



Abrogation of special status will open up new vistas for J&K: Venkaiah

Page 10



P. Chidambaram endorses Modi's call for smaller families

Page 12



U.S. lawmaker Rashida Tlaib rejects Israeli offer to visit West Bank

Page 14

Ravi Shastri retained as head coach of Indian cricket team

Page 20



NEARBY



Kapil Mishra to join BJP today

NEW DELHI  
Rebel Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislator Kapil Mishra, who was recently disqualified from the Delhi Assembly under the anti-defection law, will formally join the Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Man on way to celebrate Rakhi killed by manjha

NEW DELHI  
A 28-year-old man died after his throat was slit by a kite string on Thursday afternoon in Paschim Vihar. The police have registered a case and started a probe.

CITY ► PAGE 3

JSW ► 4 PAGES (A SPACE MARKETING FEATURE) IN SELECT AREAS

## End of special status an internal matter, says India

‘Pakistan, China trying to impose their views on the world’

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

Reiterating that issues around Article 370, i.e., special status to Jammu & Kashmir, were an internal matter, India played down the significance of Friday's UN Security Council's "closed consultation" meeting on Kashmir. Indian Ambassador to the UN Syed Akbaruddin accused Pakistan and China of attempting to impart greater significance to the meeting than was warranted.

"After the end of the Security Council's closed consultations, we noted that two states who made national statements tried to pass them off as the will of the international community," Mr. Akbaruddin said, as he took to the podium after the meeting.

"The Security Council is a very deliberative... institu-



Syed Akbaruddin

tion. It works in a very considered manner. Its outcomes are provided to all of us through the [UNSC] President. So if national statements try to masquerade as the will of the international community, I thought I will come across to you too and explain our national position," he said, adding that Article 370 is an entirely internal matter of India with no external ramifications.

Neither India nor Pakis-

tan were part of the UNSC closed consultations, which are informal meetings that do not have a formal outcome. Sometimes "press elements" can be agreed by consensus of the UNSC members, but no such statement emerged from Friday's meeting.

Mr. Akbaruddin told reporters that the abrogation of Article 370 was done to enhance good governance and socio-economic development in Jammu and Kashmir and that the UNSC consultations had taken note of this.

Mr. Akbaruddin, speaking after his Chinese and Pakistani counterparts and in sharp contrast to them, took questions from reporters, including from Pakistan.

UN HAPPY WITH PEACE EFFORTS, SAYS AMBASSADOR ► PAGE 12

## SC counsels patience over J&K

Give a little time for the situation to ease, Chief Justice of India tells petitioner

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday called for patience over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir while hearing a petition filed by Anuradha Bhasin, executive editor of *Kashmir Times*, challenging the lockdown and media restrictions imposed by the Centre across the Valley.

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said he had read in the morning's newspapers that landlines would be restored in the Valley by evening. "We would like to give it a little time," the CJI said, addressing Ms. Bhasin's counsel.

Justice S.A. Bobde cited a telephonic conversation he had had with the Jammu and Kashmir High Court's Chief Justice as proof that landlines were already working. "There is no problem with the landlines," Justice Bobde told senior lawyer Vrinda Grover, appearing for Ms.



No respite: Kashmiris offer Friday prayers amid the continuing restrictions in Srinagar. ■ AP

Bhasin. Ms. Grover said only the landlines of a few important persons may be working. The reality was different for ordinary people, she submitted.

Finally, the Bench chose to keep Ms. Bhasin's petition pending. The CJI said a date would be fixed on the administrative side for the next hearing. This is the second Bench of the Supreme Court that has decided to 'wait and

watch' while the government handles the unfolding events in J&K.

The lockdown in the Valley was imposed on August 4, preceding the issuance of a Presidential Order the next day, which read down Article 370 and scrapped the special rights and privileges accorded to the people of J&K since 1954.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Protesters clash with police in Srinagar

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SRINAGAR

Hundreds of protesters in Srinagar on Friday clashed with the police who responded with tear-gas shells and pellet-firing shotguns, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

The clashes broke out after several thousand people rallied in Srinagar, where a security lockdown entered its 12th straight day after the dilution of Article 370 and the reorganisation of J&K. The protesters rallied inside the Srinagar locality of Soura that has witnessed regular protests since New Delhi announced its move on August 5.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 13  
CURBS WILL BE EASED ► PAGE 12

## Chhattisgarh CM to double quota for OBCs

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

With an eye on the coming local body polls, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced that the government would almost double the reservation for the OBCs, making up close to half the State's population, in government jobs and educational institutions.

Delivering the Independence Day speech in Raipur, Mr. Baghel said: "In our State, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes have been raising their demands peacefully. It's our duty to protect their constitutional rights. Therefore, in a major step, I announce 32% reservation for



Bhupesh Baghel

STs, 13% for SCs and 27% for OBCs." It became imperative for the Congress - rattled after losing nine of the 11 Lok Sabha seats in this poll to the BJP - to secure the OBC flock.

In last year's Assembly election, the Congress had breached the seemingly impregnable BJP bastion, to win 60 of the 90 seats.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Monsoon special



Twin harvest: A farmer catching fish in his field during a break in rain on the outskirts of Guwahati on Friday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Santhal penalty stalls cremation

Odisha police seize body of woman



Police personnel shifting the body of Parbati Soren for post-mortem in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Her husband Kandra Soren is third from left. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

Local police in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on Friday recovered a woman's body which could not be cremated for three days because community members refused to participate in the last rites.

Villagers belonging to the Santhal tribe at Kuchel village under the Kuliana police station limits allegedly insisted that the husband, Kandra Soren, pay an old 'society penalty' before allowing anyone to assist him in the cremation. The penalty that included a goat, three chickens, 15 kg of rice and two pots of country liquor was imposed on the family of Kandra Soren because his father had married outside the clan decades ago.

Mr. Soren had himself

married Parbati allegedly defying the tribe's tradition under which the groom's family must gift a cow or bullock to the bride's family at the time of marriage. His was a love marriage and he had not given any gift.

Mr. Soren, a daily wage, had expressed his inability to pay the penalty to the community and to his in-laws. As a result, he received help from neither of them.

Parbati Soren had died of unspecified illness on August 14. "Despite repeatedly assuring them that I will pay the fine later, the community members refused to budge," said Mr. Soren.

"We have sent the body for post-mortem," said Kamalakanta Das, Inspector-in-Charge of Kuliana police station. "We are trying to find out if he is facing a social boycott."

## ‘No First Use’ nuclear doctrine is not rigid, says Rajnath Singh

Minister's tweet after his visit to Pokhran hints at a rethink

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The future of India's 'No First Use' policy on nuclear weapons depends on the "circumstances", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted on Friday, after visiting the nuclear test site in Pokhran.

The remark raised questions of a change in the nuclear doctrine. August 16, 2019 marks the first death anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, under whose government India conducted nuclear tests in 1998.

clear tests in 1998.

"Pokhran is the area which witnessed Atal Ji's firm resolve to make India a nuclear power and yet remain firmly committed to the doctrine of 'No First Use'. India has strictly adhered to this doctrine. What happens in future depends on the circumstances," he said in a post on Twitter.

‘Indebted to Vajpayee’

Mr. Singh added that India attaining the status of a responsible nuclear nation became a "matter of national

pride" for every citizen and for this the nation will "remain indebted to the greatness of Mr. Vajpayee".

India put in place its nuclear doctrine with 'No First Use' and massive retaliation forming its core tenets soon after it tested nuclear weapons in 1998. The concept of maintaining a minimum credible deterrence and a nuclear triad for delivery of weapons based on aircraft, missiles and nuclear submarines flow from that.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Prove that Masjid was built over temple, says Supreme Court

Counsel for Ayodhya deity refers to ASI excavation report

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court asked the Hindu parties on Friday to present proof of their claim that the Babri Masjid was built on the remains of an ancient temple or Hindu religious structure. A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was hearing submissions on the seventh day. "Over the past two mil-

lennia we have seen civilisations settle and resettle on river banks. They have built upon pre-existing structures. But prove that the alleged ruins or demolished building [on which Babri Masjid was built] was religious in nature," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, on the Bench, asked senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, appearing for the Ayodhya deity, Ram Lalla Virajman.

Justice S.A. Bobde asked Mr. Vaidyanathan to corroborate his arguments that the structure was a temple, dedicated to Lord Ram.

Mr. Vaidyanathan referred to the Archaeological Survey of India excavation report that the structure found underground dated back to the second century BC.

HINDU IMAGERY FOUND AT SITE, SAYS COUNSEL ► PAGE 12

## Rajasthan appoints SIT in Pehlu Khan case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government on Friday appointed an SIT to

probe the Pehlu Khan lynching case and examine the previous investigation to find the lapses, if any, which had led

to the acquittal of the six accused by a Sessions Court in Alwar earlier this week.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 12

INSPIRING INNOVATION

**LIVE/ONLINE**  
Classes Available  
www.visionias.in

**"You are as strong as your Foundation"**

## Foundation Course

### GENERAL STUDIES

#### PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2020

**DELHI**

Regular Batch  
**25 July**  
9 AM

Weekend Batch  
**23 Aug**  
2 PM

**6 July**  
9 AM

**JAIPUR: 12 Aug | LUCKNOW: 13 August | PUNE: 18 July**

**AHMEDABAD: 25 July | HYDERABAD: 29 July**

## ABHYAAS MAINS 2019

**ALL INDIA GS MAINS MOCK TEST (OFFLINE)**

**GS - I & GS - II**  
24 AUGUST

**GS - III & GS - IV**  
25 AUGUST

» Feedback and Corrective Measures  
» All India Percentile  
» Available In English /हिन्दी

**Last Date for Registration: 19<sup>th</sup> Aug**

**Register at:**  
**www.visionias.in/abhyas**

**30 Cities**

AHMEDABAD | BANGALURU | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | CHANDIGARH | CHENNAI  
COIMBATORE | DEHRADUN | DELHI | GHAZIABAD | GREATER NOIDA | GUWAHATI | HYDERABAD | INDORE  
JAIPUR | JAMMU | JODHPUR | KANPUR | KOLKATA | LUCKNOW | MUMBAI | PATNA | PRAYAGRAJ | PUNE  
RAIPUR | RANCHI | SHIMLA | THIRUVANANTHAPURAM | VARANASI | VISAKHAPATNAM

**2nd Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Metro Gate 6, 1/8 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh**

**DELHI**

**635, Opp. Signature View Apartments, Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar**

**Contact : 8468022022, 9019066066**

**JAIPUR**  
9001949244

**PUNE**  
8007500096

**HYDERABAD**  
9000104133

**AHMEDABAD**  
9909447040

**LUCKNOW**  
8468022022

A ND-NDE