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NEARBY



Batala blast a result of multiple lapses: official

BATALA
The Batala firecracker factory incident, that has not just left the family members of the victims but also local residents furious, was a result of "multiple lapses", officials have said.

NORTH • PAGE 5

Kashmiri youth beaten by mob in Neemrana

JAIPUR
A Kashmiri youth studying in an aeronautical engineering college was tied to an electric pole and allegedly beaten up by a mob in Neemrana town of Rajasthan's Alwar district on Wednesday night. The mob claimed that the youth, dressed in a woman's clothes, was looking suspicious.

NORTH • PAGE 5

IGIA to try facial recognition entry

NEW DELHI
Starting today, a mere facial scan will allow Vistara passengers to zip through Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, which has commenced a three-month trial for paperless travel. Passengers need to follow some simple steps to experience this futuristic way of travelling.

CITY • PAGE 2

FRIDAY REVIEW • 8 PAGES (TABLOID)

Chidambaram sent to Tihar jail till Sept. 19 in INX Media case

Former Minister, son get anticipatory bail in Aircel-Maxis money laundering case

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Thursday sent former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram to custody in Tihar jail in the INX Media case, even as another court granted anticipatory bail to him and his son Karti in the Aircel-Maxis money laundering case.

Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar said: "Having considered all the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature of offences and the stage of investigation, which is still in progress, the accused is remanded in judicial custody till September 19."



In custody: P. Chidambaram being taken to Tihar jail in New Delhi on Thursday. •PTI

"I am only worried about the economy," Mr. Chidambaram commented, when a reporter asked him if he had anything to say after the court ordered his judicial custody.

Earlier, the CBI produced him before the court and urged it to send him to judicial custody, submitting that he was an influential person in public life and wielded substantial and pervasive influence over witnesses, having the potential to tamper with evidence.

Opposing the prosecution plea, Kapil Sibal, counsel for Mr. Chidambaram, argued that the CBI had not brought anything on record to even suggest that his client had ev-

er tried to influence the witnesses or interfere in the investigation.

'Ready to surrender'

Mr. Sibal further argued that his client was ready to surrender to the Enforcement Directorate in the money laundering case since his appeal challenging the Delhi High Court order denying him protection from arrest had been dismissed.

Mr. Chidambaram also filed an application in the court seeking permission to surrender in the money laundering case connected with the INX bribery case. The court sought the ED's reply by September 12.

Earlier, special judge O.P. Saini granted anticipatory bail to the father-son duo in the Aircel-Maxis money laundering case. "Considering the distance of time between the commission of alleged crime and the filing of the instant application, unexplained delay in investigation, there being no possibility of the accused tampering with the evidence or threatening any witness or fleeing from justice and there being no possibility of their committing a similar crime again, I am satisfied that it is a fit case for grant of benefit of anticipatory bail," he said.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12
SC DENIES RELIEF TO CHIDAMBARAM • PAGE 12

A separate cell but no special facilities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

P. Chidambaram, who was brought to Tihar Jail on Thursday evening, will get no special facilities, except a separate cell and a Western toilet as specified by the court, jail officials said. Like other inmates, he will have access to the library, and can watch television for a specified period.

After the mandatory medical check-up, he was lodged in Jail No. 7, which houses those accused in Enforcement Directorate cases. His son Karti was kept in the same cell for 12 days in the same case last year.

A jail official said food is served between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., but it is kept aside for those who arrive late owing to court procedures. The usual dinner menu is roti, dal, sabji and rice.

Mr. Chidambaram will be lodged in the cell from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Breakfast will be served between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. He can drink water from a reverse osmosis plant or buy packaged water from the canteen.

SC allows Iltija Mufti to meet her mother Mehbooba

'Move local authorities for permission to go around in J&K'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed Iltija Mufti to meet her detained mother, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, in Srinagar.

But when she asked the court's permission to move around in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Justice of India Ranjan (CJI) Gogoi orally remarked, "Why do you want to move around? It is very cold in Srinagar." However, the court later recorded that she could move the district authorities for permission to move around.

The top judge did not pay heed to the government's insistent pleas that Ms. Iltija Mufti had no business moving the "august forum" of the Supreme Court.

The Centre said she should have ideally gone to the local District Magistrate for permission to meet her mother.

Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, PDP leader, has been under detention, along with several others, since August 5 in the backdrop of the dilution of provisions of Article 370, the ensuing curfew and bifurcation of the State into Union Territories. The Valley has been in a state of lockdown for the past month.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal said Ms. Mehbooba Mufti's mother and sister had met her after taking per-

'Tarigami held without order'

CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury informed the Supreme Court that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was "contrary" to the government's claims. With the court's permission, he travelled to the State on August 29 to meet his party colleague M.Y. Tarigami. Mr. Tarigami told him that he was confined to his house for the past 25 days without any detention order. Mr. Yechury said he described his situation as a "de facto arrest." • PAGE 13

A spark can set off a blaze: MP

By withdrawing Articles 370 and 35A, the Centre has added to the volatile situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and with one spark, the blaze could spread, PDP Rajya Sabha member Nazir Ahmed Laway said. "Leaders who trust the Constitution have been put behind bars. Had the government detained the separatists, no one would have shed tears. Why arrest those who worked within the Constitution?" he asked. • PAGE 13

mission from the Magistrate. "Why should she [Ms. Iltija Mufti] come here now?" he asked.

'Ostensible purpose'

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said there might be something more to Ms. Iltija Mufti's appeal than the "ostensible purpose" to meet her mother. But the CJI stopped him short, saying, "It is her privilege to move this forum... Are you going to prevent her from meeting her mother?"

Ms. Iltija Mufti said she was not permitted to leave her house in Srinagar from August 5 to August 22 by the authorities. "There was a

chilling effect on my movement," senior lawyer Nitya Ramakrishna for Ms. Iltija Mufti submitted.

Finally, the court gave Ms. Iltija Mufti, who is now in Chennai, permission to return to Srinagar at a time of her choice to meet her mother in private.

The court recorded the government's assurance that it would "not prevent" her from doing this. It further ordered that CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami be flown to Delhi from Srinagar for treatment at AIIMS.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12
YOUTH SUSTAINED FATAL PELLET INJURIES • PAGE 13

Romila Thapar declines to send CV to JNU

Historian writes letter to the administration explaining what her status means

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Historian Romila Thapar has refused to submit her curriculum vitae to the administration of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), which says it is "reviewing" her position as Professor Emerita. Instead she has written a letter explaining what her status means.

"No, I don't intend to send them my CV. They have contradicted themselves in the letter they sent to me. When the status was originally conferred, it was stated that this was a lifetime honour. They are going back on that, negating what they originally wrote. They have changed the rules, and are applying



Romila Thapar

and writing and was preparing for a workshop even as much of the academic world exploded in outrage at her treatment by JNU. Her CV is available on the university's website. "I sent them a letter explaining what was meant by a Professor Emeritus, for if they knew what it meant they would not be demanding my CV to re-evaluate my status," said Professor Thapar. "The university has not yet responded to me."

She pointed out that the position of Professor Emerita is an honour given on the basis of work already done. "How can it be based on future expectation?" she asked.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

Institute of Eminence tag for five

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Human Resource Development Ministry has awarded the status of Institute of Eminence to IIT-Madras, IIT-Kharagpur, Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University and University of Hyderabad, said an official statement.

Four private universities - Vellore Institute of Technology, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Jamia Hamdard and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology - were issued Letters of Intent to grant them the status.

The Hyderabad map predates the effort by Scottish soldier Colonel Colin Mackenzie of the East India Company, who created maps for the Nizam's Dominions in 1780s. The maps were so useful for the East India Company during the Anglo-Mysore wars that he was made the Surveyor-General of India. A role which is largely forgotten as Mackenzie is remembered more for the manuscripts and oral histories he collected.

Facing ₹11,000 fine, man sets bike afire

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Staring at a hefty fine for drunken driving under the amended Motor Vehicles Act that kicked in this month, a motorcyclist set ablaze his two-wheeler on Thursday, the police said. The man, Rakesh, was fined near Triveni Complex in Chirag Dilli.

Traffic policemen busy enforcing the new regulations stopped Rakesh, a resident of

Sarvodaya Enclave, for driving without a helmet. On putting him through a breathalyser test, he was found driving under the influence of alcohol - 200 mg per 100 ml of blood - the police said. The permissible limit for drunk driving is 30 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood.

While his motorcycle was being impounded, Rakesh set fire to the fuel tank and soon the vehicle was engulfed in flames. He was arrested, the police said.

"As per the amended Motor Vehicles Act, he was challaned ₹10,000 for drunk driving and ₹1,000 for not wearing a helmet," said a traffic police officer.

Delhi Fire Service said it received a call around 2 p.m., but by the time its team reached the spot and doused the flames, the motorcycle was badly gutted.

India lends \$1 billion for Russia's Far East

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VLADIVOSTOK

India on Thursday announced an "unprecedented" \$1 billion line of credit for the development of Russia's Far East, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowing that New Delhi would walk shoulder-to-shoulder with Moscow in its quest for the development of the resource-rich region.

At the plenary session of the Fifth Eastern Economic Forum here, he said it was a "unique case" of India providing such special credit line to another country. "For the development of the Far East, India will give a line of credit worth \$1 billion," he said.

RUSSIA FOR JOINT SUBMARINE DEVELOPMENT • PAGE 13
'ACT FAR EAST' POLICY • PAGE 13

Hyderabad's priceless map lies in neglect

Officials promise steps to conserve it but nothing happens, says caretaker

SERISH NANISETTI
HYDERABAD

It is easily Hyderabad's biggest treasure. A sprawling 10 ft x 10 ft map of the walled city of Hyderabad dating from 1772. Nearly 250 years later, the map is slowly disappearing in one quiet corner of the city at Panjagutta. On the first floor of the Idara-e-Adabiyat Urdu in a damp airless room, without lights, is the big map stretched across a wall. Holding it together are four wooden slats, and a glass pane forms the only protection from the elements. It isn't much of a protection as the dampness seeps inside.

"We have a financial problem. Taking care of the map is beyond our budget.



No protection: The map is made on a cloth, with the lines drawn with vegetable dyes. The colour is flaking off.

Our best protection is the glass sheet," says Rafiuddin Quadri, who takes care of the institution started by his father Mohiuddin Quadri Zore. "We have scholars, government officials coming in and seeing the map, promising steps to conserve

it but nothing happens. It is a cloth map with the lines drawn with vegetable dyes. The colour flakes off when it is touched. The cloth has become brittle," says Mr. Quadri.

The map, as well as a number of artefacts, was

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