



Jairam Ramesh too responsible for UPA-2's policy paralysis: Moily
Page 8



Assam officials bring out online guide to check names in NRC list
Page 12



26 killed, 11 injured in arson attack on bar in southern Mexico
Page 14

Rublev knocks out Tsitsipas; Fabbiano stuns Thiem
Page 19



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Metro commuter can now carry heavier bag

NEW DELHI
Passengers on Metro trains can carry one bag up to 25 kg in weight, not be more than 80cm in length, 50cm in breadth and 30cm in height, up from the earlier limit of 15 kg, according to rules notified by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday. The Metro Railways (Carriage and Ticket) Amendment Rules, 2019, also put in place a rule against "bundles" as baggage.

CITY PAGE 3

Candidates for JNUSU election declared

NEW DELHI
Candidates for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union election, to be held on September 6, were declared on Wednesday. The Students' Federation of India, All India Students' Association, All India Students' Federation and the Democratic Students' Federation have joined hands to form a united Left panel to take on the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.

CITY PAGE 3

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Age of third-degree torture over, Shah tells police officials

Home Minister gives call for a robust forensic set-up

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The age of third-degree torture was over and the police should stay a step ahead of crime and "criminal-minded people" through better investigation and forensic evidence, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

He was speaking at the 50th foundation day of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), a think-tank under the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Amit Shah

Mr. Shah said old police concepts should be revived for investigation and mere "reliance on phone tapping"

was not going to yield results. He stressed on need for a robust forensic set-up that would make it impossible for criminals to escape the clutches of law.

"Modernisation plan for police forces should be made for at least 10 years... This is not an age of third-degree [torture], police should stay ahead of crime and criminal-minded people," Mr. Shah said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Cabinet eases rules for FDI in retail, media

Local sourcing norms for single brand retail diluted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday announced a number of decisions designed to attract increased foreign direct investment (FDI) into the country, including easing local sourcing norms for single-brand retail companies.

Currently, the FDI policy says that a single-brand retail company with more than 51% FDI needs to source 30% of its goods from within India. The new decision says that this 30% can be calculated over the first five years of operation.

Further, sourcing for exports will also count towards the local sourcing re-

Subsidy for sugar exports

With record sugar production continuing to drive down prices, the Centre has decided to offer a ₹10.45 per kg subsidy to incentivise mills to export their surplus stocks. ▶ PAGE 15

quirement, the government said. The government also updated the FDI policy in keeping with prevalent business practices, it said.

"With a view to provide greater flexibility and ease of operations to SBRT (single brand retail trade) entities, it has been decided that

all procurements made from India by the SBRT entity for that single brand shall be counted towards local sourcing, irrespective of whether the goods procured are sold in India or exported," the government said in a release.

The current FDI policy provides for 100% FDI under the automatic route in the manufacturing sector. There was no specific provision for contract manufacturing in the policy.

It has now decided to allow 100% FDI under the automatic route in contract manufacturing in India as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

5-judge SC Bench to hear pleas on withdrawal of Article 370

Order comes amid caution by govt. to exercise restraint on observations on J&K

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday referred to a five-judge Bench several petitions challenging the withdrawal of Article 370 and bifurcation of the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

A Presidential Order on August 5 had withdrawn Article 370, through which special rights and privileges had been accorded to the people of Jammu and Kashmir since 1954 in accordance with the Instrument of Accession.

"Let all the petitions on the Article 370 issue go to a five-judge Bench for hearing," Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, heading a three-judge Bench, said.

The order came amidst fervent prayers by the government, represented by Attorney General K.K. Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, to exercise restraint as far as orders and oral observations on J&K were concerned.

"The Article 370 issue has international and cross-border implications. Whatever statements made here are sent to the United Nations," Mr. Venugopal seemed to caution.

"Does this mean the Supreme Court cannot do its duty?" senior advocate Ashwani Kumar, for one of the



Holidays continue: No student turned up at this school in Srinagar when it was reopened on Wednesday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Yechury to visit Valley

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Sitaram Yechury, to visit Jammu and Kashmir to meet his party colleague M.Y. Tarigami.

The Bench also allowed Mohammed Aleem Sayed, a young lawyer who was worried about his aged parents in the Valley, to go and meet his parents. It asked the State to provide him adequate protection.

Mr. Yechury, represented by senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, said he wanted to meet Mr. Tarigami over concerns about the latter's health.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

MORE REPORTS PAGE 13

50,000 govt. posts will be filled: Malik

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

In his first press conference since the August 5 decision to scrap J&K's special status, Governor Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday announced that 50,000 vacant government posts would be filled in the next few months. Calling on the youth to participate in the recruitment drive, he said the culture, identity, heritage and language of J&K would be protected.

Hinting that the suspension of Internet is likely to continue, he said the Internet was the "most dangerous instrument". He, however, said mobile services were being restored in the Handwara and Kupwara areas of north Kashmir.

Warning political leaders of public wrath for any support to continuation of Article 370, Mr. Malik said, "I want to assure people that identity of J&K, its culture, languages, religions, heritage, will be protected. It's solemn assurance of Prime Minister Modi."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Johnson suspends Parliament till Oct. 14

Anti-Brexit MPs condemn move

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on Wednesday that the suspension of British Parliament would be extended until October 14 – just two weeks before the U.K. is set to leave the EU – sparking outrage among anti-Brexit MPs.

MPs will return to London later than in recent years, giving pro-EU lawmakers less time than expected to thwart Mr. Johnson's Brexit plans before Britain is due to leave the EU on October 31.

"We're going to do it on October 14," Mr. Johnson told reporters. He is due to attend one last EU summit three days later. "There will be ample time on both sides of that crucial October 17 summit, ample time in



Boris Johnson

Parliament for MPs to debate," Mr. Johnson said.

The move enraged opposition MPs involved in trying to stop Brexit. Tom Watson, deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, said, "This action is an utterly scandalous affront to our democracy. We cannot let this happen."

OPPOSITION UPSET PAGE 14

Annual journey



Workers shifting a Ganesha idol that arrived from Nagpur at the M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station in Chennai. Pandals have sprung up across the country for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival on September 2. • K.V. SRINIVASAN

Silence is a punishment, says Minister Javadekar

Gives away awards for community radio

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Wednesday that the "biggest punishment" for people was not having a means of communication and not being able to talk to anyone.

He was speaking at the National Awards for Community Radio.

His comments come against the backdrop of the ongoing communication blockade in Kashmir, where Internet and mobile services have been suspended for the last 22 days.

Mr. Javadekar also launched a booklet titled 'Jan Connect' on the first 75 days of the Narendra Modi government's second term. Launching the booklet, he applauded the nullification of Article 370 revoking spe-



Prakash Javadekar

cial Constitutional status for Jammu & Kashmir.

"With the historic decision on Article 370, Kashmir will get the development that they did not get till now. All the laws that are applicable to the rest of the country will be applicable there too," Mr. Javadekar said.

The Minister gave away awards in five community radio categories for the years 2018 and 2019.

In Shivpuri, one birthday to link them all

With no documents to prove their age, Kakra residents get January 1 as default date on Aadhaar card

SIDHARTH YADAV
SHIVPURI

"I think I am 30," says Kallo Adiwasi who, according to her crisp Aadhaar card, is 39, and going by her tattered black-and-white voter ID, 49.

But there's one thing that this member of the vulnerable Saharia tribe shares with other residents of Kakra village in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district: the date and the month of birth mentioned on the Aadhaar card – January 1.

Young or old, male or female, in fact, anyone without a proof of date of birth has been shown to be born on January 1.

"I like to tell people I am 25 in order to seem younger," says Ashok

Adiwasi, born on January 1, 1985, as per his card. "We don't have a system of recording birthdays. I don't even know when I was born. How does it matter anyway? We don't celebrate birthdays."

Jagamam, Maho, Puran, Asarapi, Radha and Jasodi and several other villagers share the same birthday. Even Ajuddi Adiwasi, purportedly 84, shares his birthday with Kallon Adiwasi, now four.

According to the policy of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI),



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

tasked with enrolling citizens under the programme, if an individual is unable to produce a proof of birth at the time of

registration, they can declare it without supporting documents. In case they don't remember the date, merely stating the age will do.

Official's decision

In 2016, at Jakhanod village, when it was Ramadullhari Adiwasi's turn at a registration camp, she was left stammering when she was asked her age.

"The official scanned me from top to bottom and declared that I was 39," she says, flashing her card that shows January 1, 1977, as her date of birth.

Back in Kakra, Udaysingh Adiwasi's date of birth on his

Aadhaar card is January 1, 2004, which makes him 15. Yet, he holds a voter identity card which gives his birth year as 2000. When asked about the discrepancy, he says, "Wait, I'll get my other Aadhaar card. It has yet another date of birth."

In 2017, news reports claimed that nearly all residents of a tribal-dominated village in Hardwar in Uttarakhand were born on January 1 as per their Aadhaar cards. The UIDAI had clarified that as per its policy, if a person was only able to declare his or her age during enrolment, the system by default takes January 1 of that year as the date of birth.

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

A man was killed and another seriously injured by a mob in a village in Sambhal when it mistook the two for child-lifters on Tuesday.

Raju and Ramavtar, from Chhabra village of Chandauli in Sambhal district, were taking their nephew Ravi for treatment on a motorbike to a hospital when a group of men in Jarai village attacked them.

Local sources said the child was crying because of stomach pain and the unidentified men, agitated by social media posts about the presence of alleged child-lifters in the area, mistook the

uncles as culprits. They were mercilessly beaten by sticks by a mob that gradually swelled to around 300 people. By the time the police reached, the two brothers had lost consciousness. Mr. Raju passed away on the way to hospital while Mr. Ramavtar's condition remains grave.

Yamuna Prasad, Superintendent of Police, Sambhal, told *The Hindu*, "Based on video evidence collected from the spot, four persons have been arrested under charges of murder and rioting and an FIR has been registered against 14 more for rioting. We will arrest them soon. Ramavtar is stable."

He appealed to locals not to believe in rumours being spread through social media.

20 cases in two weeks

In the past two weeks, at least 20 cases have emerged from western U.P. of rumours of 'bachcha chor' (child-lifters) leading to mob attacks. Five women from Gujarat were thrashed by a mob on suspicion of being child-lifters while they were selling ropes in Shamli district on Monday. They were rescued by the police. Even mentally-ill persons are not being spared. Two such cases have come to light in Bulandshahr and Bareilly.