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Sachin Tendulkar bags the Laureus Sporting Moment Award (2000-2020)

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NEARBY



Kejriwal not to take charge of any dept.

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday allocated Ministries to his Cabinet colleagues with no major modifications. He himself won't hold charge of any department but oversee works of his Ministers.

CITY PAGE 4

HC seeks govt. reply on Jamia student's plea

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the response of Centre, city government and police on a plea by a Jamia student seeking compensation for injuries suffered allegedly in police action on December 15.

CITY PAGE 2

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Women Army officers eligible for permanent commission: SC

Chandrachud dismisses govt.'s view that women are physiologically weaker

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the Union government's submissions that women are physiologically weaker than men as a "sex stereotype" and declared that Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are eligible for permanent commission and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service. "Women officers of the Indian Army have brought laurels to the force... Their track record of service to the nation is beyond reproach. To cast aspersion on their abilities on the ground of gender is an affront not only to their dignity as women but to the dignity of the members of the Indian Army - men and women - who serve as equal citizens in a common mission. The time has come for a realisation that women officers in the Army are not ad-



Moment of triumph: Women Army officers celebrating in New Delhi on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

joined to a male-dominated establishment, whose presence must be "tolerated" within narrow confines," a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta observed in a 54-page judgment.

The verdict came on a nearly 10-year-old appeal filed by the government against a March 12, 2010 de-

cision of the Delhi High Court to grant SSC women officers permanent commission. The Supreme Court ordered the government to implement its judgment in three months.

The order castigated the government for submitting a note containing written submissions portraying women as physiologically unfit for

answering the "call beyond duty" of the Army. The note had shown women officers in a poor light, saying isolation and hardships would eat into their resolve and they would have to heed to the call of pregnancy, childbirth and family. The note had mentioned that women ran the risk of capture by enemy and being taken prisoner of war.

Justice Chandrachud, who wrote the judgment, countered that 30% of women officers were deputed in conflict zones. He said the note screamed of the age-old patriarchal notion that domestic obligations rested only with women. The court found the remarks in the note not only constitutionally invalid but also discriminatory, affecting the dignity of women officers.

OPPOSITE POSITIONS PAGE 12
WOMEN-AT-ARMS EDITORIAL

Shaheen Bagh: protest, but don't block roads, court tells protesters

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde appointed interlocutor

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday conceded that mothers, children and ordinary people of Shaheen Bagh and Delhi had a right to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, even as it expressed concern over their blocking of public areas.

"Democracy works on different views. We have no quibble on that. You want to protest, no problem. You don't want to wait for our judgment on the validity of the CAA but want to have a social build-up against the legislation, we have no problem... We do not mind if a 1,000 sites are created, but our limited concern is whether you could protest without blocking roads and entering public areas... With every right there comes a responsibility too," Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul observed.

It appointed senior advocate Sanjay Hegde to act as an interlocutor, along with



Protesters at Shaheen Bagh on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

advocate Sadhana Ramachandran, to convey its apprehension to the protesters and suggest to them to move to an area where they could continue the protests but not inconvenience public movement. The court left it to Mr. Hegde to approach former bureaucrat Wajahat Habibullah to join them.

'Right to protest'

"My colleague Sadhana Ramachandran and I accept the responsibility... We will be meeting all parties with a view to assisting them to resolve their issues in a manner that respects both the right

to protest and requirements of orderly civic life," Mr. Hegde said in a statement.

During the hearing, Justice K.M. Joseph, on the Bench, stressed that the "right to protest is recognised all over the world. We have a fundamental right to assemble. The right is only subject to security and public order".

Justice Joseph was responding to submissions made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Delhi Police, that children and women are used as a "shield" by the protesters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Fresh death warrants issued for March 3 in Nirbhaya case

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday issued fresh death warrants for March 3 at 6 a.m. against all the four convicts in the December 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case.

All convicts are "to be

hanged by the neck until they are dead on March 3, at 6 a.m.," it said. The order was passed by Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana pursuant to pleas by Tihar Jail and the victim's parents, seeking issuance of a fresh date to hang them.

This is the third time the court is issuing death warrants against Mukesh Kumar Singh, 32, Pawan Gupta, 25, Vinay Kumar Sharma, 26, and Akshay Kumar, 31. The trial court had issued the first death warrants for January 22, which were later post-

poned to February 1.

On Monday, the court discharged advocate Vrinda Grover as counsel for Mukesh after he asked for a change of his advocate. It appointed legal aid counsel advocate Ravi Qazi to represent him.

The court was also in-

formed by counsel for Akshay that in his earlier mercy petition, owing to poverty and ignorance, the complete facts could not be brought before the President, and he had prepared a fresh mercy petition that would soon be moved before the President.

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE
NEW DELHI

A Labour MP from the United Kingdom was deported to Dubai as she was found not in possession of a valid Indian visa, sources said on Monday.

Debbie Abrahams, leader of the U.K. Parliament's All

Party Parliamentary Group for Kashmir, said she was "treated like a criminal" at the airport here before being placed on a flight out of India. "Along with everyone else, I presented myself at the immigration desk, with my documents, including my

e-visa, had my photograph taken and then the official looked at his screen and started shaking his head. Then he told me my visa was rejected," said Ms. Abrahams.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

FOUR DAYS OF LARGEST CLASSROOM OF DEMOCRACY FOR YOUTH

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Inaugural Ceremony 20th FEB 2020
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Shri. Devendra Fadnis (BJP)
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Shri. Niladri Kumar (Music)
Dr. Vijay P. Bhatkar (Scientist)
Dr. R. A. Mashelkar (Scientist)

Day 1: Thur, 20th FEBRUARY 2020
Session 1: Learn Before You Lean - Following Social Media & Celebrities
Shri. Pocharam S. Reddy (TRS)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker
Shri. Tejmen Imna Along (BJP)- State Edu. Minister
Main Speakers:
Smt. Smriti Irani (BJP)- Union Minister
Shri. Shekhar Gupta (Journalism)
Shri. Pawan Kalyan (Film & Politics-JSP)
Shri. Digvijay Singh Chautala (JJP)
Dr. Pankaj Mittal (Education)
Prof. Dr. Abhishek Mishra (SP)
Mr. Jim Cloos (European Union)
H.H. Morari Babu (Spiritual)
Prof. Dr. G. R. C. Reddy (Education)
Special Session : Leaping to 5 Trillion Economy : Chances, Challenges & Opportunities for Youth
Main Speakers:
Shri. Nitin Gadkari (BJP)- Union Minister
Shri. Vijay Darda (Journalism)

Day 2: Fri, 21st FEBRUARY 2020
Session 2: Caste to Class or Class to Caste: Where are we really moving?
Shri. Rajesh Patnekar (BJP)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker
Shri. Kanwar Pal (BJP)- State Edu. Minister
Main Speakers:
Shri. Prahlad Singh Patel (BJP)- Union Minister
Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal (BJP)- Union Minister
Shri. Dushyant Singh Chautala (President of JJP)
Shri. Prakash Karat (CPI-M)
Adv. Randeep Singh Surjewala (INC)
Shri. Shiv Khera (Motivational)

Day 3: Sat, 22nd FEBRUARY 2020
Session 3: A Billion & Still Growing : Has Hum 2 - Hamare 2 Worked?
Shri. Tammineni Sitaram (YSRCP)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker
Shri. Thokchom Radheshyam Singh (BJP)- State Edu. Minister
Main Speakers:
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Shri. Rajesh Tope (NCP)
Shri. Kamlesh D. Patel (Daaji) (Spiritual)
Ms. Argentina Matavel Piccin (International)
Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni (Spiritual)
Dr. Syed Kalbe R. Rizvi (Motivational)
Prof. Dr. N. K. Ahuja (Education)
Session 4: Can Young India Rise to Zero Hunger, Zero Poverty by 2030?
Shri. Tamineni Sitaram (YSRCP)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker
Shri. Thokchom Radheshyam Singh (BJP)- State Edu. Minister
Main Speakers:
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Session 6: Can Young India Rise to Zero Hunger, Zero Poverty by 2030?
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Session 7: India & Emerging World Order
Adv. Hitendra Nath Goswami (BJP)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker
Adv. Suresh Bhardwaj (BJP)- State Edu. Minister
Main Speakers:
Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (BJP)- Union Minister
Shri. Ram Madhav (BJP)
His Holiness Sri. Sri. Ravishankar (Spiritual)
Ms. Zamzam Ibrahim (International)
Shri. Arnab Goswami (Journalism)
Prof. Dr. Manoj K. Arora (Education)

Day 4: Sun, 23rd FEBRUARY 2020
Session 8: India in the Mirror : A Timeline of 7 Decades
Shri. Rabintra Nath Mahata (JMM)- Vidhan Sabha Speaker
Dr. Dinesh Sharma (BJP)- State Edu. Minister
Main Speakers:
Shri. Kapil Sibal (INC)
Smt. Shobhana Bhartiya (Media)
Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi (BJP)
Adv. Dr. Lalit Bhasin (Law)
Dr. Ashok P. Hinduja (Industry)
Shri. Prakash P. Hinduja (Industry)
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Justice (Retd.) N. Santosh Hegde (Law)
Kunwar Natwar Singh
Shri. Rajdeep Sardesai (Journalism)

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