

Right to worship a civil right, Hindu side argues in Supreme Court



Miffed Sanjay Nirupam to stay away from Congress campaign Page 12



Mayank scores a double century as India takes control of first Test Page 18



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Four officers killed in Paris police headquarters attack



NEARBY



Delhi Cabinet okays Bill to set up sports university

NEW DELHI The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved a Bill to set up "India's first" sports university in Delhi, which will offer graduation, post graduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Kafeel Khan not given clean chit, says U.P. govt.

Days after an internal inquiry absolved Gorakhpur-based paediatrician Kafeel Khan of the major charges against him in the 2017 BRD Hospital tragedy, the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday asserted that Dr. Khan had not been given a clean chit as

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Manmohan to join first batch of pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib

President, PM to take part in Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary celebrations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has agreed to be a part of the first 'jatha' (batch) of pilgrims to the Sikh shrine of Kartarpur Sahib across the border in Pakistan, while President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Thursday after formally inviting them.

He, however, made it clear that his government's 'jatha', of which Dr. Singh will be a part, will visit only Kartarpur Sahib and not attend the opening ceremony of the Kartarpur Corridor organised by the Pakistan government.

reign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi announced that their government had extended an invitation to Dr.

Last week, Pakistan Fo-

Capt. Amarinder Singh, in a statement, said: "There is no question of me going to



Finishing touches: Work apace at the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan as part of the corridor project. • AFP

Pakistan for the Kartarpur corridor opening and I feel Dr. Manmohan Singh will not go as well. There is a huge difference between visiting Pakistan and going to the Gurdwara through the Corridor." The clarification came af-

ter a section of the media reported that the Chief Minister and Dr. Singh had accepted the Pakistani invite. "As far as visiting Pakistan is concerned, the Chief Minister reiterated that he would not go there until Pakistan stops cross-border terrorism. Punjab was the worst sufferer of cross-border terrorism and he cannot think of going there till it stops," a State government

spokesperson said.

Kartarpur Sahib is a revered shrine of the Sikh community where Guru Nanak Dev settled down and lived for 18 years until his death. Though it is merely 4.7 km away, pilgrims from India have to take a circuitous route through Lahore to reach there.

In November last, India and Pakistan agreed to build the Kartarpur Corridor to connect Kartarpur Sahib

with Dera Baba Nanak Sahib on the Indian side.

Capt. Amarinder Singh has requested President Kovind and Prime Minister Modi to attend the function of the opening of the corridor in Punjab.

"The Chief Minister urged them both, in particular, to participate in the Kartarpur Corridor opening at Dera Baba Nanak and the November 12 main programme at Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala," said the government spokesperson.

Multiple events

Ahead of Guru Nanak Dev's birth anniversary or Parkash Purb, the State government has planned a series of events from November 5 to 15, including a plan to send an all-party delegation to Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev that is now in Pakistan.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, the Chief Minister is learnt to have requested "Mr. Modi's personal intervention to give clearance for a jatha to visit the Nankana Sahib as well".

Hasina to focus on economic agenda

'No problems in bilateral ties'

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE SUHASINI HAIDAR

Bangladesh will try to highlight economic opportunities in relation with India, visiting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here on Thursday. The comments showed Dhaka's desire to foreground the economic agenda which has been overshadowed by the fallout of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam and Home Minister Amit Shah's description of Bangladesh citizens as "infiltrators".

"There are no problems in bilateral ties. I have come here to discuss economic issues," said Ms. Hasina in response to a question from The Hindu during a public reception held at the Bangladesh High Commission.

Ms. Hasina addressed the World Economic Forum (WEF) soon after arriving here on Thursday and presented Bangladesh as a fastgrowing economy and an attractive investment destination in South Asia.

"It is time for global investors, particularly Indian entrepreneurs, to invest in



Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina arriving in New Delhi on Thursday. • AP

Bangladesh in areas like education, light engineering, electronics, automotive industry, artificial intelligence - beyond the conventional menu," said the visiting leader in her speech at the WEF.

Ms. Hasina is scheduled to hold official talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, and several agreements are expected to be signed. According to sources, both sides are in talks for agreements for a Special Economic Zone and a skill development centre.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Five SC judges recuse from Navlakha case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

An appeal filed by activist Gautam P. Navlakha has taken an unusual trajectory in the Supreme Court – so far five judges have opted to recuse themselves in the three instances it came up for hearing since Septem-

The appeal concerns Mr. Navlakha's plea to protect his fundamental right to personal liberty and quashing of the FIR against him in the Bhima Koregaon

On Thursday, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat recused himself from hearing the petition when it came up for admission before a third three-judge Bench that also comprised Justice Arun Mishra, who led it, and Justice Vineet Saran.

A fourth Bench will take it up on October 4. The Supreme Court website showed the case listed before a Bench of Justices Mishra and Deepak Gupta.

It first came up before a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde and S. Abdul Nazeer.

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Chidambaram moves SC for bail

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's rejection of his plea for regular bail in the INX Media case on September 30.

The appeal in the Supreme Court was filed on a day the trial court extended his judicial custody till October 17 in the case. The lower court, however, allowed Mr. Chidambaram to have home-cooked food. In his petition before the

Supreme Court, Mr. Chidambaram said he had suffered over 40 days of incarceration, including the maximum permissible period of 15 days of CBI remand.

The plea was listed before a Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and Hrishikesh Roy on October 4.

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Kashmir will race ahead soon: Shah

'Article 370 was impeding its progress'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that Jammu & Kashmir would see huge development in the next decade. He was speaking at the in-

auguration of a Vande Bharat Express train that will connect Delhi with the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu through the Katra railway station. Accompanied by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Cabinet colleagues Jitendra Singh and Harsh Vardhan, Mr. Shah flagged off the train from the New Delhi railway station.

Recalling the role of the Swadeshi movement during British rule, Mr. Shah said the coaches of the new train were "made in India."

The Minister lauded the government's move to revoke Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir. "Every Indian had



Amit Shah flagging off the Vande Bharat Express train on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

a feeling that [Article] 370 should go. The Narendra Modi government did it. The special status was the biggest impediment in the development of J&K... Kashmir will be one of the most developed States in the next 10 years... the process has begun with the inauguration of Vande Bharat," he said.

'RAILWAYS WILL HELP ACHIEVE

Tarigami not allowed to attend party meet in Delhi

He is under house arrest in Srinagar

SOBHANA K. NAIR

CPI(M) leader and former Jammu and Kashmir legislator Yousuf Tarigami has not been allowed by the Srinagar administration to attend a meeting of the central committee of the party under way in Delhi.

The central committee is the highest decision-making body of the party. The three-day meeting began on October 2.

"We had submitted an application to Srinagar District Magistrate Shahid Chaudhary well in time for the meeting. We didn't get any reply; he didn't even bother to meet us," said Irfan Gul, a close aide of Mr. Tarigami and convener of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Youth Federation. Mr. Tarigami, 72, is under house arrest in Srinagar without any formal orders since August

Mr. Tarigami, a four-time



Yousuf Tarigami

legislator, has not been allowed to travel or meet

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the Srinagar administration's decision was contrary to the Supreme Court judgment.

"It's very strange that he was denied permission even after the Supreme Court had said that he is not under detention and is free to move." he told *The Hindu*.

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Sealing threat for buildings lacking fire safety

HC directs fire dept., civic bodies to take action according to law ing of two buildings in the

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the city government, the fire department and the municipal authorities to take strict action, including sealing, against buildings lacking

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar gave the direction while disposing of a public in- 14.

Azadpur commercial complex for alleged non-compliance of fire safety norms.

Plea disposed of The court disposed of the petition after the North Delhi Municipal Corporation filed an affidavit stating that both of the buildings were issued

As the petition had also

sought sealing of all other buildings in the city which were not complying with fire safety norms, the court said: "As and when any building is lacking in fire safety measures, action shall be initiated by the respondents [authoritiesl in accordance with law. rules, regulations and government policies applicable to the facts of the case as ear ly as possible practicable."

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Delhi's tap water fails BIS test, deemed unsafe

Centre announces plans to conduct tests, release rankings early next month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With a new investigation of Delhi tap water showing that it is not safe to drink, the Centre has announced plans to test the quality of piped drinking water in the States and release Swachh Pani rankings early next month. It is also trying to build a consensus to make quality standards for tap mandatory

Report by November

requirement.

A team from the Bureau of Indian Standards has been sent to State capitals to collect samples of tap water to see if they meet quality standards, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan told reporters on Thursday.

"We expect the report by the first week of November and will release Swachh Pa-



ni rankings to show which Krishi Bhavan, both in cen-State is supplying safe tral Delhi - shows that the drinking water at least in its capital's water does not capitals," he said. with quality

standards. Meanwhile, Delhi has al-Preliminary lab testing ready failed that test. A BIS investigation of 11 tap water found that all the samples samples collected from vafailed to meet the 42 paramrious parts of the city - ineters (including odour, PH cluding the Minister's home levels, total dissolved solids at Janpath and his office in and metal content) that

make up the BIS standard. This shows that Delhi's tap water is not safe to drink, said Mr. Paswan, adding that the final lab results would be made public "After seeing the preli-

minary report for Delhi, we are holding consultations to see if we can mandate BIS' piped water standards at least in the national capital, the State capital and 100 smart cities," said the Minister, adding that BIS would be writing to State governments seeking their views on the issue.

"All governments must agree on this issue, as it is a matter of people's lives." He added that the Delhi

government has indicated it is willing to make the BIS standard mandatory in the

quality standard. However, the BIS standard for tap water is voluntary for the public agencies

which supply and distribute

piped water.

Mr. Paswan.

facturers to meet the BIS

Global standards "The latest BIS standard was made in 2012, but it is not on par with international standards. I have asked BIS officials to see if we can match global quality," said

He was speaking after a meeting with representatives from BIS, the State-run Delhi Jal Board, which supplies and distributes most of the city's water, the Centrally-controlled New Delhi Municipal Council, which distributes water in central Delhi, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry and the Food Safety and Standards Authority

Currently, it is mandatory for bottled water manuof India (FSSAI).

STAFF REPORTER

fire safety measures.

terest litigation seeking seal-

fire safety certificates on June

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