

Women turned back after Sabarimala shrine opens

NO ACCESS Experts say police action a violation of SC order; security increased at base camp

Ramesh Babu
letters@hindustantimes.com

PAMBHA (SABARIMALA BASE CAMP): Police stopped five women from trekking up to the Sabarimala temple on the first day of the pilgrimage on Saturday, sparking criticism from activists and experts who said the move violated the Supreme Court's orders allowing the entry of female devotees of menstruating age in the Kerala hilltop shrine.

The five women, part of a group of 18 travellers from Andhra Pradesh, were asked to go back from the base camp of Pambha in south Kerala's Pathanamthitta district.

"We checked their identity cards and found that they were in the barred age group and informed them about the current situation in Sabarimala. They did not proceed further," a senior police official said on condition of anonymity.

The development came barely two days after the Supreme Court referred to a larger bench petitions challenging its 2018 judgment overturning a decades-old ban at Sabarimala on female devotees between 10 and 50 years of age. The new seven-judge bench will also look into

CONTINUED ON P 6

MATTER OF FAITH VS RIGHTS



Devotees arrive at the Lord Ayyappa temple on the first day of the pilgrimage on Saturday. PTI

1991

The Kerala high court upholds the restriction on women of childbearing age entering the holy shrine of Sabarimala temple

2018

September 28: Supreme Court lifts the ban on entry of women

and holds practice unconstitutional

November 13: SC agrees to hear a clutch of review petitions against its September 2018 ruling

2019

January 2: Two women in their 40s walk into the Sabarimala temple before daybreak, becoming the

first to do so since the SC order to lift ban on entry of women

February 6: SC reserves verdict on pleas seeking review of its decision

November 14: In a 3-2 majority judgment, the Supreme Court agrees to re-examine the issue and refers the matter to a larger seven-judge bench

FIR filed against students of JNU

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Saturday registered an FIR against at least a dozen students of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, which has been on the edge over the new hostel manual, for allegedly defacing the administrative building and vandalising a statue of Swami Vivekananda at the campus two days ago.

The students were booked under Section 3 of the Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2007. >>P3

Varsity seeks old IAF jet at campus

Amandeep Shukla
amandeep.shukla@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: The Central University of Haryana has written to the HRD ministry seeking a decommissioned air force jet for display on the campus to inspire students to join the defence forces, officials aware of the development said.

CUH vice-chancellor RC Kuhad said IAF provides such aircraft free of cost to institutions to inspire young people. The presence of such aircraft on campuses is rather rare. >>P10

Agni-II's night test successful

NEW DELHI: India's strategic forces command carried out a successful night trial of the Agni-II, a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile that can hit targets up to 1,500km away and is seen as among the mainstay weapons in India's arsenal.

Officials said the missile was fired from the Integrated Test Range on the Dr Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha. It hit the target and its trajectory was as planned.

>>FULL REPORT: P 8

Oppn to press govt over jobs, economy in Winter Session

Saubhadra Chatterji
saubhadra.chatterji@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Opposition parties said on Saturday they will seek answers from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government over a slowing economy, growing unemployment and farm distress during Parliament's winter session, which is scheduled to be held from November 18 to December 13.

Ahead of the upcoming Parliament session, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla appealed to all political parties to cooperate in ensuring a smooth functioning of the House. Political leaders attended an all-party meeting on Saturday to discuss issues they wished to debate on during the Parliament session. The meeting was also attended by

MAHA TALKS MAY BE DELAYED

MUMBAI: A day after Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar said that a Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government will be formed in Maharashtra and it will complete its five-year term, the formation of the coalition appeared to be facing delays with sources saying the Congress and the NCP were yet to iron out some

issues. A meeting between Pawar and interim Congress president Sonia Gandhi scheduled for Sunday in Delhi was postponed and could now be held either on Monday or Tuesday, party functionaries said.

The three parties also cancelled the visit of their delegation to Raj Bhavan to

CONTINUED ON P 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) Lok Sabha floor leader, Pinaki Misra, also demanded a day-long discussion on the deteriorating air qual-

ity in the National Capital Region. His proposal was supported by Birla and other opposition parties.

CONTINUED ON P 6

INDIA TROUNCE B'DESH



Virat Kohli congratulates Mohammed Shami after India beat Bangladesh by an innings and 130 runs in the opening Test in Indore on Saturday. Taking 4-31, Shami led the attack on the third day with a superb display of seam bowling. >>P16 ANI

NOIDA PARK RAPE: POLICE HUNT FOR TWO SUSPECTS

Preety Acharya
preety.acharya@htlive.com

NOIDA: The Uttar Pradesh Police intensified on Saturday a hunt for two men who were among a gang of five that allegedly raped a 21-year-old woman in a park in Noida's Sector 63 the day before, officials said, adding that the survivor was discharged from hospital but will take a week before she can recover from her serious injuries.

Doctors and staff at the government hospital, where she was being treated, mobilised efforts to raise funds for the woman and her family, who come from an impoverished background, and asked members of the public to chip in with donations.

CONTINUED ON P 6

'Loan fairs infused ₹1.8L cr in economy'

Kumar Uttam & Rajeev Jayaswal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government's recent drive to boost consumption through loan melas (fairs) organised by banks and other financial institutions in about 400 districts could result in an estimated credit flow of around ₹1.8 lakh crore, and its full impact on the economy is expected in the coming quarters, a top government official said on condition of anonymity.

In the first phase of the cus-

tomers outreach initiative (October 1-9, 2019), public sector banks (PSBs) disbursed ₹81,781 crore, including new term loans of ₹34,342 crore. It is estimated that credit disbursal in the second phase (October 21-25, 2019) was around ₹1 lakh crore, a finance ministry official said, asking not to be named.

The government on September 19 directed state-run banks to provide liquidity support to non-banking financial companies (NBFC) and asked both sets of financial institutions to hold loan

THE LOAN MELAS ARE AMONG THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

melas in 400 districts during the festive season to boost consumption and accelerate economic growth.

The first official added that the move has already started show-

ing results, and claimed it has helped arrest declining automobile sales. Sales of passenger vehicles saw a marginal rise of 0.3% in the month of October after 11 months of decline. It isn't clear how much of the money disbursed in the two phases of the loan mela was through automobile loans.

The official said an infusion of over ₹1.8 lakh crore in credit disbursal in just one month is bound to boost consumption and added that the trend is likely to continue

CONTINUED ON P 6

BEHROUZ
The Royal Biryani

Dum Gosht Biryani

Tenderest of Meat, Dum Pukht with Seasoned Long-Grain Rice

Indulge in the legacy of Behrouz with our 2000-year-old recipe of long-grain aromatic rice, slow-cooked to perfection with tenderest of meat and seven secret spices.

Experience the Royalty.

Delivery Only

BehrouzBiryani.com

20% OFF
Code: BN20

Scan the QR code on Paytm APP to view Offer*

Pay using

paytm

AND GET UPTO ₹400 CASHBACK

complete 2 orders in 20 days, min. order ₹200

*Offer available only on website & app

Also Available On:

Faasos

zomato

SWIGGY

Uber Eats

PhonePe Switch

INSTALL THE BEHROUZ APP

Delivering across 1000+ Locations in 28 Cities: Mumbai | Delhi NCR | Pune | Bengaluru | Hyderabad | Chennai & more...

BEHROUZ / BehrouzBiryani