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THE HINDU

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
30 pages • ₹10.00

Demonising Modi all the time won't help, Jairam warns Oppn.
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Rahane, Rahul revive India after Roach rocks top-order
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NEARBY

Temple protest: Azad, 95 others arrested

NEW DELHI

The police on Thursday arrested 96 people, including Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad, on charges of rioting and unlawful assembly following violent protest in the Tughlakabad area on Wednesday against the demolition of a temple. They were produced in a court which remanded them in 14-day police custody.

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Delhi NSUI chief blackens Savarkar bust

NEW DELHI

Protesting against the unauthorised installation of the bust of V.D.Savarkar, along with those of Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose inside the Delhi University campus, Delhi State president of the National Students' Union of India Akshay Lakra blackened Savarkar's bust and garlanded it with footwear on Thursday.

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Husband held in DMRC engineer's death case

NEW DELHI

The autopsy report of a 26-year-old engineer with the DMRC, who was declared brought dead at a hospital on Sunday, has stated that the woman died of asphyxiation due to strangulation, the police said on Thursday. Her husband has been arrested, they added.

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Open Session
Ethics Case Studies & Interaction with Varun Kumar Baranwal (IAS 2014)
24th & 25th August 11 AM-1 PM & 2 PM-4 PM
Chanakya Mandal Pariwar, ORN, New Delhi.
Registration : 8308837038, 8308837032

FRIDAY REVIEW ▸ 8 PAGES (TABLOID)

Macron: no space for third party mediation in Kashmir

India to receive first Rafale fighter jet next month: Modi

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday discussed the government's move to suspend Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and split the State into two Union Territories.

Briefing the media in Chantilly after one-on-one talks that lasted more than 90 minutes, Mr. Macron said France would support any policy that would give the region "stability", adding that no one should "provoke violence" there.

Boost to ties: PM Modi and President Emmanuel Macron before their meeting at Chateau of Chantilly. ▪ REUTERS

'Sovereign issue'

"Prime Minister Modi explained the decisions to me, and said that this is a sovereign issue for India. France believes that the issue of Kashmir should be resolved between India and Pakistan, and no other party should be involved," Mr. Macron said.

"We would like to support any policy that keeps the situation stable and free from terror. I will be speaking to the Pakistan PM shortly, and would say to him that this issue must be resolved bilaterally as well," he added.

Thanking the French government for its support on security and countering "cross-border terror", Mr. Modi said India and France had finalised several steps to strengthen their strategic partnership.

He also said India was looking forward to the first delivery of the Rafael fighter jets in September. "In the past, India and France have walked together and fought fascism and extremism together," Mr. Modi said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Chidambaram in CBI custody

Delhi court grants 5-day remand for his interrogation in the INX Media case

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday remanded senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram to the Central Bureau of Investigation's custody for five days for interrogation in the INX Media case. He was arrested on Wednesday night.

The CBI sought his custody to unearth the "larger conspiracy", stating that he had tremendous potential of not cooperating in the probe as he was highly intelligent.

Remanding him in custody till August 26, additional sessions judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar said, "It is impressed upon the investigating agency to ensure that the personal dignity of the accused is not violated in any manner."

'Remand justified'

"Considering all the facts and circumstances of the case as brought to the notice of the court, I am of the view that police custody remand of accused P. Chidambaram is justified," the judge said in a 10-page order.

Despite objections raised by the agency, the court permitted Mr. Chidambaram to make his submission in person. Submitting that he had answered all the CBI questions, he denied having any bank accounts abroad. He, however, said his son Karti had an overseas bank account with the RBI's approval.

Arguing for the CBI, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the accused was summoned, and he joined the probe on June 6, 2018. He was further interrogated after his arrest. However, he evaded questions and did not respond to the documents shown to him, Mr. Mehta said.

No relief: P. Chidambaram leaving the CBI court in New Delhi on Thursday. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

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THIS IS TO SILENCE MY FATHER, SAYS KARTI ▸ PAGE 12

Cong.: murder of democracy

The Centre is using the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate for "personal revenge" and the arrest of former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram amounts to a "broad daylight murder of democracy and the rule of law", Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said on Thursday.

▸ PAGE 12

Depressing, says Mamata

The way a legal matter pertaining to the former Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, is being handled is very sad and depressing, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday.

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'Afghan, Pashtun fighters poised to enter J&K'

Over 100 trained militants positioned by Pak. at LoC, warn intelligence inputs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Intelligence inputs have warned that Pakistan is recruiting Afghan and Pashtun fighters for infiltration into Kashmir, and over 100 of them are positioned at various launchpads along the Line of Control (LoC).

"There have also been specific intelligence inputs that the Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad has deployed over a dozen Afghan and Pathan terrorists for Border Action Team attempts, comprising Afghan militants and highly trained Special Services Group (SSG) of the Pakistan Army and for infiltration into the Lipa valley in north Kashmir," defence sources said. They added that Pakistan is desperately trying to keep the LoC active in an attempt to keep international focus on Kashmir in the aftermath of recent developments there.

The inputs have also warned of attempts by terrorists to carry out attacks in major cities, the sources added.

On the situation in Kashmir, which remains under a security clampdown, officials said relaxing of restrictions had to be calibrated to prevent violence.

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NO POINT IN TALKING TO INDIA, SAYS IMRAN KHAN ▸ PAGE 14

FATF wing may blacklist Pak.

After being greylisted at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary, Pakistan faces being put on the blacklist of the FATF's Asia affiliate, Asia-Pacific Group (APG), that will conclude its meetings on Friday. ▸ PAGE 13

Top-level meet on Kashmir

The Secretaries of the Union Ministries will meet on August 28 to discuss the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, that will come into effect on October 31. ▸ PAGE 13

Trump suggests India should fight Islamic State in Afghanistan

Says Pakistan is fighting it 'very, very little'

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump named India as one of the countries that ought to be fighting the Islamic State (IS) in Afghanistan. He also appeared to suggest that Russia, Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan were countries that should be fighting the IS in Afghanistan.

Donald Trump

"Look, India is right there. They're not fighting it; we're fighting it. Pakistan is right next door. They're fighting it very little – very, very little. It's not fair," Mr. Trump said in the White House. He was responding to a question whether he was concerned about the potential re-emergence of the IS in Afghanistan and how that might impact his plans to withdraw troops from that country.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump had said the U.S. would not completely withdraw from Afghanistan but "always have intelligence [in Afghanistan] " and "always have somebody there".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Nine parties join DMK-led protest

They sought the release of political leaders in Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nine Opposition parties on Thursday participated in a protest led by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), demanding the immediate release of the political leaders detained in Kashmir and restoration of communication services in the Valley.

The protest is likely to be the first in a series. Sources said all those who were present would meet soon to chart out a plan for a countrywide protest.

"We discussed the need to take the protest further to convert it into a campaign. We may meet tomorrow or day after to plan similar meets in every State capital to apprise the citizens of the true situation in Kashmir and counter the misinformation campaign run by the government," a top Opposition leader said. The protest was attended by the Congress, the TMC, the CPI(M), the CPI, the SP, the RJD, the National Conference, the MDMK and the Jan Lok Tantrik Party. Political activist Shehla Rashid too was present.

Coming-together: Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sitaram Yechury and Brinda Karat at the protest in Delhi on Thursday. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

'A GREAT JOKE' ▸ PAGE 13
UN TEAM ALLEGES VIOLATION OF RIGHTS IN KASHMIR ▸ PAGE 13

Rajasthan's free medicine scheme gets first rank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The National Health Mission has given first rank to Rajasthan among 16 States in the implementation of its flagship free medicine scheme. The performance of States was assessed on the basis of parameters such as stock of drugs, value of drugs about to expire and compliance with the drugs and vaccine distribution management system.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had launched the scheme on October 2, 2011, during his previous tenure, for providing free drugs to patients coming to public health facilities. The initiative was aimed at reducing out-of-pocket expenditure of patients suffering from cancer, heart and kidney-related diseases as well as other serious ailments.

Medical and Health Minister Raghu Sharma said here on Thursday that it was the Congress regime's "dream project" in which 104 new medicines were added after the formation of the new government in December 2018. A record number of 712 medicines were being given at present, he said. "Since 2011, as many as 67 crore patients have benefited from the scheme. About 2.25 lakh patients get free medicines every day," Mr. Sharma said.

EPFO to restore commutation of pension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Providing relief to 6.3 lakh pensioners, retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has approved a proposal to restore commutation of pension, or advance part-withdrawal, under the Employees' Pension Scheme. The move would benefit the pensioners who had opted for commutation and got a lump sum amount at the time of retirement before 2009. The provision for commutation of pension was withdrawn by the EPFO in 2009.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 9

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Shivamogga villagers opt for self-help, build bridge

Guided by three carpenters, 75 residents reconstructed the structure that was washed away by floods

P. M. VEERENDRA
SHIVAMOGGA

Many hands make light work, goes the adage. And when a bridge that served as their only link to the outer world got washed away in the monsoon fury earlier this month, the residents of Brahmanakeppige of Shivamogga district in Karnataka did not wait for official help – they came together and built themselves a new bridge.

The hamlet in Tumari panchayat, in the backwaters of the Linganamakki reservoir now has a spanking new wooden bridge, which took less than a day to build.

After the reservoir was constructed across the Sharavathi river near Linganamakki for power generation in 1962, as many as six panchayats in the Shivamogga district, including Tumari, became islands in its backwaters. At present, two barges provided by the Department of Ports and Inland Water Transportation are the only means of transportation for nearly 30,000 residents of these panchayats.

Only link

The president of the Tumari Grama Panchayat, Sathyanarayan G.T., told *The Hindu* that for 80 families of Brahmanakeppige, the only link to the outer world was a wooden bridge across the Kalkattu rivulet, a tributary of the Sharavathi river.

Brahmanakeppige residents carry out the work in Shivamogga district. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When the bridge was washed away on August 9, Brahmanakeppige became an island within an island, he said. The elected representatives and officials who visited the spot assured the villagers that another bridge would be constructed.

"But the people here realised that if the bridge work is to be executed by the government, it could take months as the proposal needs clearances at multiple levels. So, it was decided to rebuild it using *shramadaan*," said Manjunath, a resident.

Work commenced on August 17 at 7.30 a.m. Using locally available wooden logs and arecanut trees, the citizens completed the construction by 4.30 p.m. The workforce comprised of 75 people, including women. Lokanna, Manju and Lakshman, who are carpenters, supervised the construction.

The Grama Panchayat provided ₹15,000 to meet the expenses. The 100-metre bridge is now open for pedestrians and two-wheelers.