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**NEW DELHI • PUNE
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NEARBY



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

NEW DELHI
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**

NEW DELHI
Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday disqualified rebel AAP MLA Kapil Mishra under the anti-defection law.

CITY ► PAGE 3

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

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

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Tourists and the Amarnath pilgrims were directed to “curtail their stay in Jammu & 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. Dhillion, revealed that an anti-personnel 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. Dhillion 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

3 booked in different States for triple talaq

Affected women invoke new law

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI/CHANDIGARH

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 Mumbai 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.

Mumbai police said Jan-nat Patel on Thursday filed a complaint against her husband Intiaz Gulam Patel, alleging that he had an extra-marital 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.

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LAW CHALLENGED ► PAGE 9

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

CUDDALORE

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 empty.

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

complaint with the Mandarakuppam Police.

The incident left the police baffled as thieves, if they leave behind clues, do so unwittingly.

Handwritten clue

“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.

SC to hear Ayodhya appeals from Aug. 6

Mediation attempts have failed: CJI

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-to-day 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 Friday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

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 Ramjan-mabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute.

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**AYODHYA ISSUE WAS CLOSE
TO SETTLEMENT ► PAGE 12**

DU among institutions named for eminence tag

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

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

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-



The chosen universities will be given greater autonomy and freedom to decide fees and course durations. • FILE PHOTO

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

Five public universities did not make the cut. Tezpur, Panjab and Andhra universi-

ties 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 QS 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 50%).

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.

UAPA Bill gets Rajya Sabha approval

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

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