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Haryana CM Khattar sees a pro-incumbency factor ahead of election

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62 killed in a blast in Afghan mosque during Friday prayers

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Kohli's India will look for a clean sweep against du Plessis' South Africa

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NEARBY



Six-month jail term to Delhi Assembly Speaker

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Friday sentenced Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, his son Sumit Goel and two others to six months' imprisonment in a trespassing case. However, the court granted them bail on furnishing a bail bond of ₹10,000 with sureties of a like amount by each convict.

CITY ► PAGE 2

October 31 finish line for Naga peace process

NEW DELHI
The Centre will conclude the Naga peace process by October 31 and there will be no separate national flag or constitution for the Nagas, interlocutor R.N. Ravi told *The Hindu*. Accusing National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) of delaying the talks, Mr. Ravi said "endless negotiation under the shadow of guns is not acceptable".

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BGB denies opening fire at BSF personnel

KOLKATA
The Border Guard Bangladesh has denied that it opened fire on BSF personnel, killing one on Thursday in Jalangi area of Murshidabad, central Bengal. The BSF has alleged that the BGB opened fire on its men on the Padma river, killing constable Vijay Bhan.

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CBI files chargesheet against Chidambaram

Karti's firm 'received ₹9.96 lakh without doing any service'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed a chargesheet against 14 accused, including former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and his son Karti, in the INX Media case.

Mr. Chidambaram "misused his official position" in granting approval to an FDI proposal of INX Media and INX News Pvt. Ltd. in lieu of "illegal gratification" in India and through offshore payments, the CBI said.

The agency alleged that a payment of ₹9.96 lakh had been made to Advantage Strategic Consulting Private Limited (ASCPL), which was floated by Mr. Karti, "without delivery of any service".

Among those arraigned in the chargesheet are INX Media, its subsidiary INX News and then director Peter Mukerjee, Chess Management Services Private Limited, ASCPL and Mr. Karti's chartered accountant S. Bhaskararaman.

Indrani Mukerjee, a former INX Media director, turned approver (pardoned) in July with the court's permission. She claimed to have paid \$5 million through the offshore route in lieu of the favours, and having met Mr. Chidambaram, along with Mr. Mukerjee and Vir Sangh-



No relief: P. Chidambaram being taken from a court in Delhi on Thursday, after he was sent to the custody of the ED. ■ PTI

vi, on the FIPB issue in March/April 2007.

The then Additional Secretary Sindhusree Khullar, Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade) Anup K. Pujari, the then Officer-on-Special Duty in the Department of Economic Affairs Pradeep Kumar Bagga, the then FIPB unit Director Prabodh Saxena, Under Secretary Rabin-dra Prasad, and Section Officer Ajit Kumar Dungdung have also been named as accused.

Against those accused, the CBI has invoked Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery for cheating) and 471 (using forged document as genuine) of the Indian Penal Code, along with the rele-

vant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The case was registered on May 15, 2017.

Questioning the timing, Mr. Karti tweeted: "It's been done only to beat the 60-day deadline of my father's [judicial] custody. We will deal with it as per legal procedure and will be vindicated."

The agency is probing the charge that INX Media received ₹403.07 crore in foreign investments against the FIPB approved amount of ₹4.62 crore in 2007. It also made an illegal down-streaming of ₹40.91 crore into its sister concern, INX News.

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CBI IS INCOMPETENT, SAYS SIBAL ► PAGE 13

'Muslims not giving up Ayodhya claim'

SC lawyers refute media reports that consensus was reached at mediation talks

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Five Supreme Court lawyers on Friday issued a joint statement refuting media reports that the Muslim parties were willing to relinquish their claim over the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land. They said the Supreme Court-appointed mediation committee or the Nirvani Akhara could be behind the "leak".

The statement was issued by the advocates for the various Muslim parties, including the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board. They are Ejaz Maqbool, Shakil

RSS expects a favourable ruling

The RSS expects the Supreme Court's verdict in the Ayodhya case to go in favour of Hindus, its 'Sarkaryavah' Suresh Joshi said on Friday. He said the National Register of

Ahmed Syed, M.R. Shamsad, Irshad Ahmad and Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi.

On Wednesday, the parties engaged in the mediation told the media that a settlement report had been filed in the Supreme Court.

Citizens (NRC), compiled in Assam, should be extended to the whole country and the Centre should make efforts to implement a uniform civil code. ► PAGE 12

They claimed that a consensus had been struck among certain Hindu and Muslim parties, in which the Waqf Board was said to have raised no objection to the acquisition of the disputed site by the government. The de-

velopment came on the last day of the Supreme Court hearing of the Ayodhya appeals.

This was followed by news reports attributed to Shahid Rizvi, advocate on record, that the Waqf Board was willing to withdraw the claim to the site of the Babri Masjid.

The lawyers' statement contended that the "recent attempts before the mediation committee were not representative".

The statement said only a "limited" number of persons attended the mediation.

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SC shunts out Assam NRC Coordinator Hajela

No reasons given for transfer to M.P.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A Special Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, on Friday ordered the transfer of Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator Prateek Hajela to Madhya Pradesh.

The Bench, also comprising Justice Rohinton Nari-man, did not mention any reason for the transfer, but said such orders were al-

ways made for a reason.

The judicial order merely read: "Upon hearing Mr. Prateek Hajela, State Coordinator, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General and taking into account the totality of the facts of the case, we order for the inter-cadre transfer of Mr. Hajela to Madhya Pradesh on deputation for the maximum period permissible."



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Terror-funding: FATF retains Pak. on grey list

It cites lack of progress on action plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained Pakistan on the "grey list" and gave a stern warning that it will be blacklisted if it does not fulfil the global standards criteria for combating terrorist financing by February 2020.

The terror financing watchdog discussed Pakistan's actions for countering terror financing and anti-money laundering at the International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) plen-

ary in Paris that concluded on Friday. Pakistan has been under the enhanced monitoring process or grey list since June 2018 and has not made sufficient progress, said FATF president Xiangmin Liu.

"Despite the high-level commitment to fix these weaknesses, Pakistan has not made enough progress but has made tangible progress under this new government, which the FATF welcomes," Mr. Liu said.

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A burning issue



A farmer burns paddy stubble in a field in Hisar district of Haryana on Friday. ■ PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 3)

For over 700 Hindus from Pak., India is their only 'refuge'

Eviction threat looms over settlers on Yamuna floodplains following National Green Tribunal's order

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

Five years ago, when 11-year-old Rajkumari arrived in the national capital from Pakistan's Sindh province, roaming in the neighbourhood and going to a school were things she had not experienced.

Living in a jhuggi near Majnu Ka Tila, she is one of the many people who came to Delhi on a pilgrimage visa and did not go back.

Rajkumari, now 16, says, "Back in Sindh, girls were not allowed to go to schools or leave their homes much. I went to school for the first time after arriving here. I want to study further and continue staying in India as I have more freedom here."

The semi-permanent structures on the banks of the Yamuna, which started with around 480 Pakistani Hindus settling there in



Children of Pakistani Hindu families, living on the Yamuna floodplains near Majnu Ka Tila in New Delhi, returning from school on Friday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

2011, have over 700 residents now (over 120 families). Living amid constant fear of being uprooted from

the place they call home, the residents hope the Indian government will grant them citizenship.

"The pilgrimage visa was just an excuse for us to move out of Pakistan. We reached Delhi with our families in 2011, leaving our farmlands and property behind, to escape the torture we faced there. All we hoped for was better income prospects and a secure life," says Sona Das, the "pradhan" of the area.

With the National Green Tribunal on Thursday directing the Delhi Development Authority to evacuate the residents from the floodplains on account of encroachment, the settlers say that "India is the only place they can expect to take shelter in".

'Rehabilitate us'

"If they want us to vacate we will, but they must rehabilitate us properly. Right now we are leading a life of starvation, but after all we

are Hindus. Why do we have to live like this in this country? If the government does not stand with us, where would we go?" says Das, a daily wage labourer.

Gomti, 45, a homemaker living in the jhuggi since 2014, says managing a family of 10 is becoming "increasingly difficult" because of lack of a steady income. Some of the residents are daily wage labourers, while others have small shops or are street vendors.

Though most residents have obtained Aadhaar cards, they say that after getting citizenship, they can lead a "respectable life". "Our only demand is that the government grant us citizenship and rehabilitate us so that we can lead a respectable life in the country we want to," says 42-year-old Sukhmand pradhan, another labourer.

Rajasthan govt. files appeal in Pehlu Khan lynching case

Sessions court had acquitted all 6 accused in August

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has filed an appeal in the High Court challenging the Alwar sessions court verdict that acquitted all six accused in the Pehlu Khan lynching case. Khan, 55, a dairy farmer from Haryana, was waylaid by a mob of cow vigilantes who accused him of smuggling cows and thrashed him on the Jaipur-Delhi national highway on April 1, 2017, resulting in his death.

The sessions court acquitted all the accused on August 14 of the offences of murder, rioting and unlawful assembly, giving them the benefit of the doubt on the basis of the police probe which had created uncer-



Pehlu Khan

tainty about their involvement in the alleged crime.

Additional Advocate General R.P. Singh said here on Friday that the appeal under Section 378 of the Criminal Procedure Code had been filed earlier this week.

It is yet to be listed for hearing in the Jaipur Bench of the Rajasthan High Court.

Khan's family has also filed a separate appeal in the High Court against the ses-

sions court judgment.

'Multiple lapses'

The State government had appointed a Special Investigation Team on August 17 to look into the reasons behind the acquittal of the six accused. The SIT pointed out multiple lapses in the police probe and found "shoddy investigation" by some officers as the reason for presentation of a weak case.

The Ashok Gehlot government also drew flak for not correcting the course of probe during its tenure. Civil rights groups termed the acquittal a "travesty of justice" and demanded that the State government register cases of criminal negligence against the erring officers.

CJI names Justice Bobde as successor

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has recommended Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde as his successor and the 47th Chief Justice of India in keeping with convention and the seniority norm, sources said. The Chief Justice, due to retire on November 17, has sent his recommendation to the government.

The written communication from the incumbent, ideally a month before his retirement, is the first step in the process of the appointment of the next CJI.

It will be put up before the Prime Minister and forwarded to the President.

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FIR against four policemen in U.P. custodial torture case

DSP, inspector among those booked for murder, assault

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

The Uttar Pradesh police have registered an FIR against four policemen, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police and an inspector, in connection with the alleged custodial torture leading to the death of a 35-year-old man in Pilkhuwa area of Hapur district.

Pradeep Tomar, a security guard, died at a Meerut hospital on October 13. His 10-year-old son claimed that his father was brutally tortured by policemen in his presence at a police station. Police said Tomar had been summoned to Chijarsi outpost for interrogation in connection with a murder case.

The FIR was filed on Thursday after the National



Pradeep Tomar

Human Rights Commission took note of the case and issued notices to the State Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police. The commission has sought action-taken reports within four weeks.

In the FIR, the victim's brother, Kuldeep alias Tejpal, accused DSP Santosh Mishra, SHO Yogesh Baliyan, inspector Ajab Singh and an unidentified policeman of torturing Tomar. The offic-

ers have been booked under Sections 302 (murder) and 323 (assault) of the IPC.

Report confirms torture

The post-mortem report has confirmed the charge of torture. "The cause of the death has not been confirmed. The viscera sample has been preserved. There was blackening of the posterior and signs of contusion on arms and other body parts [of Tomar]," said Superintendent of Police Yesh Veer Singh. He said a departmental probe and a magisterial inquiry have already been ordered into the incident. While Mr. Baliyan and Mr. Singh have been placed under suspension, Mr. Mishra has been transferred to Garhmukteshwar.