



on Sunday



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NEARBY



Yamuna flowing near warning level

NEW DELHI
With the Yamuna flowing near the warning level in Delhi, different agencies are closely monitoring the situation to deal with any possible flooding, an official said on Saturday. At 4 p.m. on Saturday, the Yamuna's water level reached 203.27 metres, slightly below the warning level of 204.5 metres.

CITY ► PAGE 5

Woman chided for fourth child dies in labour

GHAZIABAD
A pregnant woman who was chided by the Shahjahanpur District Magistrate for conceiving a fourth child died during labour on Saturday. In a video that went viral on Friday, Rekha, is seen complaining to DM Indra Vikram Singh against the government hospital administration for not admitting her.

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Jaitley put on life support, says AIIMS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who has been admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the national capital since August 9, has been put on life support, AIIMS officials confirmed on Saturday.

President Ram Nath Kovind and Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Mr. Jaitley on Friday as did Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. Mr. Jaitley has been undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit after he was admitted to AIIMS with complaints of uneasiness, weakness and breathlessness.

Dr. Vardhan said on Friday: "Doctors at AIIMS are doing the best they can."

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India, Bhutan ink 10 MoUs, vow to strengthen ties

PM Modi holds talks with Premier Tshering

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA THIMPHU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering held wide-ranging talks on Saturday and discussed steps to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors.

The two countries also signed 10 MoUs to infuse new energy in their ties.

"We had a comprehensive meeting, where we deliberated on the relations between India and Bhutan. There is great scope to further improve economic and cultural ties between our nations," Mr. Modi said.

Earlier, Mr. Modi, who is here on his second visit to Bhutan, inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant and also launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation.

The two countries signed MoUs in the fields of space research, aviation, IT, power and education.

A traditional Chhidrel procession and welcome ceremony was held at the Tashichhodzong Palace here for Prime Minister Modi before his audience with the



Strong bonds: PM Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering in Thimphu on Saturday. • PTI

Bhutanese King and his wife Queen Jetsun Pema. The ceremony symbolises the purification of path along which the guests are led.

Mr. Modi also launched the RuPay Card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, built in 1629 by Shabdrung Namgyal, which functions as a monastic and administrative centre.

Digital payments

"I am very happy that today we have launched RuPay card in Bhutan. This will further enhance our relationship in digital payments, and trade and tourism," he said.

On increasing the currency swap limit for Bhutan under the SAARC currency swap framework, Mr. Modi said India's approach is

"positive". He said an additional \$100 million would be available to Bhutan under a standby swap arrangement to meet the foreign exchange requirement.

The two leaders also unveiled an e-plaque on the interconnection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education Network.

The two leaders jointly inaugurated the Ground Earth Station and SATCOM network, developed with assistance from ISRO for utilisation of South Asia Satellite in Bhutan. Mr. Modi said India is committed to facilitating Bhutan's development through the use of space technology.

BENGALURU STAMP ► PAGE 10

Restrictions relaxed in a third of Kashmir Valley: police chief

People are cooperating with forces, only few indulging in violence: Dilbagh Singh

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said on Saturday that restrictions were relaxed in one-third of the Kashmir Valley, and people were cooperating with the authorities.

He told *The Hindu* that if one or two mischievous elements were throwing stones and engaging with the security forces, it was not a "big issue".

Imposition of Section 144 of the Cr.P.C. is still in place, though it was relaxed from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the jurisdiction of 35 police stations in the Valley, Mr. Singh said.

The Valley has been under lockdown since August 5 after Home Minister Amit Shah moved two Bills in the Rajya Sabha to annul Article 370 in the State and bifurcate the State into two Union Territories.

"What concerns me is that one-third of the Kashmir Valley was open today. People were cooperative and traffic was as normal as ever. The entire Valley was peaceful. Some mischievous elements throwing stones is not a huge concern," Mr. Singh added. He said the total number of politicians or political workers



On road to normalcy: Vehicles plying on a road in Srinagar on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

taken into "preventive detention" was not centrally available as the decisions were taken at the local level.

There are 15 zones in Kashmir police zone, which includes Kargil and Leh. Excluding Kargil and Leh, there are around 100 police stations in districts of Anantnag, Awantipora, Baramulla, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Handwara, Kulgam, Kupwara, Pulwama, Srinagar, Shopian and Sopore.

District Magistrate of Srinagar Shahid Choudhary said restrictions were relaxed in four out of five police stations in the city. "In

two zones, restrictions were lifted in one go. Some of the areas where restrictions were relaxed are Panthachowk, Jawahar Nagar, Ram Munshi Bagh, Rajbagh and Sadar," he said.

An AFP report, published in *The Hindu*, said on Friday "hundreds of protesters in Srinagar clashed with police on August 16, who responded with tear gas shells and pellet-firing shotguns." The clashes broke out after several thousand people rallied in Srinagar, the report said.

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IN FITS AND STARTS ► PAGE 11

Soldier killed in Pak. firing

An Indian soldier was killed during a ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the Line of Control in the Nowshera sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday morning, the Army said. Lance Naik Sandeep Thapa, 35, from Rajawala village in Sahaspur, Uttarakhand's Dehradun, sustained fatal injuries in the firing by Pakistan's troops. "The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly," an Army spokesperson said. ► PAGE 10

Trump asks Imran Khan to resolve Kashmir issue bilaterally

Phone call made before UNSC held closed consultations

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. President Donald Trump asked Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to resolve the Kashmir issue with India bilaterally during a phone call on Friday.

The call took place before the UN Security Council held closed consultations on the fallout of India's abrogation of Article 370 (special status for Jammu & Kashmir), a PTI report said.

Regional developments

"Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan to discuss regional developments and to follow up on the Prime Minister's successful visit to Washington, D.C., last month. The



President conveyed the importance of India and Pakistan reducing tensions through bilateral dialogue regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," read a statement from Deputy Press Secretary Hogan Gidley.

Last month, Mr. Trump started a diplomatic kerfuffle

when he told reporters in the presence of Mr. Khan that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked him to mediate in the Kashmir dispute. This was strongly countered by India, which said no such request had been made.

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The ears and eyes of railway safety

It takes specially trained staff on the Northeast Frontier Railway to detect a train's 'flat tyre'

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

When Hitendra Baishya and Vikram Mishra stand across each other on the two platforms of the Changsari railway station, about 25 km north of Guwahati, their ears begin filtering out ambient sounds to concentrate on an approaching train.

As their eyes follow the train zooming past at 60-100 kmph, their ears "look out" for a hammering sound that appears indiscernible from the clackety-clack of steel wheels on iron track and the screech of the locomotive horn. "No flat tyre," Mr. Baishya, the station master, says after the blinking red tail lamps of the train fade into the horizon. Mr. Mishra, the pointsman, has a similar

'aural report'. Their informal visual reports are in agreement too; the Delhi-bound North East Express had no hanging parts.

"The wheels of a running train make a rhythmic sound that may be off-tune if any wheel has a flat tyre. One needs to have highly developed senses to detect this amid the sounds that a train makes," says principal chief safety officer of Northeast Frontier Railway M.K. Agarwal.

The sense is developed through practical training for 20-30 days. A passenger coach has eight wheels and a locomotive 12. One or more of the wheels may develop flatness due to friction. The Railways allows up to 50 mm of flatness.



Special sense: Two gangmen checking the tracks on a railway bridge. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"If the flatness is within 50 mm, the wheel gets back the circular shape because of friction. If the flatness is more, the wheel makes a hammering sound. A train is then stopped and its bogie or locomotive detached for replacing the defective

wheel," says Mr. Agarwal. Mr. Baishya and Mr. Mishra, along with other staff, scan an average of 40 pairs of passengers and mail express trains that pass through Changsari every day. The drill to detect unusual sounds towards preventing

accidents is the same at other stations and level crossings along the route.

"A train gets scanned, with naked eyes or gadgets, every 10 km by a team of more than 600 people in the zone. It includes section engineers and gangmen, who ensure no screw or bolt is out of place," says Mr. Agarwal.

Some railwaymen have learnt to sniff 'potential disaster' too. S. Ray and Mohammed G. Ali, gatemen at a level crossing on the western edge of Guwahati, have developed their olfactory senses to smell elephants from afar. The level crossing is on a track that runs between the Rani Reserve Forest and Deepor Beel, a major wetland designated as a Ramsar Site.

Eleven lose sight after cataract surgery in M.P.

Govt. revokes Indore hospital's licence

SIDHARTH YADAV BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government on Saturday revoked the licence of a private hospital in Indore where 11 elderly patients, who underwent cataract surgeries on August 8, suffered significant impairment of vision due to infection.

"As a result of the loss of eyesight of 11 patients who underwent cataract surgeries at your hospital on August 8, this is to inform you of the cancellation of your licence under Section 6(I) of the Madhya Pradesh Upcharyagriha Tatha Rujopchar Samabandi Sthapnaye (Registrikaran Tatha Anugyapan) Adhiniyam, 1973," District Chief Medical and

Health Officer Pravin Jadia wrote in a letter to the Director of Indore Eye Hospital.

Infection after surgery

District Collector Lokesh Kumar Jatav, however, told *The Hindu* that the patients had not lost their sight completely but were suffering from "blurry vision" due to infection after the surgeries.

"The 11 patients have been shifted to the best eye hospital in the city and will undergo corrective surgeries. A team from Sankara Nethralaya from Chennai will perform the procedure. At this stage, we don't know what caused the infection," said Mr. Jatav.

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Major fire at AIIMS teaching block

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A major fire broke out in the teaching block of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday that destroyed samples and medical reports, and forced the evacuation of several patients.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

Delhi Fire Service Chief Atul Garg said that a call was received at 4.50 p.m. regarding a fire on the second floor in a non-patient area of AIIMS. Thirty-four fire tenders were pressed into service.

The blaze was brought under control by 6.30 p.m. but was not doused completely till 11.30 p.m.

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