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India is becoming a Hindu Pakistan: Iltija

NEW DELHI
Iltija Javed, the daughter of former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, said on Tuesday that the Centre was not able to handle the consequences of the revocation of Article 370, and the erstwhile State was grappling with "an economic, psychological and emotional crisis". "I am a proud Indian but we are now becoming a Hindu Pakistan. The discourse has fallen so low," Ms. Javed said.

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Jamia alumni demand FIR against policemen

NEW DELHI
The alumni association of Jamia Millia Islamia wrote a complaint to SHO of Jamia Nagar police station, accusing police officers of various grievous offences committed on the university campus on December 15 last year and demanded that an FIR be registered against them. The complaint has been sent by post.

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Pakistan to remain in terror financing watchdog's 'Grey List'

It must enact a 27-point action plan to curb terror financing, says review group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Tuesday recommended that Pakistan be retained on the 'Grey List', given its failure to completely implement the 27-point action plan to check terror financing.

The final decision would be announced on Friday, at the end of the five-day FATF Plenary session in Paris, sources aware of the proceedings said.

It is understood that most of the group members were in favour of continuing the pressure on Pakistan to execute all the measures suggested against funding to banned terror outfits and United Nations designated global terrorists operating from its soil.

Malaysia's support

Speaking in favour of Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia said Islamabad could be taken off the 'Grey List' in coming June. Leaders of these two countries have already gone public on their plans to back Pakistan in the FATF.

According to the sources, Pakistan's Minister for Economic Affairs Hamad Azhar assured the group that all the objectives would be



Not enough: Protesters seeking the death penalty for Lashkar chief Hafiz Saeed in Mumbai last week. At the FATF meet, Pakistan claimed that it had cracked down on terror operatives. ■ AFP

achieved as early as June 2020. He claimed that since the last FATF plenary, the country had taken all possible measures against terror financing.

Pakistan was presented with the 27-point action plan in the previous FATF meet in October last.

Mr. Azhar said Pakistan had acted against transnational terror funding operations on priority and that it had convicted an unprecedented number of persons, which includes Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed. All the shortcomings identified in the mutual evaluation report would also be

addressed soon, he added.

India countered Pakistan's claims, saying the recent action taken by Islamabad against Saeed and others was an attempt to evade further FATF sanctions. While the LeT chief was recently convicted of terror financing, the Pakistani authorities had claimed that a large number of terrorists were arrested, the accounts of banned outfits frozen and the institutions run by them were taken over by the government.

India asserted that the terror funding operations were still on and outfits such as the LeT and the Jaish-e-Mohammed, whose chief Masood Azhar's location as per

Pakistan is "unknown", were having a free run in Pakistan.

In November last, when Pakistan complied with only five of the 27 action plan points, the FATF asked it to "swiftly complete its full action plan by February 2020".

The FATF statement said: "Otherwise should significant and sustainable progress not be made across the full range of its action plan by next plenary, the FATF will take action, including urging members to advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relations/transactions with Pakistan."

Chargesheets filed in Jamia violence

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Two chargesheets have been filed by the Delhi police in connection with the violence that erupted at and outside Jamia Millia Islamia on December 15. They were filed on February 13 at the Saket court, the police said.

A senior police officer said the document mentions the name of Jawaharlal Nehru University Ph.D student Sharjil Imam for persuading an accused person to commit violence.

"He is not named as an accused in the chargesheet. He has been arrested in connection with the Jamia case on Sunday. However, one of the accused, during interrogation, said he had heard Imam's speech and got instigated to commit violence," the officer said.

Referring to one accused who has been arrested and interrogated, the document reads, "... He also disclosed that on December 13, the atmosphere was highly surcharged due to the anti-CAA [Citizenship (Amendment) Act] protest and violent incidents of rioting in Jamia. On that day, one Sharjil Imam, student of JNU, also gave provocative speeches against the CAA..."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Steps soon to deal with virus impact

Nirmala meets industry leaders



Allaying fears: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with industry leaders in New Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Disruption in supply of raw materials from China due to the coronavirus outbreak could have a serious impact on several Indian industries, especially the pharma sector, industry leaders told Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a consultation on the issue on Tuesday.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Ms. Sitharaman downplayed fears of any rise in prices of medicines or other products, saying there were no reports of immediate shortages.

Official sources present at the meeting said most sectors had three to four weeks of raw materials available, adding that the longer-term impact is still uncertain.

In fact, the pharma sector

has suggested that if necessary, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) could be airlifted to India, sources said. As this would push up prices, industry representatives requested that customs duties be reduced if such a situation arises, said officials.

Ms. Sitharaman said the Secretaries of the Finance Ministry would coordinate meetings with the Secretaries of other stakeholder Ministries on Wednesday to chart a government response to the outbreak and the issues raised by industry leaders.

Measures would be announced "soon", after consultations with the Prime Minister's Office, Ms. Sitharaman said.

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Karbis against ST status for hill Bodos

Our identity under threat, says outfit

VIJAITA SINGH SANDEEP PHUKAN NEW DELHI

An Assam-based insurgent group of Karbis, which signed a ceasefire agreement with the Centre, has demanded that the Bodos in the hill areas not be given the Scheduled Tribe status as it will affect the "identity of the Karbis".

The Home Ministry, the Assam government and Bodo groups signed the pact on January 27 to redraw and

rename the Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD), spread over Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri districts.

Under the agreement, the Bodos in the hills will be given the Scheduled Hill Tribe status and villages dominated by the Bodos will be included in the BTAD will be outside and those with non-Bodos excluded after the areas are redrawn.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

J&K panchayat bypolls put off

CEO cites security reasons, defers exercise by three weeks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The by-elections to over 12,000 vacant panchayat seats in Jammu and Kashmir have been deferred for three weeks, following "credible inputs from the law enforcement agencies".

The bypolls were to be held from March 5 to 20 in eight phases, based on party lines.

U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to visit India for two days next week.

The model code of conduct had come into force

with the announcement of the by-elections last week.

The panchayat elections were held in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, when 27,281 panchayats and sarpanches were elected.

There are 12,776 vacant seats for sarpanches and panches.

The elections were then boycotted by the Peoples Democratic Party and the National Conference.

On Tuesday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shailendra Kumar held a meeting with

all political parties, amid criticism that political leaders remained in detention, and they were not allowed to conduct political activities. "We held a meeting of all the parties to hear their concerns. They raised some grievances," he said.

Mr. Kumar issued a notification later in the day. It said the Home Department has "advised the Election Authority to consider deferring of the conduct of polls based on credible inputs from the law enforcement agencies".

(With inputs from PTI)

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At America's Got Talent, it was V Unbeatable

Mumbai dance group wins big

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

After their high-energy act, the team stood on stage shaking nervously, waiting for the big announcement. When it came after a hushed silence, there was an explosion of excitement, tears and a standing ovation in the Las Vegas studio. A 34-member dance group from the fringes of Mumbai, V Unbeatable, had won America's Got Talent: The Champions Season 2.

The dancers aged 12 to 27 were touted to be a favourite with the show's judges - Simon Cowell, Heidi Klum, Alesha Dixon, and Howie Mandel. They came under the spotlight when they participated in the fourth season of the Indian reality show, Dance Plus in 2018.

Moments after winning the show, the group said on Instagram: "It is a feeling of immense pride when you get a chance to represent your country at [an] international platform with a group [which is] like family."

In the show's second season, Mr. Mandel gave the group a Golden Buzzer, ele-



Showstoppers: The jubilant V Unbeatable team with the judges after the win. ■ @V_UNBEATABLE ON TWITTER

vating them to the semi-finals. "I knew V Unbeatable was special from the moment they walked on stage. Thank you for opening up the world to us. You deserve this incredible moment," tweeted Mr. Mandel.

Videos of V Unbeatable went viral in the weeks leading up to the final, notably one on Marana Mass from Rajinikanth's Petta, composed by Anirudh Ravichander. Before the results were out, finalists gave a performance, and V Unbeatable chose Tattad Tattad from Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram Leela, pairing up with Travis Barker, drummer of the rock band Blink-182.