

Pilot vs Air India: Supreme Court gives nod for NCLT case

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

THE SUPREME Court has asked the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to consider afresh a plea by a serving Air India (AI) pilot who has sought to initiate insolvency proceedings against the airline for failing to pay his past dues.

A New Delhi bench of the NCLT, the adjudicating authority for insolvency resolution, had adjourned hearings in the matter sine die in February, after AI submitted to the tribunal that a similar matter was pending before the Supreme Court.

"It is open for Air India to take this up as a defence in the application that is filed by the petitioner before the NCLT. The NCLT

EXPLAINED Question over divestment

THE CHALLENGE by the pilots could create hurdles for the Centre's plan to float an EoI for divestment of its stake in the national carrier. The case outcome could become a precedent for other pilots approaching the NCLT to recover their dues from AI, besides impacting similar cases in debt-laden companies.

order [adjourning proceedings sine die], therefore, is set aside and the NCLT will now go into

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At the protest by JNU students in New Delhi on Monday. Praveen Khanna FULL COVERAGE, PAGE 4

No crackdown, say police, JNU students' injuries say otherwise

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

A VISUALLY challenged student said he was trampled on, an ex-student received five stitches on his head, a teacher said he was kicked and hit with lathis despite identifying himself.

On Monday evening, Delhi Police claimed that "no force,

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HRD PANEL TO MEET STUDENTS' UNION PAGE 4

including lathicharge, was used" to break up a protest by JNU students who marched towards Parliament on the first day of the

Winter Session, demanding a rollback of a hike in hostel fees.

But the bloodied faces, torn clothes and lathi-sporting police personnel in the heart of the Capital told a different story.

Shashi Bhushan, JNU Students Union Councillor from the School of Social Sciences, fell on the ground during a lathi-charge and was trampled on the

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SONIA, PAWAR TALK

Deal in works: Uddhav CM for 5 yrs, deputies from Cong, NCP



NCP chief Sharad Pawar arrives at the residence of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday. Prem Nath Pandey

Portfolios to be shared as per seats in House, Cong-NCP to decide on Speaker

PRADEEP KAUSHAL & MANOJ G G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

WHILE NCP chief Sharad Pawar insisted that he did not discuss government formation in Maharashtra during a meeting with Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday, sources told *The Indian Express* that an understanding has tentatively been reached for a three-party coalition to take charge of the state early next month with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray at the helm.

Sources said that if all goes according to plan, the new formation will have two Deputy

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

CONG & SAINIKS

By propping up Sena, Cong plays fast and loose with the mandate — and its projection of itself as secular & inclusive

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Chief Ministers — one each from the NCP and Congress. They were also clear that Uddhav would be Chief Minister for the full five-year term, with no rotation policy for the post.

Under the arrangement, sources said, the 42 portfolios will be shared according to the

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PM says RS must check, not choke, praises NCP and BJD

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 18

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Monday emphasised the importance of the Rajya Sabha in maintaining checks and balances in a democracy, but said that a distinction needs to be made between checking and choking, balance and blocking. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, on the other hand, cautioned against undermining the role of the Upper House.

Speaking during a special discussion on the "Role of Rajya Sabha in Indian Polity and Need for Reforms", on the first day of the 250th session of the Upper House, Modi also praised the NCP and BJD for never rushing to the well of the House.

"The Rajya Sabha is about checks and balances. This is absolutely essential for our democracy. Debates have to be many

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IN PARLIAMENT PAGE 6

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



'Studied Sanskrit all my life, never made to feel I am Muslim, but now...'

AVANEESH MISHRA
VARANASI, NOVEMBER 18

HAVING JOINED as Assistant Professor at Banaras Hindu University's Sanskrit Vidya Dharam Vigyan (SVDV) 11 days ago, Firoze Khan, a doctorate in Sanskrit, has gone hiding for the past few days, switching off his mobile phone too.

On Monday, a "hawan kund" was set up and around 20 SVDV students were sitting on a dharna outside the Vice-Chancellor's residence protesting his appointment. The protests have been on since Khan's appointment, for the only reason that he is a



Firoze Khan's appointment in BHU's Sanskrit dept has sparked protests

Muslim. No classes have been held since he joined the faculty on November 7.

Khan is distraught, and hopes students will come around. "All

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Statue of Unity Safari delayed, Gujarat seeks seized chimps

RITU SHARMA
KEVADIA (NARMADA), NOVEMBER 18

CHIEF MINISTER Vijay Rupani has sought three chimpanzees seized by the Customs Department at Kolkata airport for the zoological park being developed near the Sardar Patel

Unity Statue in Kevadia, Gujarat. Earlier scheduled to be inaugurated on October 31, the 350-acre Sardar Patel Zoological Park (SPZP) is one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet projects for the statue site.

Rupani's request to Union Minister of Environment and Forests Prakash Javadekar

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WORLD



GOTABAYA RAJAPAKSA SWORN IN AS SRI LANKA'S PRESIDENT PAGE 15

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