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PM's social media campaign on Women's Day gets a thumbs up
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NEARBY



Judge hearing massacre case transferred

AHMEDABAD
M.K. Dave, a special judge hearing the case of Naroda Gam massacre, part of the 2002 riots, has been transferred by the Gujarat High Court in a shuffle of district judicial officers. Former Minister Maya Kodnani is among the 82 people facing trial.

NATION PAGE 9

J&K to rename convention centre

SRINAGAR
The Jammu and Kashmir government is likely to change the name of the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre by dropping the title, referring to National Conference founder Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah.

NEWS PAGE 13

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EDUCATIONPLUS PAGES 16 & 17

Five new COVID-19 cases in Kerala; total in India now 39

Family did not report travel to Italy, evaded airport scanners

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATHANAMTHITTA / NEW DELHI

Five persons, including two women from Pathanamthitta in Kerala, tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, taking the total number of confirmed cases across the country to 39.

Kerala Health Minister K.K. Shailaja said the State had been put on high alert in the wake of the new cases. The Minister added that all the passengers who travelled with the infected family on the Venice-Doha Qatar airlines QR 126 flight on February 29 and the Qatar Airlines flight QR514 from Doha to Kochi on March 1 should get in touch with health authorities.

Official sources said three of the infected persons — a couple in their 50s and their 22-year old son — had reached the Kochi international airport from Venice via Doha.

All three, who were reportedly having mild fever, failed to inform the airport authorities or the Health Department officials that they



Masking their worries: Devotees wearing masks at the Attukal temple in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. ■ S. MAHINSHA

were coming from COVID-affected Italy.

They were received at the airport by a few relatives from Kottayam, and reached their village of Aythala in Ranni the same day.

Relatives infected

A brother and sister-in-law of the man who had visited Italy were the first to seek treatment for fever at a private hospital in Ranni on Friday. The doctors found symptoms of COVID-19 and learnt that three of their relatives had recently returned

from Italy. The matter was immediately referred to the District Collector and the district health authorities.

The two patients and their three relatives were shifted to the isolation ward at the Pathanamthitta General Hospital. Laboratory reports released early on Sunday confirmed that all five had COVID-19 infection.

The Collector convened an emergency meeting of health officials at 2.30 a.m.

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After 15 hours of questioning, Rana Kapoor arrested by ED

Yes Bank founder's daughter stopped at airport from taking flight to London

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

After being grilled for more than 15 hours, Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor was placed under arrest by the Enforcement Directorate early on Sunday.

The central agency first questioned Mr. Kapoor at his Worli residence on Friday and later brought him to its office on Saturday morning, where he was questioned throughout the day.

"Despite prolonged questioning, Mr. Kapoor was found to be uncooperative and hence, the need for custodial interrogation was deemed necessary. He was arrested in the early hours of the morning and charged under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)," an ED officer said.

Later in the day, ED officials stopped his daughter, Roshni, from taking a flight to London as she is required to join the probe in the PMLA case, officials said. They said Ms. Kapoor was disallowed to board the



More trouble: ED officials taking Rana Kapoor to a hospital in Mumbai for a check-up on Sunday. ■ AADESH CHOUDHARY

flight from Mumbai on the basis of a Look Out Circular (LoC) issued against her by the central agency. The LoC requires immigration authorities to intimate the issuing agency before they allow the passenger to travel to any international or domestic location.

Told to join probe

Ms. Kapoor was asked to join the investigation after she was intercepted by immigration authorities, officials said. The Central Bureau of In-

vestigation has registered a separate offence against Mr. Kapoor. "We have booked him for cheating under the IPC, along with accepting illegal gratification and misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act," a CBI officer said.

Mr. Kapoor is under the scanner for granting large loans to the crisis-hit Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL), allegedly in exchange for kickbacks to the tune of ₹600 crore that were paid into accounts of his family members. The ED on

Saturday also conducted searches at the office of DOIT Urban Ventures, a firm owned by Mr. Kapoor's daughters Radha and Roshni. The ED also questioned Mr. Kapoor's wife on Sunday.

"We have found prima facie evidence that establishes transactions between DOIT and DHFL. We have seized electronic storage devices and balance sheets pertaining to the same and are going through available records to find out if there were any other transactions that the ones that have already come to light," the officer said.

Mr. Kapoor was produced in a holiday court on Sunday afternoon, where the ED sought his custody for five days.

The ED argued that standard properties were mortgaged by DHFL for the loans that it took, and that the money trail had to be examined, for which custody was necessary.

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MORE REPORTS PAGE 12

HC pulls up U.P. govt. over hoardings

After the hour-long hearing, the court reserved the order for today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

In a rare Sunday sitting, the Allahabad High Court pulled up the Uttar Pradesh government for the controversial hoardings put up by the Lucknow administration of persons accused and out on bail, but not convicted, in the violence during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Ramesh Sinha took up the matter *suo motu* and sought answers from the Advocate-General (AG) of Uttar Pradesh.

After the hour-long hearing, the court reserved the order for Monday.

The court moved the hearing, scheduled for 10 a.m., to 3 p.m. on the request of the government that the AG required more time



Lucknow hoardings show those who have to pay compensation. ■ FILE PHOTO

to fly down to Prayagraj.

While accepting the State's request, the court orally observed that the hoardings were an encroachment on personal liberty and asked if the government would take corrective measures before the hearing, said lawyers present in court. A senior lawyer said the court asked the State under what authority it had put up the hoardings.

Advocate K.K. Roy, who was present in the court, said: "The court's observation was very important, that by putting up banners with photographs in this manner, you [the State] are encroaching upon the privacy, dignity and freedom of a person, and this appears to be an illegal act."

'Proper reply'

Additional Advocate General Niraj Tripathi said the court reserved the order after hearing the government's side through the AG.

"The court didn't make any observations. Proper reply was given to all queries made by the court," Mr. Tripathi said, when asked by journalists about the court's oral observations.

In a controversial move, the police and the administration put up several hoard-

ings in Lucknow identifying those accused of violence during the protests against the CAA in December last, triggering fears among those named. 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 properties seized by the district administration. The total damage listed in the hoardings amounts to ₹1.55 crore. As many as 57 persons have been identified in the hoardings.

One of them, with 28 names, put up at the Hazratganj intersection, next to the statue of B.R. Ambedkar, asks them to pay up over ₹64 lakh.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Victory bash



Setting the stage on fire: Katy Perry performing with the Australian cricket team following their victory over India in the ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. ■ GETTY IMAGES (REPORT ON PAGE 20)

Former Minister and PDP leader Bukhari floats a party

J&K Apni Party not to seek special status for Union Territory

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Businessman-turned-politician and former Minister Altaf Bukhari, 60, on Sunday floated the J&K Apni Party (JKAP) as an alternative to regional parties such as the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), of which he was once a member.

The JKAP becomes the first Valley-based regional party since 1947 that stands for integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union of India and that is against any special status or autonomy for the Union Territory, in contrast to the NC's pre-1953 position, the PDP's 'self-rule' and Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference's 'Achievable Nationhood'.

"We're not here to sell dreams and fantasies but will always be pragmatic, honest and fair in our approach," Mr. Bukhari said. "We have resolved to create a platform where people are the real stakeholders of the political process," said



New start: Altaf Bukhari holding the party flag, along with his supporters, in Srinagar on Sunday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Mr. Bukhari, who hit the political scene in 2014 by joining the PDP and was the richest candidate with assets worth ₹84 crore in the Assembly election.

'Wait for verdict'

On Article 370, which was diluted last year, Mr. Bukhari said, "It is now in the domain of the judiciary. We will wait for the verdict of the Supreme Court."

However, his party's main plank would be restoration of statehood and domicile

rights to land and employment.

The party has decided not to seek reunification of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh into one State. It has taken no members from Ladakh.

"The party will seek to preserve the identity and dignity of the people of J&K, the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits and empowerment of youth and women," Mr. Bukhari said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Couple with 'IS links' held in the Capital

'They were inciting anti-CAA protesters'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Sunday arrested a couple with alleged links to the Khorasan module of the Islamic State from Jamia Nagar in south-east Delhi over allegations of inciting anti-CAA protesters.

The police said they were alerted by the officers of the intelligence services to the suspicious activities of the couple from Kashmir planning out terror activity in the national capital.

The couple had been under surveillance for the past several months. The information was shared with the Delhi police and they were held.

The police alleged that the couple were planning to carry out suicide attacks in the country.

"Jahanjeb Sami and his wife Hina Bashir Beg are linked to Khorasan Module of the IS. The couple were apprehended from Jamia Nagar in Ohkha. They were instigating anti-CAA protests in the city," said Pramod

Jahanjeb Sami and his wife Hina Bashir Beg are linked to Khorasan Module of the IS

PRAMOD SINGH
Kushwaha, DCP (Special Cell)

Singh Kushwaha, DCP (Special Cell).

Mr. Kushwaha said the couple had moved to Delhi from Srinagar in August 2019. The husband was working with a private company, while the wife stayed home. The police had recovered incriminating material from their rented accommodation in Jamia Nagar.

The police said Jahanjeb was actively involved in the propagation of the recently published IS magazine *Sawt al-Hind* (Voice of India) in February 2020.

The couple came under the scanner after their activities on cyberspace were noticed by the intelligence agencies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

'Over 40% govt. schools don't have power, playgrounds'

Parliamentary panel identifies critical infrastructure gaps

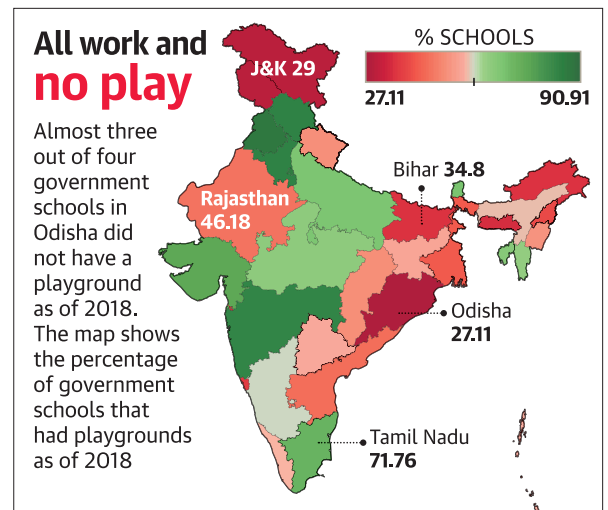
PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Almost half the government schools in the country do not have electricity or playgrounds, according to a report submitted by the parliamentary panel on education.

In its report on the 2020-2021 demand for grants for school education submitted to the Rajya Sabha last week, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (HRD) expressed concern that budgetary allocations saw a 27% cut from proposals made by the School Education Department. Despite proposals for ₹82,570 crore, only ₹59,845 crore was allocated.

Noting similar 27% reductions for the central and centrally sponsored schemes as well, the panel recommended that these core schemes get additional funds at the revised estimates stage.

The panel "expressed dismay" at the stark deficits in the government school infrastructure, citing the latest



survey data. Only 56% of schools have electricity, with the lowest rates in Manipur and Madhya Pradesh, where less than 20% have access to power. Less than 57% of schools have playgrounds, including less than 30% of schools in Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir, according to the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) 2017-18 survey.

The panel recommended that the HRD Ministry collaborate with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to construct boundary walls, and work with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to provide solar and other energy sources so that schools have access to power.

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