

Tej Pratap Yadav addicted to drugs, says wife in divorce plea



Plea to reschedule NRC hearings for people from far-flung areas



14 killed, 145 injured in blast triggered by the Taliban in Kabul

India to take on West Indies in the first ODI

Page 19





PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA



Arguments begin in Unnao rape case

A Delhi court on Wednesday started hearing arguments in the Unnao rape case in which Uttar Pradesh MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar is one of the accused. Counsel for the CBI submitted before District and Sessions Judge Dharmesh Sharma that the minor was assaulted by the expelled BJP MLA and co-accused Shashi Singh helped him in the commission of the crime as she had lured the victim to his residence on the pretext of getting her a job.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 5

No trace of cab driver who 'raped' JNU student

After four days of investigation, the police are yet to trace the cab or the driver who had allegedly raped a 21-year-old JNU student. A police officer said the statements given by the student are not matching with the electronic evidence accessed by them.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3



Pakistan expels Indian envoy, suspends bilateral trade

It decides to take Kashmir issue to the UN, observe Aug. 15 as 'Black Day'

MEHMAL SARFRAZ LAHORE

Pakistan on Wednesday expelled the Indian High Commissioner and suspended bilateral trade in response to New Delhi's decision to end the special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Government of India has been told to withdraw its High Commissioner to Pakistan. The Indian government has also been informed that Pakistan will not be sending its High Commissioner-designate to India," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Ajay Bisaria is India's High Commissioner in Islamabad.

The decisions were taken at a National Security Com-(NSC) meeting mittee chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan at his office in Islamabad. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi read out the NSC decisions, while addressing a joint session of Parliament.

Be vigilant, forces told

The Committee has also decided to review bilateral arrangements and take the Kashmir issue to the UN, including the Security Council,

Pakistan will observe August 14, its Independence Day, "in solidarity with brave Kashmiris" and August 15 as a "Black Day." "The PM has



India's decision to end the special status to Jammu and Kashmir. • AFP

also directed all diplomatic channels to be activated in order to expose the brutal Indian racist regime, design and human rights violations. The PM directed Pakistani Armed Forces to continue vigilance," tweeted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the ruling

The NSC meeting was attended by the Foreign Minister, the Defence Minister, the Minister for Human Rights, the Army chief, the DG ISI, the DG ISPR and several other senior officials of the military and the government.

On Tuesday, while addressing Parliament, Mr. Khan had warned that India's decision could trigger more violent incidents in Kashmir.

He had also said Pakistan decided not to pursue talks with India after having realised that it was not interested in them.

Senior journalist Gharidah Farooqi said he believes that the NSC decisions had changed the dynamics of the bilateral relations.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Many Jammu residents hail integration as best option Phone and Internet connectivity continue to be disrupted

DAMINI NATH

Looking at a nearly deserted road that functions as Jammu's main outstation bus stand, Shubham Sharma said on Wednesday that though his business of ferrying passengers to Srinagar had taken a hit over the past three days, he was sure that "this [amending Article 370] was the best option, even for

It had been three days since the government imposed restrictions under Section 144 of the CrPC, curtailing vehicular movement and shutting off mobile Internet services in Jammu, ahead of its announcement of revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories on Monday.

While many Jammu residents welcomed the Modi government's move, across the road from Mr. Sharma, Umar, a resident of Srinagar who also runs a tourism transport business, termed it a "betraval."

Umar, who wished to be identified by his first name alone, said he drove from Srinagar overnight to avoid the stone-pelting by protesters, just in order to make a phone call to relatives abroad. Since Sunday night, all phone – mobile and fixed



Stranded on the street: Children sleeping on a pavement outside the Tourist Reception Centre in Srinagar as their parents make efforts to leave the Valley. • NISSAR AHMAD

'Unprecedented lockdown'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

J&K People's Movement president Shah Faesal on Wednesday said Kashmir was experiencing an unprecedented lockdown and the locals were yet to make sense of what had

befallen them. "Everyone is mourning what we lost...its the loss of statehood that has hurt people deeply. This is being seen as the biggest betrayal by the Indian State in last 70 years," the former IAS officer tweeted. ▶PAGE 12

line – services and Internet connectivity in Srinagar have been stopped on government orders.

"The government has put us at gunpoint. We had an agreement with India, not with Pakistan, when we joined. Now, they have broken the agreement. What relation do we have left with them? Now, anyone can come and claim Kashmir, be it Pakistan or China," said Umar, as he waited for information about when he could start driving back to Srinagar, if the roads were open.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

RBI takes offbeat tack to help reverse growth slowdown

EMIs to fall after 'unconventional' 35 bps rate reduction

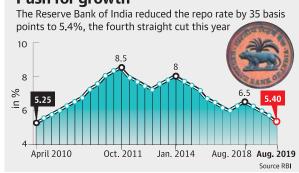
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday opted to break with convention by reducing the key policy rate, the repo rate, by 35 basis points (bps) to 5.4% as it focused monetary policy measures on helping revive demand to tackle a deepening economic slowdown.

While central banks typically cut or raise interest rates in increments of a quarter percentage point or in multiples, Governor Shaktikanta Das said too much should not be read into the departure from convention.

The extent of cut was determined by the situation, he said. This is the first time the RBI has moved rates by a figure that is not a multiple

Push for growth



of 25 bps. A percentage point comprises 100 bps.

"Given the evolving economic situation, the assessment of the MPC, based on demand conditions etc. 25 bps cut was inadequate, while a 50 bps rate cut was excessive, especially after taking into account the ac-

tions already undertaken," Mr. Das said in a post-policy press briefing. "That is why we have taken a balanced

> **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12 **RBI'S GOLDILOCKS CUT ▶** EDITORIAL MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 15

Mayawati changes party U.P. chief, LS leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ganisation, the Bahujan Samaj Party on Wednesday appointed former Rajya Sabha sident of its Uttar Pradesh unit, while also replacing its floor leader in the Lok Sab-

Shyam Singh Yadav, the first-time MP from Jaunpur, is the new leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, where it has 10 members. Ritesh Pandey, the MP from Ambedkar Nagar, was nominated the BSP's deputy leader in the Lower House.

While Mr. Yadav is an U.P., is Muslim.

Pakistan shuts

a part of its

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan has closed a

corridor in its airspace,

which will result in an

additional 12 minutes of

flying time for overseas

flights, an Air India official

said on Wednesday. The

flights would have to be

diverted to other routes

due to the closure.

airspace

NEW DELHI

Munquad Ali is new State BSP president

Making key changes to its or-MP Munquad Ali as the preha Kunwar Danish Ali.

OBC - the BSP highlighted his "pichda varg" (backward credentials) in its press statement - Mr. Danish Ali, MP from Amroha in western

Sources said that the Amtriple talaq Bill and the government's Kashmir measures were the main reasons for his removal.

He had, the sources said, consistently refused to toe a pro-government line that BSP chief Mayawati wished to follow and refused pointblank to speak on the debate on Article 370 if it meant supporting the government's line.

While the party replaced its Muslim leader in Lok Sabha with an OBC, in U.P. it did the reverse, perhaps to balance the caste-community calculus. Muslims make up 19% of the State population while OBCs are estimated to be over 40%.

Mr. Munquad Ali replaces R.S. Kushwaha as the head of the BSP's State unit.

Liaison officers plan on-campus Id celebrations for J&K students ties/colleges in north India

SAURABH TRIVEDI

To help calm the nerves of rently studying in various colleges in Delhi-NCR and neighbouring States, the liaison officers appointed by the J&K government are planning several measures, including Id-ul-Azha celebrations, on campus.

Acting on the instructions of the Chief Secretary, J&K government, all liaison officers who have the responsibility of coordinating with J&K students at various universi-

have started visiting the campuses under their respective jurisdiction since August 6.

Visit to colleges

"Liaison officers in Chandigarh, Delhi-NCR, Meerut, Jaipur and Aligarh have visited colleges/universities and met the students as well as the institute authorities. Around 50 students have approached them with a request to contact their families in the Valley," said

"The liaison officers are planning to celebrate Id with some of the students. All necessary arrangements are being made for the festival," said Ms. Kapoor.

The colleges have been asked to issue a formal advisory to all the students to avoid making any inflammatory remarks and not pay heed to any rumours, said Ms. Kapoor. The local administration, including the police, is also keenly involved in

Duration: 9 months

Fees Rs 90,000/-

Full state honours for Sushma

Tributes pour in from diplomatic community, world capitals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Tributes poured in from the diplomatic community and world capitals for former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, who was cremated here on Wednesday with full state honours.

The series of condolences were led by the Ministry of External Affairs that she exited in May.

"Enjoying immense respect within the Ministry and outside, for her compassionate and amiable personality, she has left a lasting legacy for putting people at the core of Indian diplomacy," said the Ministry of External Affairs in a statement.

The United States, Japan, Bangladesh, and Bhutan were among the countries that condoled the passing away of Ms. Swaraj, who had



a distinguished public life fairs Minister Sushma Swaspanning more than four decades. "Saddened to hear of the passing of my friend and

former Indian External Af-

raj. She was a strong partner who shared our view that a more democratic world is a more peaceful one," said Se-

cretary of State Mike Pompeo in a message. **CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 12

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGES 3, 12

Why use Urdu, Persian terms in FIR, asks HC

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to explain why Urdu or Persian terms are used in an FIR when the same are not used by the complainant.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said: "Too much flowery language, the meaning of which is to be found out by a dictionary, should not be used. An FIR should be in the words of the complainant. The police is there for public at large and not just for persons with doctorate degree in Urdu or Persian. Simple language should be used, instead of high-sounding words."

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 4

Veedushi Kapoor, Deputy Disensitising the students. rector with Kashmir Bureau

S SHUBHRA RANJAN

ADMISSION OPEN on register.shubhraranjan.com

General Studies Foundation AUG Batch 2020

Batch STARTS on 26 AUG 2019 Timings: 5 pm to 7.30 pm

SHUBHRA RANJAN (Polity, IR, Governance) **RUSHIKESH DUDHAT** (Geography & Environment) **JAYESH KHADDAR** (History, Art & Culture)

VIVEK SINGH (Indian Economy) SANTOSH KUMAR (S&T) SHUBHRA MANGAL (Ethics)

Only one person in a million becomes enlightened without teacher's help. (Bodhidharma)

General Studies Course Highlights:

- Integration of static and dynamic topics
- Syncronisation of Prelims and Mains Syllabus - Prelims and Mains Test Series included
- Faculty driven Test Discussions - Prelims Crash Course and MCQ Tool access included

OUR CSE 2018 RESULTS

TOTAL SELECTIONS: 64 (CSE 2018) 8 in TOP 100, 18 amongst TOP 200,

41 amongst TOP 400,

29 amongst TOP 300 53 amongst TOP 500

The TRADITION continues for 7th year in a row.

ELHI CENTRE: 32B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar 122, Delhi 110005. 5 9910812719/011-45612719.