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Mehbooba

meets Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Chief Minister and

Mufti met Governor Satya

Pal Malik on Friday night

order asking tourists and

Amarnath pilgrims to leave

India rejects U.S.

offer yet again

External Affairs Minister S.

Jaishankar on Friday again

mediate on Kashmir when

conference in Bangkok. The

U.S. President on Thursday

made a renewed offer to

mediate. ▶ PAGE 13

he met Secretary of State

Michael Pompeo on the

sidelines of an ASEAN

rejected the U.S. offer to

PDP leader Mehbooba

and sought to dispel

as soon as possible.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

rumours fuelled by the

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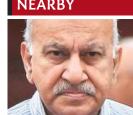
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**Editor of paper founded** by Akbar defends him

Editor of The Sunday Guardian Joyeeta Basu, who appeared before a court here on Friday in support of a criminal defamation case filed by M.J. Akbar, said she had "no personal knowledge" of the alleged sexual misconduct claimed by Priya Ramani against the former Union Minister CITY ▶ PAGE 4

#### Kapil Mishra disqualified under anti-defection law

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday disqualified rebel AAP MLA Kapil Mishra under the antidefection law

**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3



# Tourists, pilgrims told to exit J&K amid security concerns

'Landmine with Pak. ordnance factory marks recovered on route to Amarnath'

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Tourists and the Amarnath pilgrims were directed to "curtail their stav in Iammu & Kashmir" on Friday, as the Army said the Pakistani Army and terrorists were "planning to upscale violence" and tried to "target the yatra recently."

Meanwhile, several civilian installations were evacuated in the Valley for troop accommodation, sparking a fresh wave of panic.

"Latest intelligence inputs suggest specific threat to the yatra," read the advisory issued by Shaleen Kabra, principal secretary in the State's Home Department.

#### Searches on routes

Earlier in the day, General Officer Commanding (GOC), 15 Corps, Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillon, revealed that an antipersonnel landmine was found during the searches on the twin routes to the Amarnath shrine, "following specific intelligence inputs."



Weapon seized: Soldiers displaying a sniper rifle recovered from an Amarnath Yatra route in Srinagar. • NISSAR AHMAD

"The landmine bore the marks of a Pakistan ordnance factory. A U.S. (M-24) sniper rifle was also in the cache of arms recovered. The Pakistan Army and terrorists are desperate to disrupt peace in J&K. Searches on the trek routes and the highways are going on," Lt. Gen. Dhillon said, without divulging any further details.

The Army officer warned Pakistan of "serious action" in case it resorted to ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) or infiltration bids in the State

**REIN IN STONE THROWERS, SAYS ARMY** ▶ PAGE 13 **CENTRE CONFIRMS AUGMENTING OF FORCES** ▶ PAGE 13 **VALLEY OF FLAWS** > EDITORIAL

## appeals from Aug. 6 Mediation attempts have failed: CJI

SC to hear Ayodhya

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Efforts to mediate a final settlement between the Hindu and Muslim parties in the Ayodhya title dispute cases had failed, a Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, said on Friday.

Now the court will commence hearing the appeals from August 6 on a day-today basis. The Bench said the appeals of Nirmohi Akhara and deity Ram Lalla would be heard first.

20 days sought

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for the Muslim parties, objected. He asked why the Bench chose to hear these two parties first. He said some of the Muslim parties had filed first.

But the court did not relent. Mr. Dhavan then submitted that he would need 20 days to argue his case and his submissions should not be curtailed. "We will see about it... Let us start hearing the appeals," Chief Justice Gogoi replied.



Mahant Dharamdas Ji Maharaj after the hearing on

On July 18, the Bench asked the mediation committee, led by former Supreme Court judge F.M.I. Kalifulla, to submit a report on the outcome of the mediation proceedings held between July 31 and August 1 with Hindu and Muslim parties to amicably resolve the over 70-year-old Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12 **AYODHYA ISSUE WAS CLOSE** 

#### U.P. 'accident' case won't be moved to Delhi

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday suspended its decision a day before to transfer outside Uttar Pradesh the CBI case on the car-truck collision that left the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer critically injured and killed two of her relatives.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi and Deepak Gupta urgently assembled late in the afternoon to hear Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submit that the immediate transfer of the 'accident' case to Delhi would raise jurisdictional hiccups for the Judicial Magistrate, CBI, Lucknow, to remand the accused and to grant permission to the CBI for custodial interrogation of the accused persons.

Allowing the plea, the Bench modified its decision to the extent of keeping in abeyance the transfer of the case to a CBI court in Delhi till the investigation is completed.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12

### 3 booked in different + States for triple talaq

Affected women invoke new law

STAFF REPORTER

A day after President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Triple Talaq Bill passed by Parliament on Tuesday, three men have been booked under the new law.

Maharashtra on Thursday registered its first case, with the Mumbra police booking a Vikhroli resident for allegedly sending his wife a triple talaq message on WhatsApp. The other two cases were in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Mumbra police said Jannat Patel on Thursday filed a complaint against her husband Imtiaz Gulam Patel, alleging that he had an extramarital affair and married his mistress after sending a triple talaq message on WhatsApp. Senior inspector Madhukar Kad said that



Jannat Patel filed a complaint against her husband on Thursday.

though the incident occurred in November, she approached the police on Thursday. Police in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, registered a case against Ikram for pronouncing triple talaq on his wife, Jumirat.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12 **LAW CHALLENGED** ▶ PAGE 9

### Maldives leader stays put on boat off T.N. coast

India rejects Adeeb's asylum plea

Former Maldives Vice-President Ahmed Adeeb Abdul Ghafoor, who fled his country and was detained by Indian authorities off the Thoothukudi coast on Thursday afternoon, stayed put on the boat anchored near the old harbour for the second day on Friday.

Further orders were awaited from the government. Meanwhile, a law firm representing him has confirmed that he was seeking asvlum in India.

official However, an aware of the developments told *The Hindu* that India was "working out the details" for Mr. Adeeb's repatriation, which is likely to be done in the next two days. Mr. Adeeb could be es-



The boat with Ahmed Adeeb in Thoothukudi on Friday. • N. RAJESH

corted back to Male by air or sea, but the decision that he would not be allowed to stay in India seems final.

The 37-year-old fled the Maldives after he was summoned for questioning over the theft of \$90 million from state coffers.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12

# DU among institutions named for eminence tag

Five private institutes among those denied the status due to absence of rankings

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

IIT Madras and Kharagpur, Delhi University, University of Hyderabad, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and VIT are among the 20 institutions recommended for the grant of Institutions of Eminence status by the University Grants Commission on Friday.

However, the UGC denied the tag to five private institutes - Azim Premji University, Ashoka University, KREA University, Indian Institute for Human Settlements and the Indian Institute of Public Health - on the ground that they have not been placed in any global or national rankings. Since their exclusion left a vacant slot on the list of private universities given the tag, the Satya Bharti Foundation - telecom major Airtel's philanthropic arm – became the second greenfield institution to be given IoE status, af-



freedom to decide fees and course durations. • FILE РНОТО

ter Jio Institute which is backed by the Reliance

Foundation. "We considered two types [of institutions], those which are already ranked well and those which are potential institutions. We might have felt something has potential, but the government may feel something else, they may have felt that if an institution is not ranked at all it cannot be considered. It is entirely justified," said N. Gopalaswami, former Chief Election Com-

missioner, who headed the expert panel which initially identified the list of IoEs.

> The IoE scheme is aimed at developing 20 world-class institutions which would put India on the global education map. Those selected will be gi-

ven greater autonomy and freedom to decide fees, course duration and governance structure.

Five public universities did not make the cut. Tezpur, Panjab and Andhra universities were left out as they were not ranked. Savitribai Phule Pune University and Aligarh Muslim University are both in the same 801-1,000 slab in the OS World rankings as Banaras Hindu University; however, BHU squeaked through as it was higher placed than the other two in the India rankings.

Anna University and Jadavpur University have been given the IoE tag on a conditional basis as they are State universities. Their status will be finalised only after the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal governments issue an official communication allocating their share of funds (up to

The other institutions which have been recommended for IoE status are Jamia Hamdard, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, OP Jindal Global University and Shiv Nadar University.

# Disappointed burglar leaves a note behind

Was it justified to leave an empty cash chest when he had risked his life, he asked

S. PRASAD

Burglars often leave some evidence at the scene after pulling off a successful heist. But one burglar, who broke into a grocery shop in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district only to come upon an empty cash chest, left behind a handwritten note with a lesson on risk and reward

for the shop owner. According to the police, the burglar gained entry into the shop in the Mandarakuppam locality by removing the tiles on the roof of the premises on Thursday. He then proceeded to look for the cash chest, but to his dismay, found that it was

Frustrated by the experience, he ransacked the shop and wrote a note in Tamil on a piece of





Failed mission: Articles lie strewn in the shop, left, and the handwritten note from the perpetrator. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

paper that he took from the shop. In it, he asked the owner, "Is it justified on your part to keep the cash chest empty when I had come to steal risking my life?" He went on to add: "To express my disappointment I have performed this 'monkey'

act [the ransacking]." The elderly shop owner

Jayaraj discovered the

attempted burglary, the ransacking, and the note, when he came to the shop in the morning. He was amused by the note on the cash chest, but

lost no time in filing a

police baffled as thieves, if they leave behind clues, do so unwittingly. Handwritten clue

The incident left the

complaint with the Mandarakuppam Police.

This is the first time we have come across such a case in our jurisdiction," said a police officer in Cuddalore, referring to the burglar's handwritten note

on the cash chest.

The handwriting could eventually help the police conclusively prove the involvement of the culprit as and when he is traced. In the past, there have

been instances in Tamil Nadu of burglars, after breaking into homes, having cooked a meal or watching television, dozing off, and then leaving without any hurry at the break of dawn.

# No plan yet for people who skipped NRC exercise in Assam

State govt. likely to take it up only after the process is complete

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

What will Assam do with the 3.9 lakh people who had not applied for inclusion in the National Register of Citizens?

They don't seem to be in the current scheme of things, at least while the exercise is on to publish the final list of citizens by August 31, a date fixed by the Supreme Court.

The draft NRC published on July 30, 2018, had excluded 40,07,707 people out of a total of 3,29,91,284 applicants. Another 1,02,462 were filtered out of those who made it to the draft NRC and put in an exclusion list on June 26.

Officials handling the NRC exercise said 36,12,019 out of the 40.07 lakh in the first exclusion list had reapplied. There is no data on how many of those excluded in the second list have reapplied. The State government indi-

cated a plan would be worked out for the non-applicants once the NRC dust settles. "The State Coordinator for NRC is yet to share the details [about those who did not apply]," said Ashutosh Agnihotri, Assam's Home Commissioner and Secretary. Prateek Hajela is the Supreme Courtappointed State Coordinator

Different categories

A university teacher in Assam who did not wish to be named and has been tracking the NRC exercise classifies the non-applicants into four categories: poor migrants, poor indigenous people, indigenous people who have been indifferent to the entire process, and indigenous people living outside Assam who

applied for inclusion in the NRC but did not follow up. People belonging to the last two categories are believed to be very few and not among

those who did not reapply. Studies have revealed that majority of the poor tribal people do not possess or have not preserved legacy data sets of documents that include the 1951 NRC and electoral rolls up to the midnight of March 24, 1971 – to prove their citizenship despite being descendants of the indigenous people of Assam.

"The process unduly victimises the poor and those who have not preserved the legacy data or did not possess the data as the State had not reached out to them before 1971," said Suhas Chakma, director of Rights and Risks Analysis Group, which carried out some of the studies.

### **UAPA Bill gets** Rajya Sabha approval

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 that empowers the Union Home Ministry to designate individuals as terrorists was passed in the Rajya Sabha on Friday with the Congress and the BSP supporting the legislation. In the 240-member House, 147 members voted in favour of the Bill and 42 against.

Parties such as the Trinamool Congress, CPI(M), CPI, DMK, TDP, SP, AAP and the RJD opposed the Bill. It was passed in the Lok Sabha on July 24. With the Rajya Sabha giving its assent, the Bill will soon be notified as a law. Home Minister Amit Shah said gathering evidence against terrorists was a complex process, and the law would help security agencies remain two steps ahead of them. **DETAILS ON ▶** PAGE 12

A ND-NDE