



CJI Ranjan Gogoi rues 'loud and motivated' conduct in courtrooms

Page 9



Defying U.S., Gibraltar frees Iranian tanker seized last month

Page 14



V.B. Chandrasekhar, former India and T.N. opener, passes away

Page 19

Kohli hits 43rd ODI hundred as India wins series 2-0

Page 19



Free bus ride for women from Oct. 29: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said women in the Capital will be able to travel for free in all DTC and cluster buses from October 29. Speaking at a Independence Day function here, he said: "Today I am fulfilling my duty towards all my sisters of Delhi."

CITY • PAGE 2

SHO held in Faridabad DCP death case

GURUGRAM  
A day after a senior IPS officer shot himself dead with his service pistol at his official residence in Sector 30 here, Faridabad Police on Thursday arrested Inspector Abdul Sahid on charges of abetment to suicide. Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar has also constituted a special investigation team for a detailed probe into the matter.

CITY • PAGE 3

TEST SERIES-2020  
PRELIMS 44 TEST  
MAINS 46 TEST  
FEE Rs. 6000/-  
MALUKA IAS  
© 011-47340741, 9910133084  
53/6, 2nd Floor, ORN, New Delhi-60

FRIDAY REVIEW • 8 PAGES  
TABLOID

## Modi announces new post of Chief of Defence Staff on I-Day

PM also stresses on Jal Jeevan Mission and pitches for population control

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Thursday was full of big bang announcements like appointing a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), 20 years after a review committee on the Kargil War had suggested it, and the setting aside of ₹3.5 lakh crore for a Jal Jeevan Mission for water conservation.

The announcements followed a summing up of what his government had accomplished in its first 75 days, a blitzkrieg pace that he said he would keep to in future.

The demand for CDS was raised after a review of the conduct of the Kargil War, during the time of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government. The appointment of a CDS would have far-reaching ramifications for defence preparedness and co-ordination among the three services.

Seeks people's support

"Just as I called upon the country to join the Swachhta Mission to make India Open Defecation Free, I ask that you join the Jal Jeevan Mission which cannot succeed unless people partici-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspecting the guard of honour during the Independence Day celebration in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

pate on a mass level," he said.

The removal of special status of Jammu and Kashmir, the reorganisation of the State into two Union Territories, and the passage of the triple talaq legislation were explained by the Prime Minister in great detail, stating that his government believed neither in "creating problems nor prolonging them" rather moving decisively ahead to find solutions.

"India is asking those who

supported Article 370, if this was so important and life-changing, why was this Article not made permanent? After all, those people had large mandates and could have removed the temporary status of Article 370."

He added that the removal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir would ensure justice and development to backward sections of society there and lakhs of migrants who had moved to the region after Partition. "Now we can

say with pride, One Nation, One Constitution," he said.

As for the triple talaq law, he said if social evils like Sati could be proscribed, "Muslim sisters were also deserving of justice by the removal of triple talaq."

He made a strong pitch for population control terming those practising a small family norm as performing a form of patriotism.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

WORDS AND DEEDS ► EDITORIAL

## UNSC to hold closed-door meet on Kashmir today

China called for consultations after Pak. letter to Council

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
WASHINGTON/ NEW DELHI

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will meet on Friday morning to discuss Kashmir (India's dilution of special status), Poland's mission to the UN confirmed to *The Hindu*. The Presidency of the UNSC is currently with Poland.

The Kashmir discussion would be taken up under the closed consultations format at 10 a.m. local time, press officer Bartłomiej Wybacz said. The consultations on Kashmir were scheduled on a request from China on Wednesday.

Consultations are a way for Security Council members to informally take up an issue and the "closed" refers to the fact that the consultation is not open to the public and no record of statements is kept. The format also precludes Pakistan from participating, a diplomat said.

Earlier this week, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Maleeha Lodhi had handed over a letter from the country's Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi to the UNSC President and Polish Ambassador to the UN, Joanna Wronecka, requesting that the Council take up the issue. Mr Qureshi also tra-

VOICES OVER J&K

The world needs to realise that it is the issue of humanity and not a piece of land between the two countries  
SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI, PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER

All parties should refrain from taking steps that could affect the status of Jammu and Kashmir  
ANTONIO GUTERRES, UN SECRETARY GENERAL

The relevant party should stop unilaterally changing the status quo  
CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

India is not raising any additional territorial claims  
S. JAISHANKAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

## No Indian casualty, says Army

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Army on Thursday denied a Pakistani claim that five Indian soldiers had been killed along with three of its own troops in firing

push to bring back Kashmir to the UNSC shows that Beijing remains committed to its ties with Pakistan. Diplomats said the presentation of the Indian case by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar earlier this week has not influenced Beijing's decision makers.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Ceasefire violations occurred in Nowgam and Krishna Ghati sectors. No casualty to own troops," the Army said. ► PAGE 12

### Field trip



Narrow escape: A Russian A321 plane with 233 persons on board, made an emergency landing in a cornfield near Ramenskoye outside Moscow on Thursday. The engines of the plane failed after it hit a flock of birds during takeoff. Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman hailed the pilots as "heroes" for their timely decision. ■ AP/PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

## PM reviews economy with FM, officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a review meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and senior officials of the Finance Ministry.

"The meeting was to review the state of the economy and also look into the ways forward for faster growth," an official in the Finance Ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity, told *The Hindu*.

"The Finance Minister also informed the Prime Minister about the outcomes of the various review meetings she held last week."

Ms. Sitharaman had held separate meetings with stakeholders earlier.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Stolen Krishna returns for Gokulashtami

A London-based collector turns in artefacts bought from Subhash Kapoor

R. SIVARAMAN  
CHENNAI

With just a week to go for the festival of Krishna Janmashtami, India on Thursday regained possession of a priceless bronze Navaneetha Krishna, thanks to a rare instance of moral courage by an art collector from London. After U.S. authorities charged Indian antiquities dealer Subhash Kapoor with possession of stolen property last June, the London-based connoisseur, who had bought a few artefacts from him, came forward to U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), expressing a desire to surrender the pieces. The artefacts were recovered in June this year.

On Thursday, authorities in the U.S. and U.K. formally

handed over a limestone relief, originally from Andhra Pradesh, and the bronze Krishna from Tamil Nadu to the Indian High Commissioner in London.

Kapoor is lodged in Tiruchi prison and faces criminal cases for illegally exporting idols and artefacts from temples in Tamil Nadu. He was also charged by the U.S. HSI for operating a massive smuggling ring, allegedly run from his New York gallery.

A preliminary examination has dated the limestone relief to between the first Century BC to

first Century AD. The exquisitely crafted Krishna bronze, around six inches tall, is estimated to be from 17th Century. Both items will be subject to further examination to establish their exact period and original location.

The repatriated pieces are just two of the more than 2,600 antiquities that have been recovered around the world. The investigation remains ongoing, the Home Land Security Investigation said in a release.

"The cultural significance of artefacts looted from around the world extends beyond a monetary value. The pieces, like those recovered through this operation, are stolen fragments of history; and it is an honour to return them to their rightful home country," Peter C. Fitzhugh, of the HSI in New York, said.

S. Vijay Kumar, art enthusiast and founder of India Pride that tracks Indian antiques, said there is strong reason to believe that the relief could be from the Buddhist Vaddamanu site near Guntur. "The theft from the Buddhist site in Andhra Pradesh comes close on the heels of thefts from the Chandavaram site. Very little is known about the Vaddamanu site and to see that robbers have targeted the freshly excavated sites is shocking," he said.

The 17th century idol of Krishna from T.N.



## Police failed to nail lynching accused

Alwar sessions court cited 'serious lacunae' in Pehlu Khan case investigation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Two chargesheets leaving out important evidence in the Pehlu Khan lynching case, flaws in the police investigation, failure of the police to get a forensic test of the mobile phone used for shooting a video of the incident and the witnesses not being given an opportunity to identify the culprits during the probe, led to the acquittal of six persons accused of beating the Haryana dairy farmer to death two years ago.

The Alwar sessions court, which let off the six accused on Wednesday, has pointed out "serious lacunae" in the police investigation which created doubts about the involvement of the suspects in the alleged crime, making the prosecution's theory unreliable. The court gave the benefit of the doubt to the



Dejected family: Pehlu Khan's wife and son Irshad at their house in Jaysingh village of Mewat, Haryana. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

accused and absolved all of them of the offences of murder, rioting and unlawful assembly.

'Not enough proof'

In her 92-page judgment delivered in a packed courtroom, Additional District & Sessions Judge Sarita Swami ruled that the prosecution

had failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt and neither the evidence of its witnesses nor the material placed on record was sufficient to convict the six persons.

The shortcomings cited included the failure of Investigating Officers to ensure identification of the accused

## Crowdfunding to their rescue

Despite numerous odds, the family could pursue its legal battle only because of the contributions sent in by anonymous people from every nook and corner of the country, says Irshad, son of Pehlu Khan. "The ₹12 lakh collected through crowdfunding helped us a great deal," he says. ► PAGE 9

by Khan's sons and companions, who were also injured in the April 1, 2017 incident. The accused were different from those named by the victim in his statement recorded under Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code before death.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## NRC reverification only to avoid errors, says Sonowal

Supreme Court had turned down Assam's plea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Thursday hoped the National Register of Citizens (NRC) "does not include the names of any foreigner". He was referring to the Supreme Court turning down his government's plea for reverification of the documents of a section of the 3.29 crore applicants.

The Supreme Court, which has been monitoring the NRC updating exercise since 2013, rejected the reverification pleas twice within a fortnight as it stuck to the August 31 deadline for publishing the citizens' list.

"We had petitioned the SC for reverification of the NRC only to ensure a pure and error-free document. I reiter-

We hope that the NRC will be a historic document which does not include names of any foreigner and exclude any genuine Indian citizen  
SARBANANDA SONOWAL  
Assam Chief Minister



ate that the Assam government is committed to protecting all genuine Indian citizens residing in the State," Mr Sonowal said in his 73rd Independence Day speech in Guwahati.

The Chief Minister reminded that his government was formed on the promise to protect *jaati* (race), *maati* (land) and *bheti* (hearth) and ensure a foreigner-free and developed Assam.

"Around 55,000 State government employees have

had to take time off development projects to work on updating the NRC under the supervision of the SC.

"We hope that the National Register of Citizens will be a historic document which does not include names of any foreigner and exclude any genuine Indian citizen," he said.

Mr. Sonowal said the Central government had taken steps to secure constitutional safeguards for the indigenous people of Assam.