#### FROM PAGE ONE

#### J&K schools reopen, attendance thin

In volatile south Kashmir, Mr. Malik said only local staff attended Pulwama schools but students' attendance was thin. "In Shopian and Kulgam, attendance was nil to very thin," he

The government plans to open middle schools from Wednesday. "The presence of the staff was an encouraging sign," said Mr. Malik.

All top mainstream leaders of the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), including Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, Nayeem Akhtar, Sajad Lone, Shah Faesal and Engineer Rashid, cases were being reviewed. Srinagar Secretariat wit-

remain in detention. Go-

vernment officials said these

nessed 75% attendance, according to officials. Many employees complained that their offices were targeted with stones by protesters in Bemina and other localities in Srinagar city.

DIG B.K. Birdi said restrictions have been extended to 50% police stations in Kashmir.

Mr. Birdi said there were minor incidents of stonepelting in areas like Nigeen and Safakadal in the city. "They were dealt with as per the law," he added.

#### NRC issues may be dealt with via legislative route

Mr. Sonowal said there were apprehensions about the law and order situation when the part draft and the final draft of the NRC were published in 2018. "But with the cooperation of the peo-

ple, everything went off peacefully. This time also, with the active support of the Centre and as per the expectations of the people, the NRC will be published on August 31," he said.

### Opposition slams RSS over Bhagwat's remark

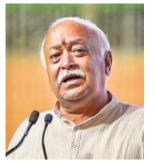
Those who favour reservation should speak keeping in mind the interests of those who are against it, and similarly those who oppose it should do the same, he had said.

"The anti-Dalit-backward face of the RSS-BJP has been exposed," Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted.

"The conspiracy to end reservation for the poor and the policy of changing the Constitution have been uncovered," he said in a post on Twitter.

Senior Congress leader P.L. Punia, along with former BJP MP Udit Raj, who had joined the Congress just before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, addressed a press conference where they alleged that whenever the BJP had come to power at the Centre, it had tried to review the basic structure of the Constitution.

"They [RSS-BJP] want to end reservation either in the name of reviewing the Con-



Mohan Bhagwat

stitution or starting a debate," Mr. Punia told repor-

The national communications head of the RSS, Arun Kumar, alleged that attempts were being made to stoke an unnecessary controversy and claimed that the RSS chief had only suggested a dialogue to answer all the questions related to

"We support reservation for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward castes and economically weaker sections," Mr.

#### T.N. CM promises to redress issues in 30 days

STAFF REPORTER

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Monday launched a scheme under which officials will meet people to receive petitions and redress their grievances within a maximum of 30 days. Launching the Chief Minister Special Grievance Redressal Programme in his native Edappadi Assembly constituency in Salem, Mr. Palaniswami said that the programme will be held in

each taluk across the State, and added that a sum of ₹76.25 lakh has been earmarked for this purpose. The Revenue and Disaster Management Department conduct programme.

The CM said that after necessary publicity, on a date announced by the District Collectors, an inter-departmental team including officials from Revenue, Rural Development and Urban Development departments will collect petitions.

## Unnao: CBI gets 14 days more

U.P. govt. told to pay interim compensation of ₹5 lakh for medical expenses

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the CBI an extension of two weeks to complete investigation into a road accident that left the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer critical and instantly killed two women relatives travelling with them.

A Bench led by Justice Deepak Gupta was informed by the CBI side that the girl and the lawyer continue to be in a critical stage in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here and their statements were yet to be recorded.

The investigating agency sought a month's time, but the court gave it a fortnight. The Bench further directed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay the lawyer's family an interim compensation of ₹5 lakh towards his medical expenses.

Supplementary charges likely

The CBI may file a supplementary chargesheet in connection with the alleged murder of the Unnao rape victim's father in judicial custody last year. On Monday, the agency informed a city court that it would furnish more substantial evidence. A status report on the

investigation is expected

within a week. A joint trial

after the CBI told the court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The court on August 1 dithat an immediate transfer rected the transfer of the acwould lead to jurisdictional cident case to Delhi, but the hiccups for the Judicial Manext day, modified its order gistrate, CBI, Lucknow, to remand the accused and for to the extent of deferring the transfer till the investigation granting permission to the got over. The modification CBI for custodial interrogacame in an order on August 2 tion of the accused.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

live cartridges.

in the assault and murder

the court has framed

cases will start on Thursday.

Clubbing both the cases,

charges against expelled BJP

MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar

including three former Uttar

Pradesh police officers. It is

and nine other accused,

alleged that the victim's

father was assaulted and

for allegedly possessing a

country-made firearm and

framed in an Arms Act case

The court had given the

CBI seven to a maximum of 14 days to complete the probe. The "accident" that occurred on July 28 left the 19-year-old victim and her lawyer critical and killed two of her aunts. A speeding truck rammed their car.

Uncannily, days before the accident, the Unnao victim had reached out to the CJI in a letter. But her cry for help largely remained unnoticed in the court's registry for almost a fortnight.

The survivor in a letter, dated July 12, had spelt out the threats to her life and her family from the accused, who included Kuldeep Singh Sengar, a four-time BJP MLA from U.P.'s Bangermau. The letter landed at the Supreme Court Registry on July 17 but did not reach the CJI's table till July 30 - well after the accident.

The next hearing of the case will be on September 6.

on May 15, 2017 against

Foreign Investment

2007, when Mr.

Minister.

alleged irregularities in the

Promotion Board clearance

provided to INX Media for

receiving overseas funds to

Chidambaram was Finance

the tune of ₹305 crore in

All smiles: Congress chief whip Mahesh Joshi, second from left, receiving the election certificate for Manmohan Singh at the Rajasthan Assembly in Jaipur. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### Manmohan elected unopposed to RS

A matter of pride for Rajasthan: Gehlot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was on Monday elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. Dr. Singh, 86, the Congress candidate, was declared elected after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended.

The seat fell vacant following the death of BJP State president Madan Lal Saini on June 24. Saini was elected to the Upper House last year.

#### 10 seats

The State has 10 Rajya Sabha seats, nine of which are now with the BJP. As the ruling Congress enjoys a majority in the 200-member Assembly, the BJP, which has 72 seats in the House, did not field its candidate for the byelection.

Congress Chief Whip Mahesh Joshi received the election certificate on behalf of Dr. Singh from the Returning Officer and Assembly Se-Pramil Kumar cretary

Dr. Singh was a Rajya Sabha member from Assam for five consecutive terms between 1991 and 2019. The Congress, which has 100 seats in the Assembly, was confident of Dr. Singh's victory, as it enjoys the outside support of all six BSP MLAs and 12 Independents. Its alliance partner Rashtriva Lok Dal has one seat. Dr. Singh's candidature was supported by the BSP and Independent members as well.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi congratulated Mr. Singh. "I congratulate former PM Dr ManmohanSingh ji on being elected unopposed as a member of RajyaSabha from Rajasthan. Dr Singh's election is a matter of pride for entire state. His vast knowledge and rich experience would benefit the people of Rajasthan a lot," Mr. Gehlot tweeted. "Many congratulations to the the world renowned economist Dr Manmohan Singh for being elected unopposed as Rajya Sabha MP," the Speaker tweeted.

### Notice to Chidambaram in aviation scam

Statement to be recorded on August 23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned the former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram for recording his statement in connection with the purchase of 43 Airbus aircraft when the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was in power. An ED official said his statement would be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India remains politically

committed to the comple-

tion of the Jaitapur nuclear

power project, which is be-

ing built in partnership with

France. A statement regard-

ing the project was made as

the External Affairs Ministry

announced that Prime Mi-

nister Narendra Modi will at-

tend the outreach session of

the G7 meet at Biarritz.

France, where India is a spe-

mitted to completing the Jai-

tapur nuclear power project

as soon as possible. In De-

cember 2018, we have

signed the Industrial Way

Forward Agreement. The

techno commercial offer is

in active discussion bet-

ween the technical agen-

cies," said G. Balasubrama-

niam. Joint Secretary.

Western Europe Division in

of the multi-nation tour that

Mr. Modi will undertake

from August 23. He will visit-

ed the UAE, Bahrain and

The visit to Biarritz is part

"We are politically com-

cial invitee.

NEW DELHI

Energy likely to be on

Modi's agenda at G7 visit

India is a special invitee at the meet



P. Chidambaram

Narendra Modi

France. The invitation to vi-

sit France was extended by

President Emmanuel Ma-

cron after Mr. Modi was re-

elected to a second term in

Modi is expected to high-

light climate change and

counter-terrorism

partner countries.

multilateral.

At the G7 summit, Mr.

The interactions with the

The Indian leader is ex-

pected to hold several bilat-

eral meeting with global leaders, though the Ministry

did not confirm the meet-

French leadership is likely

to include solar energy and

The investigation is based on an FIR, registered in May 2017, by the CBI alleging irregularities in the purchase of 43 aircraft from Airbus and 68 from Boeing at about

to a First Information Report registered by the CBI ₹70,000 crore. Former Civil

The Delhi High Court will on

verdict on the anticipatory

bail plea of Congress leader

P. Chidambaram in the INX

Media case. The case relates

Tuesday pronounce its

Group of Ministers led by Mr. Aviation Minister Praful Pa-Chidambaram. The ED is intel had earlier said that the vestigating if the profitable decision was a collective one routes of the national carrier and the purchase was approved by the Empowered

HC verdict on bail plea today

# were surrendered to favour

## India's bid for UNSC seat loses speed

Diplomats call for a more aggressive campaign within the organs of the UN

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

Despite repeated assertions of its right to a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, India's campaign for expansion of the UNSC has slowed down, available imciai statements suggest

The slow pace is visible in the fact that India's campaign did not prompt the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to move towards the resolution for expanding the UNSC four vears after the General Assembly in a landmark decision in 2015 had declared plans for the same.

Following the September 14, 2015 decision of the UN-GA, the Ministry of External Affairs had stated that the negotiations for a resolution of the UNGA would begin from 2016 but initiatives on the ground narrate another

India seems to have depended on the argument that it is entitled to a seat at the UNSC because of multiple factors such as population, growing economic stature and growing global responsibilities like peace-



keeping. Diplomats here suggest that a more aggressive campaign within the organs of the UN is required to push for a UNGA resolution to expand the UN Security Council.

**National interest** 

One of the key historic reasons for India's quest for a permanent seat at the UNSC was to ensure protection of national interest in crucial diplomatic moments when the organ takes up contentious issues such as Kashmir.

Yet, four years after the reform process received an initial boost, India stood outside as the UNSC members met for a closed meeting on Kashmir last week.

In recent years, India has insisted on getting bilateral assurance from visiting heads of states and governments, but permanent member countries such as the U.K., the U.S., Russia and France have expressed support bilaterally without actively collaborating with India in the UN for expanding

#### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

the council.

Frustration of the Indian diplomats at the slow movement of the process was evident in speeches delivered in meetings in various UN groups.

Delivering a joint G4 statement on behalf of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan, India's Permanent Representative Syed Akbaruddin in 2016 stated that the grouping was eager for a forward discussion.

"Our group stands ready to discuss the criteria applied to the elections and the voting process of the elections in text-based nego-

the diplomat at the "Plenary on the Intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation

tiations," Syed Akbaruddin

Yet recent speeches by

had said.

on and increase in the mempersnip of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council" indicate internal delays and differences among members that is hindering India's quest. Diplomats have blamed China for having quietly car-

ried out a campaign to stop the draft resolution from acquiring speed. Veteran diplomats have said that the latest UNSC meeting on Kashmir which was convened following an initiative from China showed that India will have to show more "stamina" to stop China from using the organ against India's interest. The issue of expanding the UNSC and the Text Based Negotiation is expected to come up in the next UN General Assembly session in September, which will throw open a new round of multilateral diplomacy.

#### SC dismisses **Tehelka** founder's plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea by Tarun Tejpal, founder of Tehelka magazine to quash a case of sexual assault brought by a Goa court in

The charges were serious and amounted to an attack on privacy, the Supreme Court said.

It fixed a deadline of six months for completion of the trial, saying it was already delayed.

The case concerns the alleged sexual assault on a former colleague by Mr. Tejpal inside a hotel elevator in Goa in 2013.

Mr. Tejpal has been out on bail since May 2014.

## Jagannath Mishra, former Bihar Chief Minister, dead

the Ministry

AMARNATH TEWARY

Former Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra died in a hospital in Delhi on Monday. He had been unwell for the past several months. Dr. Mishra, 82, became

Chief Minister in 1975, 1980 and in 1989-90. He was the State's last Congress Chief Minister. In December 1989, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made him Chief Minister to control the situation in the wake of the Bhagalpur communal riots. He ruled for 95 days, but could not stop the Janata Dal from coming to power in March 1990.

Dr. Mishra later joined the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and then moved on to the JD(U).



He was Agriculture Minister in the P.V. Narsimha Rao government at the Centre in 1995. His son Nitish Mishra was a Minister in the Nitish

Kumar Cabinet, but subsequently joined the BJP. Dr. Mishra was a Professor of economics in Bihar University. He has authored several research papers and

He courted controversy

government brought in the draconian "Bihar Press Bill" in 1982, which prohibited the publication, sale and possession of any printed matter that was "scurrilous, grossly indecent or intended for blackmail". A year later, however, the Bill had to be withdrawn as it did not get the presidential assent.

Dr. Mishra was also an accused in the multi-crore fodder scam cases and was convicted in some. But he was granted bail by a court in Ranchi.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar declared a three-day State mourning.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi extended her condolences.

#### Jaitley remains in critical state

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley continued to be on life support in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here on Monday.

Veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh, Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and BJP national general-secretary Arun Singh, among others, visited to enquire after the health of the leader.

The AIIMS has said that Mr. Jaitley, 66, admitted on August 9, is on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) support and he is being looked after by a multidisciplinary team of doctors in the hospital.

### Retirement age for Central forces is 60

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has fixed the retirement age of all Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel at 60 years, an order issued on

Monday said. The MHA issued the order following a January 2019 Delhi High Court verdict asking the Ministry to fix a retirement age that would be uniform for all members of the CAPFs.

All personnel in the Central Industrial Security Force and the Assam Rifles retire at the age of 60. However, in the other four forces – Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal – those



ranks of armed police forces

from the ranks of constable to commandant retire at 57, but those above them retired at 60.

The Home Ministry had challenged the Delhi HC verdict in the Supreme Court on May 10 but it was dismissed by the apex court.

On Monday, the MHA issued an order that the age of retirement in the regular cadre of paramilitary component will be 60 years "irrespective of rank".

#### complex may be revamped

**'Parliament** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the government was considering suggestions to build a new Parliament building or to improve and modernise facilities at the existing

complex. After inaugurating 36 duplex flats for MPs at North Avenue here, Mr. Modi made the remark.

The Prime Minister referred to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, who had requested him during the recently concluded session that the Parliament complex must get a facelift in terms of facilities.

A ND-NDE