

Centre gears up for a tussle with Gujarat govt. over the new MV Act



Sonia Gandhi accuses Modi govt. of abusing the 2019 mandate

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Johnson denies lying to Oueen over suspension of Parliament page 14

Shubman Gill in squad for S. Africa Test series; Rahul dropped, Rohit to open

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NEARBY



DUSU polls: only 40% turn up to cast vote

Amid tight security, students thronged Delhi University campuses to cast their votes for the students' union elections on Thursday. The voter turnout followed the previous years' trends with only about 40% of over 1.3 lakh eligible voters casting their ballot. CITY ▶ PAGE 2

52 errors in J&K

Reorganisation Act NEW DELHI The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act passed by Parliament on August 6 had at least 52 errors. On Thursday, the Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification correcting the mistakes ranging from spelling and grammatical errors to incorrect dates. The Act downgraded and bifurcated the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories -J&K and Ladakh.



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Street fighter

U.P. Minister's remarks

Court's reservations will be recorded in order, says CJI

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, which is hearing the Ayodhya dispute appeals, on Thursday took a serious view of the comment reportedly made by an Uttar Pradesh Minister that the Ram temple would be built on the disputed land as the "Supreme Court is ours".

U.P. Cooperative Minister Mukut Bihari Sharma's comments came at an interaction with the media in Bharaich on Monday.

The Chief Justice said the court condemned such statements, and the parties on both sides of the dispute would get a fair and free hearing. He said the court's reservations would be recorded in its order.

Burden of threats

The 22nd day of the Ayodhya hearing began with senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for the Sunni Waqf Board, informing the court that even his clerk had been bearing the brunt of ridicule and threats for their representation of Muslim parties in the dispute. Mr. Dhavan explained that he was not arguing against the Hindu faith but merely doing his job as

This should not be happening in the country. We deprecate such statements. Both sides are free to put their arguments before court without any fear CHIEF JUSTICE RANJAN GOGOI-LED BENCH

Construction of Ram temple is our resolve. The Supreme Court is ours. The judiciary, this country and the temple [are] ours too

against the Hindu deity RAJEEV DHAVAN ENIOR ADVOCATE OR MUSLIM PARTIES The court, on September 3, issued notice to an 88year-old Chennai man for allegedly intimidating Mr. petition.

Dhavan for representing the Muslim side in the title suit appeals. He had sought contempt proceedings against N. Shanmugham, a retired government official. Mr. Dhavan had annexed a letter from him with his petition. He said this was only one of several instances of threats received by him for appearing in the case. "It needs to be mentioned

that the petitioner has been accosted both at home and on the court premises with intimidating behaviour by several persons," he said, referring to several WhatsApp messages sent by one Sanjay Kalal Bajrangi in this context. He annexed the screenshots of the messages in his

Last week, I received a message

on my Facebook wall. I

Yesterday, my clerk was

received threats.

told that his boss

was arguing

The court also agreed to look into a complaint made by Iqbal Ansari, a litigant in the appeals, about an alleged instance of intimidation and attack on him. Mr. Dhavan had informed the Constitution Bench that Mr. Ansari was accosted by a couple in his house in Faizabad. They told him to withdraw from the case or face dire consequences. The woman had even introduced herself as an "international shooter".

Ayodhya: SC frowns on Capital's power skyline set to change

Govt. plans new Parliament, common Central Secretariat, new-look Central Vista

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI The Centre is planning on changing the skyline of the historic seat of power in New Delhi, with a new or completely retrofitted Parliament building, one common Central Secretariat for all Ministries after demolition of existing office buildings and redevelopment of the 3-km Central Vista that stretches from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

The ambitious project of the Narendra Modi government was set in motion with the publication of a request for proposal (RFP) by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's Central Public Works Department on September 2. Design and architecture firms – both domestic and foreign – were invited to a pre-bid meeting on Thursday, ahead of the last date for submission of bids on Sep-



building by the time India celebrates its 75th I-Day. ■ FILE РНОТО

tember 23, according to the RFP document and sources in the Ministry

By the time India celebrates its 75th Independence Day on August 15, 2022, the government is aiming to have a brand-new Parliament building in the vicinity of the existing one or a retrofitted version of the British-built building, Ministry sources

While sources said there has been no decision yet on which buildings would stay, discussions within the government so far have leaned towards not altering Parliament, Rashtrapati Bhavan and North and South Blocks which house offices of the Finance. Home. Defence and External Affairs Ministries from the exterior. However, the buildings could house museums and convention

Government buildings like Shastri Bhawan are likely to be razed and high-rises built for more office space, the sources said.

centres.

The demand for a new Par-

liament building had been raised recently by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairperson Venkaiah

"Parliament House building was completed in 1927; it has been declared a Heritage Grade-I building. Its facilities and infrastructure are inadequate to meet the current demand," the RFP states.

The buildings in the 3-km Central Vista will be redeveloped, refurbished or demolished. "These new iconic structures shall be a legacy for 150 to 200 years at the very least," the RFP states.

According to the document, the new Parliament should be in place by July 2022, the common Central Secretariat by redeveloping existing buildings by March 2024 and a new-look Central Vista with public amenities by November 2020.

Incidents of lynching unfortunate: Reddy

Centre to speak to Jharkhand on scaling down of charges in Ansari case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said on Thursday that incidents of lynching were unfortunate and the Centre would speak to the Jharkhand government about the dropping of murder charges against the suspects in the case of lynching of Tabrez Ansari.

Speaking to reporters at the Bureau of Police Research and Development headquarters here, he said, "I do not know what happened in the courts... but those behind the criminal activity should be punished. We will speak to the State government. All governments

I do not know what happened in the courts.. but those behind the criminal activity should be punished. We will speak to the State government. All governments should stop lynching. It is not that lynching is happening only in BJP-ruled States; it happened in West Bengal too G. KISHAN REDDY MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME

not that lynching is happening only in the BJP-ruled States; it happened in West Bengal, too. The Prime Minister has also spoken against it."

Asked about the police

against the 13 accused from murder to culpable homicide, he said, "Law will take its own course."

On Tuesday, the police dropped murder charges against all 13 accused in the scaling down the charges Ansari lynching case

According to the chargesheets, 11 persons accused of beating Ansari, a 24-yearold man, to death will now face trial under Section 304 of the IPC, which deals with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, instead of murder charges under Section 302.

On June 17, Ansari, of Kamadia village near Seraikela, was caught by a mob a few kilometres from his house and branded a thief. He was then tied to a pole, brutally beaten and forced to chant 'Jai Hanuman' and 'Jai Shri Ram'. The police then sent him to prison. On June 22, he succumbed to injuries.



West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee during a padayatra against the National Register of Citizens in Assam, in Kolkata on Thursday. • RAJEEV BHATT (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

Retail inflation hits 10-month high in August

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Retail inflation rose incrementally in August to hit a 10-month high of 3.21% on quickening food price rises, official data released on

This compares with 3.15% in July. Within the index, inflation in the food category touched a 14month high of 2.96% in August, from 2.33% in July.

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TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN Days after Finance Minister

Thursday showed.

SC: Cogent reasons for HC judge transfers

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Thursday issued a statement that each recommendation for transfer of Chief Justices and judges of the High Courts were made for cogent reasons, in compliance with the required procedure, in the better interest of administration of justice.

The statement said each of the transfer recommendations was made after "full and complete deliberations". The recommendations were made by the Collegium unanimously.

The statement was issued by Supreme Court Secretary General Sanjeev S. Kalgaonkar.

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IRCTC plans a slew of goodies for Tejas Express

It will pay Railways lease, haulage fees

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

The Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will be the first train that will not be operated by the Railways, perhaps as early as the first week of October.

The Ministry of Railways plans to allow private players to operate certain trains, and as part of its 100day agenda, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been asked to run two trains. The second, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Tejas Expess, is likely to start operations this December.

To make the travel attractive, on offer are: free travel insurance worth ₹25 lakh, on-board infotainment services, doorstep baggage col-



Tejas Expess is likely to start operations this December.

lection, local food and no tatkal quota. IRCTC, a public sector undertaking, will pay the Railways lease and haulage charges for running these trains. However, the loco-pilots, guards and station masters will be from the Railways.

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Delhi HC allows Faesal to withdraw detention plea

'At liberty to pursue remedies under law'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court on Thursday allowed bureaucrat-turned-politician Shah Faesal to withdraw the plea challenging his detention from IGI Airport here on August 14 in the wake of the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

A Bench of Justices Manmohan and Sangita Dhingra Sehgal granted Mr. Faesal permission to withdraw his plea after his wife filed an affidavit in this regard.

The politician's wife told the High Court that she recently met him in custody and has received instructions to withdraw the habeas corpus plea, which requires a person under detention or illegal custody to be brought before a Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the Centre, did not oppose the withdrawal of the plea.

The court also made it clear that it had not expressed its opinion on the controversy or the arguments and that Mr. Faesal was at liberty to pursue remedies under law at an appropriate time. The former IAS officer's

habeas corpus petition alleged that he was illegally detained at the Delhi airport on August 14 and taken back to Srinagar, where he has been kept under house arrest. He claimed in his petition that he was on his way to Harvard University in the

'Maths never helped Einstein discover gravity'

on Wednesday said people

Nirmala Sitharaman attributed the slump in the automobile sector to millennials using Ola and Uber, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

should not be too concerned with GDP maths, since "maths never helped Einstein discover gravity". "Don't go by all these cal-

culations you see on TV, that if the country has to become

a \$5 trillion economy, it will have to grow at 12% but right now it is currently growing at 6-7%," Mr. Goyal told reporters following a meeting with the Board of Trade.

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