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TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Modi, Trump hear each other out, set stage for more talks

5G: India points to its billion users who will decide global trend



SHUBHAJIT ROY
JUNE 28

WITH A small piece of paper in hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke first and set out four priority issues he wanted to discuss with US President Donald Trump — Iran, 5G, bilateral ties and defence relationship. Trump picked out trade and 5G, even as he was effusive in his praise for Modi.

On Friday, the bilateral meeting between the two leaders went slightly beyond the allotted 40 minutes, with Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale telling reporters later that both sides "aired their concerns", and agreed that their trade ministers, or representatives, will meet soon to sort out these issues. Trump, who had targeted India in a tweet for "very high tariffs" barely 24 hours ago, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe share a fist bump during their meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan, Friday. *AP*

India refuses to sign declaration on free flow of data across borders

SHUBHAJIT ROY
OSAKA, JUNE 28

IN A sign of resistance against developed countries led by the US and Japan, which are pushing for free flow of data across borders, India Friday refused to become a signatory to the Osaka declaration on digital economy that was signed by 24 countries and groupings.

While a majority of G-20 countries signed off on the launch of "Osaka track", an overarching framework promoting cross-border data flow with enhanced protections launched by Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, India was joined by South Africa and Indonesia in keeping away.

Seated between US President Donald Trump and Chinese

EXPLAINED

India is hedging its bets

AS TRADE wars roil global markets, the Osaka move on data signals that digital economy matters now to world leaders at the geopolitical level. Still building a framework to harness its data economy potential, India is hedging its bets on the issue. Even if it means breaking ranks with strategic partners — the US and Japan.

President Xi Jinping at a meeting on digital economy, Abe underscored the importance of his "Data Free Flow with Trust" concept — a move spearheaded by Japan that calls for the creation of international rules enabling free movement of data across borders.

The issue of data for development was flagged by India at the BRICS leaders' meeting Friday, which Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said had emerged as a "major issue" in international rule-making.

Gokhale, who briefed reporters after the BRICS meeting, said India believes that the discussions and negotiations pertaining to data should be held within the context of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). "Data is a new form of wealth," **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Article 370 temporary provision, separatists in Valley scared: Shah

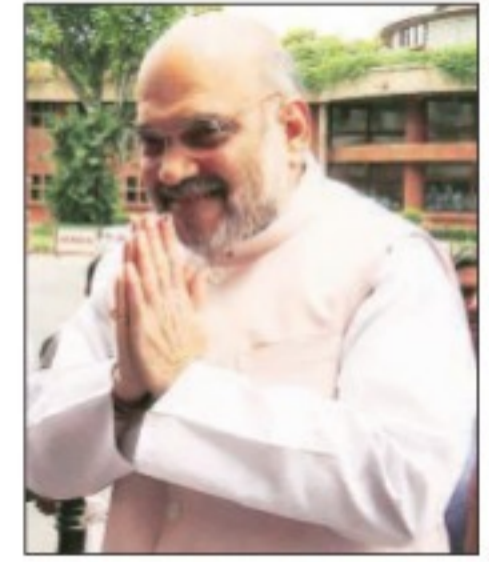
DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

CALLING ARTICLE 370 of the Constitution "temporary" in nature and "not permanent", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in Lok Sabha Friday that the provision extending special status to Jammu and Kashmir was included in the Constitution in this form in agreement with Sheikh Abdullah, the first Prime Minister of Kashmir.

Indicating that there are slim chances of any dialogue with Hurriyat leaders, Shah also said that his government was there to strike terror in the hearts of separatists and reiterated that the government had zero tolerance for terrorism, and vowed it will be rooted out.

Replying to his first debate in Lok Sabha after becoming Home Minister, Shah said, "As far as the question of 370 is concerned, you must know that it is mentioned as temporary in the Constitution and not permanent. And this was done in agreement with Sheikh Abdullah."

He also blamed the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, for Article 370. "As many as 630 princely states acceded to India. None have Article 370. Nehru negotiated with one state and it has Article 370," he said.



Shah outside Parliament Friday. Anil Sharma

The debate was on a Bill to grant reservation to those living along the International Border in J&K and a resolution to extend President's Rule in J&K by another six months — both were passed by voice vote.

Incidentally, the BJP has always maintained that it stands for the abrogation of Article 370 and it believes the provision is an impediment to the development of J&K. The party had even mentioned this in its manifesto before 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Several Opposition members had asked if the government will accept the olive branch extended by Hurriyat chairperson Mirwaiz Umar Farooq when he had **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Clash among militant groups exposes rift in Valley

MUZAMIL JALEEL
SRINAGAR, JUNE 28

THE FIGHT between indigenous militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and a group associated with the global Islamic State has triggered the first direct clash involving the three in South Kashmir.

A commander of the Islamic State Jammu Kashmir (ISJK), which operates under the banner of Wilayah Al Hind, was killed and a Hizbul militant seriously injured in the gunfight in Anantnag district Wednesday. The injured militant was later arrested by J&K Police.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a senior police officer in South Kashmir said: "We have arrested a terrorist belonging to Hizbul Mujahideen, who was wounded in the firefight. The fight started because of some issue regarding weapons. The injured terrorist is in hospital."

He said there are "four to five terrorists associated with ISJK in South Kashmir". "This is a very small group of ISJK and I don't think they can withstand the pressure of Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar. This is the first such incident in South Kashmir and now one of the ISJK terrorists, who was part of the clash, has **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Dry June hits kharif, sowing area 25% less than normal

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

WITH 31 of India's 36 meteorological sub-divisions recording deficient-to-scanty monsoon rainfall so far, sowing by farmers in the current kharif cropping season has been over 25 per cent below the normal levels for this period.

According to the Agriculture Ministry's latest sowing data released Friday, the total area planted under all crops during this kharif season has been only 146.61 lakh hectares (1h), as against last year's corresponding coverage of 162.07 1h and the normal five-year-average of 196.66 1h for the same period. The season roughly begins from June 1 with the onset of the southwest monsoon.

Pulses have taken the maximum hit, with a mere 3.42 1h being planted, which is way below **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

Photo Optimism

Vijayvargiya Jr swung bat for building that was declared danger more than a year ago

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

DIPANKAR GHOSE
INDORE, JUNE 28

TWO DAYS ago, images of Indore MLA Akash Vijayvargiya, the son of powerful BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, attacking officials of the Indore Municipal Corporation with a cricket bat sparked outrage across the country. But for the BJP in Indore, he is a symbol of courage.

On Friday, all across Rajwada chowk in the heart of Indore, the BJP held a protest with posters that read "Salute Akash." Slogans rent the air: "Akash ji dil hai, BJP ke sher hai (Akash ji has courage, he is the lion of the BJP)".

Akash has been remained in judicial custody for assaulting house inspector Dharmendra Bais and preventing the demolition of a building declared unsafe in Indore's Ganji compound. But on Friday, it seemed his actions had lent themselves to a political image construction.

The writ of Kailash Vijayva-

The Indore building over which Akash Vijayvargiya clashed with municipal officials. Dipankar Ghose

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- DU Law Fac.: ABHITESH KUMAR (Rank 3rd)
- CLC 2017 Batch: KANIKA AGARWAL (Rank 4th), NEHA SAINI (Rank 9th)
- AMITY Alumni Tops: NEHA SAINI (Rank 9th)

ILS, PUNE Student from Kanpur Toppers in 1st Attempt

- CHITRANSHI ARORA (1st Attempt)
- DEV SAROHA (1st Attempt)
- ANURAG OHLHARA (1st Attempt)
- NAVDEEP GUPTA (1st Attempt)

JUDICIARY WEEKEND WARRIORS

- DEV SAROHA
- ANURAG OHLHARA
- NAVDEEP GUPTA

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THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW

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DY LEADER OF CONGRESS IN RAJYA SABHA