



Parliament passes
Aadhaar and Other
Laws (Amendment) Bill
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Crackdown in Valley
on Burhan Wani's
death anniversary
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Riske stuns Barty. Halep
stops Gauff; Serena,
Nadal, Federer through
page 18



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NORTH 5

Underlining the importance of filling up critical vacancies on a priority basis, the Chief Minister asked the departments to look at technical or skilled-cadre vacancies, such as doctors, nurses and teachers, where 2% retirement takes place every year.

more efficiencies, as per official release.

NCC training
In another decision, Capt. Amarinder announced a pilot project to provide compulsory NCC (National Cadet Corps) training to Class IX and XI students of State-run

be made compulsory for all schools," he said.

On the issue of transfers in government departments, the Chief Minister directed that the online transfer policy, successfully introduced for teachers, should be made mandatory for all other departments.

twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam in central and south Kashmir on July 1 and will conclude on August 15.

Meanwhile, Governor Satya Pal Malik, also chairman of the SASB, has urged locals to "bear with the inconvenience caused due to the traffic regulation for pil-

grims". He has suggested that the traffic restrictions for civilians should be reduced to two hours from six hours a day, where vehicles carrying pilgrims would be allowed.

Mr. Malik has directed all officers to ensure that every

pilgrim is provided the required assistance.

"The pilgrimage is conducted with the support of the local people of Kashmir and their role is praiseworthy in ensuring the smooth conduct of the yatra," the Governor said.

pak Roshan was hearing a PIL filed by Pankaj Yadav. It has asked the State government to reply in a week and posted the next hearing to July 15.

Ansari was brutally thrashed by a mob on suspicion of bike theft and then forced to chant 'Jai Sri Ram'.

and trying to set alight a school bus.

Man stabbed
They also stabbed a man and brutally thrashed another. No arrests have been made so far despite the police having CCTV footage of the incident.

IIT design helps rural women in fabrication of beads

New apparatus has increased production and added innovative features for designing, polishing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Rural women engaged in the fabrication of tulsī mala beads in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district have received support from a technical design intervention by the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, which has helped improve their old machines. The new apparatus has increased production two-fold and added innovative features for designing and polishing.

Hundreds of women in Bharatpur district's Kaman, Deeg, Nadbai and Sewar tehsils have been earning their livelihood since long by mak-



Omwati of Bharatpur's Bailara village inspecting the improved version of tulsī mala beads machine. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

ing tulsī malas which are supplied to the temple towns such as Mathura, Vrindavan, Nandgaon and Barsana, situated nearby. Regular reli-

gious events also ensure a good demand and consumption of tulsī malas throughout the year.

IIT-Delhi's Rural Technol-

ogy Action Group (RuTAG) took up a project with the help of the Bharatpur-based Lupin Foundation in 2012 for improving old devices used by women and evolved a new machine. In its latest initiative, RuTAG has made major changes in the apparatus by enhancing its speed, added new features and helped in its operation with a comfortable sitting posture.

Lupin Foundation's executive director Sita Ram Gupta told *The Hindu* on Monday that the new machines have been designed with wooden boxes, in which other tools could also be kept, while a state-of-the-art technology

had been used to add the utilities of designing and polishing. RuTAG has offered the machines to women of the region at a subsidised price of ₹5,500 each.

Trained in IIT

A woman entrepreneur, Omwati, from Bailara village of Nadbai tehsil, underwent training in IIT-Delhi in the use of new apparatus and passed on the skills to other women. RuTAG presented machines to Ms. Omwati and Lupin Foundation's in-charge of women's empowerment programmes, Salho Hembrom, at an event in New Delhi last month.

Tenure of Rajasthan Lokayukta cut

It will be five years now instead of eight years earlier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Assembly on Monday passed the Rajasthan Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill to reduce the tenure of the Lokayukta from earlier eight years to five years.

The Bill was presented by Energy Minister B.D. Kalla in the House on behalf of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and was passed by voice vote.

Under the amendment in the Bill, which was brought to replace an ordinance issued in March this year, the tenure of the Lokayukta has been reduced to five years from eight years.

The previous BJP government had increased the Lokayukta's tenure to eight years from five years last year.

"Recently, the term of office of the Lokayukta was increased from five years to eight years by amending section 5 of the Rajasthan Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas Act, 1973. But in most of the States of the country the Lokayukta holds the office for a term of five years.

"Moreover, the term of the chairperson under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 1 of 2014) is also five years," the statement of objects and rea-

sons of the Bill said. "In order to maintain parity with the term of Lokayukta in other States of the country and, chairperson of Lokpal in the Centre, it was decided by the State government that term of five years is adequate for the office of the Lokayukta," it further said.

Heated arguments

During the debate on the Bill, heated arguments broke out between Speaker C.P. Joshi and Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore when the latter was asked to be specific on the topic.