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NEARBY



Locals oppose facility to store spent nuclear fuel

TIRUNELVELI
 A gram sabha meeting held in Koodankulam on Friday passed a resolution against the plan to set up a facility to store spent fuel being generated by the first and second reactors of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. Similar resolutions were passed at Chettikulam, Vadakkankulam and Aanaikulam panchayats.
TAMIL NADU ▶ PAGE 5

T.N. gets new Chief Secretary, police chief

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Governor Banwarilal Purohit has cleared the names of K. Shanmugam, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), and J.K. Tripathy, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board, for appointment as Chief Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) of Tamil Nadu respectively.

Confirming this, a senior official said that orders on the appointments will be issued on Saturday.

The officers belong to the 1985 batch. Mr. Shanmugam is from IAS and Mr. Tripathy is from the IPS.

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GROUND ZERO ▶ OP-ED PAGE

PROPERTY PLUS ▶ 4 PAGES

METROPLUS ▶ 4 PAGES
 (CIRCULATED IN TIRUPPUR & COIMBATORE DISTRICTS)

President's rule for 6 more months in J&K

Polls will be held by year-end, Amit Shah tells Lok Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

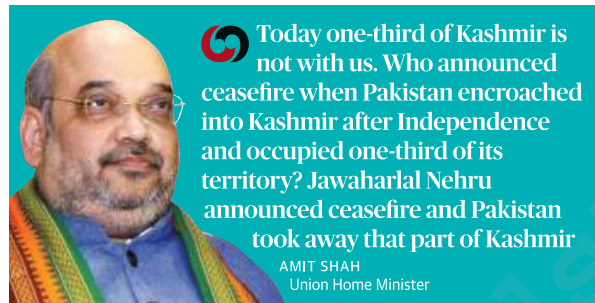
The Lok Sabha on Friday approved the extension of President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for another six months, beginning July 3.

Home Minister Amit Shah assured the House that "democratic, free and fair Assembly elections will be held in the State by the year-end."

Article 370 of the Constitution, which extends special status to Jammu and Kashmir, is "temporary in nature" and "not permanent," he told the House.

"The Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir is not yet in existence, so I have brought a Bill to extend President's rule for six months. The Election Commission has also held talks with the Central government and all political parties, and decided that it would be possible to hold elections at the end of this year," Mr. Shah said.

The Lok Sabha also cleared the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019, to



Today one-third of Kashmir is not with us. Who announced ceasefire when Pakistan encroached into Kashmir after Independence and occupied one-third of its territory? Jawaharlal Nehru announced ceasefire and Pakistan took away that part of Kashmir

AMIT SHAH
 Union Home Minister

replace an ordinance issued by the previous government. With this, people living along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir will get the benefit of reservation in direct recruitment, promotion and admission to professional courses on a par with those living along the Actual Line of Control (ALoC).

Hitting out at the Congress and the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Shah said it was because of them that a third of Jammu and Kashmir was not with India. "Who is responsible?" he asked, drawing a sharp reaction from the Congress

members. The House witnessed disruptions over Mr. Shah naming Nehru.

'A mistake'

Calling Kashmir a mistake made by the Congress and Nehru, he held them responsible for dividing the country on the basis of religion. Mr. Shah asserted that his government had a "zero tolerance" policy towards terrorism. "We have spent ₹2,307 crore to upgrade the security apparatus in the State," he said.

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NO ANSWER TO FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: CONG. ▶ PAGE 10

Interest rates of savings schemes cut

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has reduced the interest rates on small savings schemes, including the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) and the Public Provident Fund (PPF), according to a notification issued on Friday.

The rate for the five-year SCSS has been reduced to 8.6% from 8.7%. The five-year National Savings Certif-

icate rate has also been reduced to 7.9% from 8%. Deposits in the PPF will fetch 7.9% compounded annually, down from the 8% earlier. The rate for the Kisan Vikas Patra scheme has been modified to 7.6%, which will mature in 113 months, compared with the earlier 7.7% which matured in 112 months.

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Proposal on electric vehicles is well thought out: Rajiv Kumar

NITI Aayog official refutes charge that plan is 'unrealistic'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Countering the industry's claims that the NITI Aayog's proposal for transition to electric vehicles (EVs) was "unrealistic" and "ill-timed", the think-tank's Vice-Chair-

man Rajiv Kumar said it was a well-thought-out policy to capitalise on the "sunrise industry" and that two-wheeler makers should work with the NITI Aayog rather than paint an incorrect picture.

"We are trying to create a policy that will attract resources and investment. How does one attract investment without declaring a policy? Work with us rather

than trying to paint us wrong and saying that the policy has not been thought through," Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu*. The NITI Aayog has proposed that only electric three-wheelers be sold in the country post March 31, 2023. Additionally, all new two-wheelers below 150cc sold after March 31, 2025, should be electric, it said.

The industry has strongly

opposed the recommendation, terming it impractical and cautioning that such a move would disrupt the automotive sector, which is already reeling under stress.

Charge denied

Reacting to the industry's allegation that there had been no consultations, Mr. Kumar said this was completely wrong. "We started this con-

sultative process very actively in preparation of our mobility conference held last October. I have myself met so many industry people."

Additionally, he pointed out, the figure of ₹70,000 crore-₹80,000 crore cited by the industry as investment to move to BS-VI was primarily by the four-wheeler industry.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

President Trump promises a 'very big trade deal with India'

Discusses terrorism, Gulf crisis with Modi on the sidelines of G-20 summit

REUTERS
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
OSAKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday held "very open and productive" talks on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan, on a host of issues, ranging from trade disputes to the crisis in the Gulf.

They also pledged to provide a "strong leadership" to the world to address pressing global challenges like terrorism.

Mr. Trump hinted before the talks that trade prospects were improving between the two countries. "I think we were going to have some very big things to announce. Very big trade deal," he said at the beginning of the talks.

'Love towards India'

Mr. Modi thanked Mr. Trump for expressing his "love towards India" in a letter delivered by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was in Delhi earlier this week.



Productive talks: Donald Trump, Shinzo Abe and Narendra Modi in Osaka on Friday. • REUTERS

The Prime Minister said India stands committed to further deepening economic and cultural relations with the U.S. "The talks with @POTUS were wide ranging. We discussed ways to leverage the power of technology, improve defence and security ties as well as issues relating to trade," he tweeted after the meeting.

Briefing reporters, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the meeting was "very open and productive."

"The two leaders had a very warm discussion. President Trump congratulated the Prime Minister on his victory and the Prime Minister, in particular, noted that Mr. Trump had sent a very warm letter to him through Secretary of State Mike Pompeo," he said.

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ON 5G, INDIA ALIGNS WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS ▶ PAGE 11

DON'T MEDDLE IN POLLS, TRUMP

JOKES WITH PUTIN ▶ PAGE 12

'Terrorism, the biggest threat'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called terrorism the biggest threat to humanity and said it not only killed innocents but also affected economic development and social stability. He was speaking at the informal BRICS leaders' meeting in Osaka on the sidelines of the G-20 summit. ▶ PAGE 11

Trump plays nice in public

U.S. President Donald Trump struck a conciliatory tone at one of the most high-stakes G-20 meetings in years. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe appealed for unity at the start of Japan's new era of "beautiful harmony". The plea seemed to have worked as Mr. Trump dialled down his rhetoric. ▶ PAGE 12

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