donald Trump said he would "certainly intervene" on the Kashmir issue if New Delhi and Islamabad wanted him to, India, for the second time in less than two weeks, rejected any mediation on Jammu and Kashmir. Significantly, Trump did not reiterate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked him to intervene — a clear indication of a back-pedal from his claim last month.

This sets the stage for a possible meeting between Modi and Trump at the G-7 summit meeting in France between August 24 and 26.

India's firm but polite rejection of the offer came when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, after meeting US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo in Bangkok, said on Friday that "any discussion on Kashmir, if at all warranted, will **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

OVERSEAS BOND: GOOD IDEA, NOT YET
BY DUVVURI SUBBARAO
PAGE 14

After L&T chief, it's HDFC chief Parekh: Slowdown is here

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 2

A DAY after Larsen & Toubro chairman AM Naik went public with his concerns over the state of the economy, HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh Friday said there has been a distinct slowdown and that the problem was compounded by the tight liquidity situation in non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) and the continuing reluctance of banks to lend.

"To my mind, what is critical is re-instilling confidence in lenders to support growth in the economy," Parekh said.

According to Parekh, the challenge today is risk averse-

GATHERING CLOUD

■ Car sales down; since July 2018, passenger vehicle sales fell in 11 of 12 months.

■ June 2019 quarter, the worst quarter for industry in the last 18 years

■ Tractors saw sharpest monthly fall in production: over 32% in June 2019.

■ IL&FS crisis squeezed liquidity for NBFCs

ness. "Banks are reluctant to lend and there has been a flight to **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

AN EXPRESS SERIES PART III

Deradicalisation's core curriculum step by step

Translating books to fielding officer-friends: how police worked out SOP

SAGAR RAJPUT & ZEESHAN SHAIKH
MUMBAI, AUGUST 2

FROM "FRIEND-OFFICERS" tracking "candidates" for five years to meeting at cafes and restaurants, from professional psychologists to preparing a two-volume compendium of writings on Islam, jihad and terrorism — all translated into Marathi. This is part of the core curriculum of the Maharashtra Police's deradicalisation programme. And along with this, two assurances: no

criminal case will be registered against a "candidate" selected for the deradicalisation programme; and complete confidentiality — other than immediate family, not a word to relatives, neighbours or employers.

"And that word is being kept," said an IPS officer familiar with the programme who spoke on the condition that he not be named. "It took us some trial and error and efforts over 7-8 months to develop a Standard Operating Procedure. We had one by the beginning of 2017." **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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