



Nirbhaya case convict in SC seeking restoration of legal remedies
page 9



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to head panel to probe unruly incidents
page 12



At least 27 killed, 55 wounded in attack on political rally in Kabul
page 14



Hardik Pandya likely to return for ODI series against South Africa
page 19

PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA



Delhi receives heavy rain, causes jams

NEW DELHI
Heavy rain lashed the national capital throughout Friday, affecting traffic movement as visibility dropped considerably in the afternoon due to dense clouds. Delhi recorded 20.4 mm of rainfall till 8.30 a.m. and 16.8 mm during the day. Light rain is expected today.
CITY PAGE 4

Tahir Hussain sent to 7-day police custody

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Friday sent suspended Aam Aadmi Party councillor Tahir Hussain to seven days in police custody in connection with the alleged killing of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma during the recent violence in north-east Delhi.
CITY PAGE 2

Pulwama attack case: NIA arrests two more

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR
The National Investigation Agency arrested two more persons for their alleged role in the 2019 Pulwama attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed. A total of five persons have been arrested in connection with the case so far. The suspects were identified as Waiz ul Islam, 19, a resident of Srinagar and Mohammad Abbas Rather, 32, a resident of Pulwama.
NEWS PAGE 13

As part of RBI bailout, SBI to pick up 49% in Yes Bank

Reconstruction scheme will protect jobs for a year; six-member board set up

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced a draft reconstruction scheme for the beleaguered Yes Bank, aimed at protecting depositors' funds while bringing in the State Bank of India as an investor. For employees of the bank, service conditions, including remuneration, will remain the same, at least for one year. This does not, however, include key managerial personnel, on whom the board can take a call.

According to the draft plan, the authorised capital for the reconstructed bank will be ₹5,000 crore, with 2,400 crore equity shares of ₹2 each, aggregating to ₹4,800 crore.

The SBI, which had earlier said its board was exploring an investment in Yes Bank, will pick up a 49% stake, according to the scheme. The deal would be at a price not less than ₹10 per share with a face value of ₹2. The SBI cannot reduce its holding below 26% before completion of three years from the date of infusion of the capital, the RBI said. To pick up a 49% stake, the SBI will have to invest ₹2,450 crore, sources said.

On Thursday, the government had put a moratorium



Long wait: Customers waiting to withdraw money from a Yes Bank branch in Thane on Friday. ■ VIBHAV BIRWATKAR

on Yes Bank till April 3 following its deteriorating financial condition, and the banking regulator superseding the board and appointed an administrator.

The new board will have at least six members, an MD & CEO, a non-executive chairman and two non-executive directors, while the remaining two nominee directors would be appointed by the SBI. "The members of the board so appointed shall continue for a period of one year, or until an alternate board is constituted by Yes Bank Ltd., whichever is later," the RBI said.

The Central bank said all the deposits and liabilities of the bank would continue in the same manner in the reconstructed bank, unaffected

by the scheme. "All the deposits with and liabilities of the reconstructed bank, except as provided in the scheme, and the rights, liabilities and obligations of its creditors, will continue in the same manner and with the same terms and conditions, completely unaffected by the scheme," it said.

However, additional tier 1 capital, which was issued by Yes Bank under the Basel III framework, "shall stand written down permanently, in full, with effect from the appointed date," according to the scheme.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

LOAN SURGE PAGE 12

OUTER LIMIT PAGE 15

BANKING ON BAILOUTS

EDITORIAL

'Committed to safeguarding depositors'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Centre has directed the RBI to look into the causes of the crisis at Yes Bank and pin responsibility on the individuals who failed to address the problems, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

"While our government is completely committed to ensure that the depositors' interest is completely safeguarded, equally I want the RBI to ensure that due process of law is set to roll with a sense of urgency, so that we should find out as to who led to this problem of this size and magnitude at Yes Bank," she said. She added that she had also asked the RBI to assess the adequacy of regulatory and supervisory norms.

Speaking to journalists, the Finance Minister expressed the confidence that the plan would be effective within 30 days, the moratorium period imposed by the RBI to limit withdrawals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Supreme Court upholds 2018 order on land acquisition

Reiterates ruling under Section 24 (2) of 2013 law

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Friday held that land acquisition proceedings under the 1894 Act will not be deemed to have lapsed under Section 24(2) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, if the authorities have tendered the compensation by deposit in the Treasury.

A five-judge Bench, led by



The court said landowners cannot say the proceedings have lapsed.

Justice Arun Mishra, held that landowners, who had refused to accept compensation or who sought reference for higher compensa-

tion, cannot claim that the acquisition proceedings had lapsed under Section 24(2) of the 2013 Act.

With this, the Constitution Bench has affirmed the February 2018 ruling on Section 24 by a three-judge Bench, led by Justice Mishra himself, in the *Indore Development Authority* case. The Bench has overruled an earlier co-ordinate Bench ruling in the *Pune Municipal Corporation* case of 2014.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Number of COVID-19 cases mounts to 31

Another man tests positive in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

After another man from Delhi with a travel history to Thailand and Malaysia tested positive for COVID-19, the total number of such cases in India has climbed to 31, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday.

"One suspected case has been confirmed as positive. He is stable and being monitored. The total number of confirmed cases stands at 31..." a Ministry official said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

ASSAM ON EDGE PAGE 9

State has failed to do its job: ex-SC judges

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

From the destruction witnessed after the Delhi riots, the rampage looked like the handiwork of "total professionals", said former Supreme Court judge, Justice A.K. Patnaik. Another retired Supreme Court judge, Justice Kurian Joseph, stated that the "burning smell" still hung over riot-hit areas.

The former judges were relating the impressions they gathered during their visit to the riot-hit areas.

DETAILS ON PAGE 13

Gamechangers



Sprinter honoured: Dutee Chand receiving the award from Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu at the third edition of The Hindu BusinessLine Changemaker Awards in New Delhi on Friday. ■ KAMAL NARANG (REPORT ON PAGE 9)

U.P. banners display photos, details of anti-CAA protesters

As many as 57 persons have been accused of violence

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

The police have put up several hoardings across Lucknow identifying those accused of violence during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in December last, triggering fear among those named for their safety.

The names, photographs and residential addresses of the accused are listed in the hoardings. They have been asked to pay for the damage to public and private property within a stipulated time or have their property seized by the district administration. The total damage listed in the hoardings amount to ₹1.55 crore.

As many as 57 persons have been identified in hoardings that have come up in the Hazratganj, Thakurganj, Hasanganj and Qaiserbagh police station areas.

One of the banners, with 28 names, put up at the prominent Hazratganj intersec-



Graphic details: Lucknow hoardings show those who have to pay compensation. ■PTI

tion, next to the statue of B.R. Ambedkar, asks them to pay up over ₹64 lakh. Those served notices in this hoarding include retired IPS officer S.R. Darapuri, lawyer and activist Mohammad Shoab, Congress member Sadaf Jafar, teacher Robin Verma, cultural activist Deepak Kabir and Dalit activist Pawan Rao Ambedkar.

It is not clear why the Lucknow police and administration publicised the names as they had been issued notices by magistrates

and asked to pay the amount within 30 days or face confiscation of their property.

Many of the accused were granted bail by court. Ms. Jafar said her name came up on a day when she had got a stay on her property attachment notice. She is seeking legal help again. "We are exposed to mob lynching now," she said, expressing fears that the public display of her face and address could jeopardise the safety of her children and herself.

'Police should also go after leaders spewing hate'

Mander's lawyer makes the plea in SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Delhi police should extend the same alacrity to act against leaders who spewed hate and led to 53 deaths in the Delhi riots as they are showing against activist Harsh Mander for his "contemptuous speech", senior advocate Dushyant Dave told the Supreme Court on Friday.

Mr. Dave was reacting to submissions made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Delhi police, that an affidavit had been filed promptly detailing Mr. Mander's alleged transgressions.

"He [Mr. Mehta] should bring the same kind of affidavit against the leaders who indulged in hate speeches and led to the deaths of 53 people", Mr. Dave, appearing for Mr. Mander, said before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde.

On March 4, this Bench stopped Mr. Mander from participating in a hearing on a batch of petitions seeking



Harsh Mander

the immediate registration of FIRs against leaders who instigated communal violence in Delhi with their hate speeches.

Mr. Mander was, in turn, accused of making disparaging remarks about the Supreme Court in a public speech. Mr. Mehta had accused Mr. Mander of "instigating people". He said there was a video clip showing Mr. Mander goading people, saying "ultimate justice" has to be made available on the streets and cannot be got from either the Supreme Court or Parliament. The police promptly filed an affidavit against Mr. Mander.

NO CONTEMPT PAGE 12

Centre cannot brand organisations 'political': SC

'They cannot be deprived of foreign funds for using legitimate forms of dissent'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

The Central government cannot brand an organisation 'political' and deprive it of its right to receive foreign funds for using "legitimate forms of dissent" like bandh, hartal, road roko or jail 'bharo' to aid a public cause, the Supreme Court held on Friday.

"Any organisation which supports the cause of a group of citizens agitating for their rights without a political goal or objective cannot be penalised by being declared as an organisation of a political nature," a Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Deepak Gupta observed in a 23-page judgment.

But the foreign funding pipeline could be cut if an organisation took recourse to these forms of protest to score a political goal, the court said.

It struck a similar balance in the cases of organisations of farmers, workers, students, youth based on caste, community, religion, language, etc. It said their foreign funding could continue as long as these organisations worked for the "social and political welfare of society" and not to further "political interests".

Political objectives

However, the court wholeheartedly agreed that organisations with "avowed political objectives in its memoran-

dum of association or bye laws" cannot be permitted access to foreign funds.

Such organisations were clearly of a "political nature," it concluded.

The verdict came on a petition filed by Indian Social Action Forum (INSAF) challenging certain provisions of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010 and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules of 2011, both of which confer the Centre with "unguided and uncanalised power" to brand organisations 'political' and shut down their access to foreign funds.

The provisions under challenge before the court included Section 5 (1) of the FCRA.

This provision allowed the Centre a free hand to decide whether a seemingly non-political organisation was actually political in nature. INSAF argued that Section 5(1) was vague and thus unconstitutional. The Delhi High Court, which INSAF approached first, said the provision was "expansive" and not vague. The Supreme Court agreed with the High Court on Friday.

The next provision under the microscope was Section 5(4) of the FCRA.

INSAF said the provision did not exactly identify the authority before which an organisation could represent its grievance. But the apex court dismissed this contention.

As Friday prayers resume, fear stalks the faithful

Ashok Nagar locals recount the vandalism of February 25

SHINJINI GHOSH NEW DELHI

"We ran barefoot leaving everything behind when we heard them," recounted Mohammad Ali, a construction worker by profession, who was inside Masjid Maula Baksh in Ashok Nagar that was vandalised by a mob on February 25.

With the Friday prayers not being conducted last week - a first in over 40 years - this week's Jumma gathering was the first since the violence and drew several people. Abdul Rahim, the mosque's imam,



The mosque in Ashok Nagar in the aftermath of the violence. ■HEMANI BHANDARI

put the headcount at 150-odd.

Seated inside the mosque beneath burnt fans, broken walls and non-existent lights, a group of men related the events of that fateful day. "It all started around 1 p.m. We heard the mob outside and ran upstairs first. Then when they entered, we jumped across terraces and took shel-

ter at a neighbour's house. Around 17 of us were evacuated from there hours later by the police. Even when we were in the bus that the police brought, the mob chased us," said Muzaffar Khan.

Syed Zahir Hussain, who also attended the Friday prayers, said his family of four used to live on the first floor. "My wife and I and our two children ran for our lives along with the others, leaving everything behind. Nothing is left, not even the jewellery that my wife had," he said.

Haji Raffuddin, 84, claimed to have founded the mosque in 1974. "For all these years, we have lived in harmony and peace with everyone. This was the first time in so many years that such an inci-

dent took place. Look what the masjid has been reduced to," he rued.

Daily prayers at the desecrated mosque resumed earlier this week, said the imam.

"Repair work started from today (Friday). The masjid has been vandalised terribly... even the fridge inside was looted. It is almost as if a new structure has to be built," said Mr. Rahim.

Mohammad Kabir, a tailor by profession, said the situation in the area may seem better now but the impression is deceptive.

"Even though it seems fine on the surface, people are very scared. How will such *khauf* (fear) go this easily?"

MORE STORIES PAGE 2, 3 & 4