



No harmful chemicals in PET bottles, CSIR study finds



Wrestler Babita Phogat joins BJP along with father Mahavir Phogat



Taliban sav latest talks on U.S. pullout from Afghanistan have ended Aishwarva becomes first Indian woman rider to win FIM World Cup

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#### **NEARBY**



#### Six killed in

H.P. landslides DEHRADUN/GOPESHWAR Six persons, including a woman and her nine-monthold daughter, were buried alive as landslides triggered by heavy rain hit three different villages in the Ghat area of Chamoli district on Monday. Erosion caused by swirling waters of the flooded Chuflagad river also

NORTH ▶ PAGE 5

#### Foreigner 'gang-raped' by three men in Vasant Kuni

washed away two buildings.

A 31-year-old Uzbekistan national was allegedly gangraped by three men in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj on August 10, the police said on Monday. An officer said the victim had come to India two months ago. The woman alleged that she was also beaten up by the accused whom she has identified.

**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

pen Modern History sion for By D K Bhalla Sir (Ex-IAS 1986

#### Army man's widow gets ₹1.17 cr. in accident case

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has awarded ₹1.17 crore compensation to the wife of a rifleman in the Army who was knocked down by a DTC bus near the Udhyog Bhavan bus stand in Lutyens zone in 2016. The offending vehicle had jumped the red light and hit the Army personnel when he was crossing over from the Sena Bhavan side. He was posted at the Army headquarters.

### Hong Kong protesters shut airport

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

All passenger flights in and out of Hong Kong were cancelled on Monday after thousands of pro-democracy protesters flooded the city's airport to denounce police violence.

Authorities said they were working to reopen it by 6 a.m. on Tuesday, but hundreds of protesters remained in the arrivals hall well into the night.

Over 5,000 protesters descended on the airport on Monday, carrying placards and raising slogans.

**CHINA'S WARNING** ▶ PAGE 14

## In Manasarovar, Chinese lend a helping hand to Indian pilgrims

### Well-equipped reception centres greet yatris on the arduous trek in Tibet

RADHIKA SANTHANAM For Indian pilgrims on the difficult trek to the high altitude Kailash Manasarovar,

the Hindu holy site in Tibet,

things might have just got ea-

sier from this year. Accommodation facilities, called reception centres, have been built at various points of the pilgrimage, thanks to an initiative by the Chinese government to improve the material comforts of the pilgrims under-

taking the arduous journey.

The reception centres, each with about 150 beds, have rooms with charging points, a common kitchen and a common washroom, and provide food for the yatris. According to Awang Chering, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ali Prefecture, all the four new reception centres have similar facilities.

"The Chinese government has spent 36.8 million RMBs (\$5.21 million) on

building these centres," he said. While two are open this year, the other two will be open to *yatris* from 2020.

Jitendra Singh Rautala, 43, a pilgrim from Uttarakhand who has been on the yatra several times, said the new facilities are "great". "They have ensured that a

difficult trek has been made

easier and comfortable," he said. A private tour operator, who did not wish to be named, credited both the In-

"Earlier, yatris used to stay

dian and Chinese governments with this change.

in tents; now they stay in buildings with attached bathrooms," he said. "Even those aged 70 can now go on the yatra," he said.

Besides the facilities that have already been made available, Mr. Awang said the government is planning to set up oxygen bars along the high altitude route. However, several pilgrims complained that the toilet facilities continue to be very poor. Vandana Neelkumar from Mumbai said inadequate toilet facilities inconvenienced women particularly.

On Monday, External Af-

fairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who is visiting Beijing, said after meeting his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that both countries are considering expanding the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.

"Some suggestions were made by the Chinese side to expand Kailash Manasarovar Yatra and we are deeply appreciative of these initiatives," Mr. Jaishankar said. Mr. Wang said the pilgrimage has "increasingly become a pathway friendship".

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12



of pilarims. • RADHIKA SANTHANAM

# Kashmir Valley kept under lockdown during Id festival

Main mosques in Srinagar remain out of bounds; stone-pelting in some areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Kashmir Valley remained under lockdown on the occasion of Id on Monday as severe restrictions on the movement of people and traffic continued.

Shaswati Das, a journalist with a business newspaper who returned from Srinagar on Monday evening, said all main mosques remained out of bounds, and heavy stonepelting was reported in some

**Anti-India slogans** 

Reuters said hundreds of people shouting anti-India slogans spilled on to the streets following prayers in the neighborhood of Soura, the site of a big demonstration on Friday, but authorities largely sealed off the area and kept the protest local-



Peace in the air: Kashmiris offering Id prayers at a mosque in Srinagar on Monday. ■REUTERS

on the condition of anonymity that a group of boys snatched their cameras and heckled the team.

"They were agitated and complained that TV news channels were not giving the true picture. They accused us of giving one-sided news. The city was under a heavy A television journalist said faced issues while moving sionally."

around. We were careful enough to not take out our cameras everywhere," said the TV journalist.

IGP S.P. Pani told a press conference in Srinagar that the festivities passed off peacefully barring a "couple of minor localised incidents of law and order which have **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12** security blanket and we been handled very profes-

### No sweets along border this time

The customary exchange of sweets between soldiers of the BSF and the Pakistan Rangers along the border did not take place on Monday on the occasion of Id. The Pakistani side refused to attend the ceremony after the BSF sent across communication to exchange sweets. ▶ PAGE 13

"In these incidents, there have been a couple of injuries which have been reported. Otherwise the entire Vallev is peaceful. I strongly deny any incident of firing anywhere in the Kashmir Valley," he said.

**CENTRE ASKS TWITTER TO** 

## Decision on Kashmir doesn't affect LAC, Delhi tells Beijing

Measures aimed at better governance, says Jaishankar

ATUL ANEJA BEIJING

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday reassured China that New Delhi's decision to exercise greater administrative control over Ladakh would have no implications for India's external boundaries or the Line of Actual Control with China.

"The legislative measures were aimed at better governance and socio-economic development," he told his Chinese interlocutors, referring to India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and making Ladakh, which borders China, a Union Territo-

'No territorial claims'

"There was no implication for the external boundaries of India or the Line of Actual Control with China. India was not raising any additional territorial claims. The Chiceptable" and it would not "INTERNAL MATTER" PAGE 13

Cordial meeting: Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar with Chinese Vice-President Wang Qishang on Monday. • REUTERS

nese concerns in this regard were misplaced," he said.

Mr. Jaishankar's remarks follow the Chinese Foreign Ministry's earlier response that India had "continued to damage China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally modifying the form of domestic law." The Chinese Foreign Office had also said that this practice was "unac-

have any effect.

Speaking to the Indian + media, Mr. Jaishankar said he had pointed out that regarding the boundary question, the two sides had agreed to a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement based on the 2005 Political Parameters and **Guiding Principles.** 

## Mukesh Ambani unveils Jio Fiber service for fixed broadband

#### Customers to get free calls, LED TVs PIYUSH PANDEY

After disrupting the mobile telephony market and becoming India's largest profitable telco, Mukesh Ambaniled Reliance Jio plans to disrupt the fixed broadband market with the launch of Jio Fiber on September 5.

Jio Fiber will offer free voice calls for life from landline phones, high-speed broadband of a minimum speed of 100 mbps, and a free high-definition TV and dish with monthly plans starting from ₹700 and going up to ₹10,000.



Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani at the AGM on Monday. • VIVEK BENDRE

RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani made the announcement at the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual general meeting of the company on Monday. "In India, even the most basic Jio Fiber plan starts with 100 Mbps speed and we have plans all the

### Saudi Aramco to buy 20% stake

The world's largest oil producer, Saudi Aramco, has agreed to pick up a 20% stake in RIL's oil to chemicals (O2C) business at an enterprise value of \$75 billion in one of the largest foreign investments. > PAGE 15

way up to 1 Gbps or 1000 Mbps. We are pricing our plans at less than one-tenth the global rates, to make it accessible for all," Mr. Ambani told shareholders.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12

### Delhi-Lahore bus service discontinued

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on Monday said it would "not be able" to continue the Delhi-Lahore bus service as Pakistan had decided to discontinue it due to the withdrawal of the special status to J&K.

The Pakistan Tourism **Development Corporation** (PTDC) on Saturday conveyed to the DTC its government's decision to suspend the service in addition to the two services to Amritsar.

between the paddy field and

The three-step plantation

the grass plantation.

has a common thread -

environmentalist Binod

Dulu Bora and the NGO

'Hatibondhu', meaning

idea of Pradip Kumar

NGO. We had several

'friends of elephants', he is

associated with. "Growing

paddy for elephants was the

Bhuyan, the director of our

meetings with the villagers

**DETAILS ON ▶** PAGE 3

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## Assam villagers feed elephants to keep them at bay

They grow paddy and grass for jumbos that venture close to human habitations

RAHUL KARMAKAR

A cluster of villages in central Assam's Nagaon district has found a way of keeping crop-raiding elephants off their crops by setting aside land to create a meal zone for them.

Most farmers of 12 villages in the Ronghang-Hatikhuli area of central Assam's Nagaon district do not have enough land to sustain their families. But they donated 203 bighas (roughly 33 hectares) of community land and took turns to plant

paddy exclusively for the elephants that often come down the hills of the adjoining Karbi Anglong district. The "jumbo kheti"

(cropland) has been envisaged as the last line of mealy defence against some 350-400 elephants that have often paid for venturing too close to human habitations. Five of them were electrocuted by illegal electric fences in the last 16 months, while half-a-dozen, injured by spears and arrows, died in the jungles



apple, 1,500 jackfruit and 25,000 banana saplings.

up the hills. About 10 km from the

paddy field, toward the hills, is an 8-hectare plantation of Napier grass that 35 reformed hunters have grown for the elephants.

This plantation is on land belonging to a tea estate. The locals have also planted saplings of 2,000 outenga (elephant apple), 1,500 jackfruit and 25,000 banana trees on barren land

and convinced them that

they would be setting an example for the world to follow towards reducing

man-animal conflicts," Mr. Bora told The Hindu on Monday.