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NEARBY



JNUSU polls: candidates engage in war of words

NEW DELHI  
Six contenders for the presidential post of JNU Students' Union engaged in a war of words during the night-long presidential debate on Wednesday, trying to win over their "sathis". The election will be held on September 6. The results are likely to be declared on Sunday morning.

CITY PAGE 4

FIRs filed against Assam NRC Coordinator

GUWAHATI  
FIRs have been lodged in Guwahati and Dibrugarh against Prateek Hajela, the Coordinator for Assam's National Register of Citizens, for "deliberately excluding genuine Indian" citizens from the updated citizens' list. The first complaint was filed on September 3 by the Asom Garia-Maria Yuba Chhatra Parishad at Guwahati's Latalis police station.

NEWS PAGE 12

Law student to be shifted to another college

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed with the Uttar Pradesh government's offer to facilitate the transfer of a woman law student from Shahjahanpur, who had levelled harassment allegations against former Union Minister and BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, and her brother to law colleges affiliated to the Bareilly university.

NORTH PAGE 6

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# India, Russia against outside influence in internal issues: PM

## Modi is first Indian PM to visit Russian Far East Region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
VLADIVOSTOK

India and Russia are against "outside influence" in the internal matters of any nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday after comprehensive talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin aimed at finding new horizons of bilateral cooperation in areas like trade, defence, space, oil and gas, nuclear energy and maritime connectivity.

Mr. Modi, who arrived in Russia on a two-day visit, is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the Russian Far East Region.

### Meeting on a ship

His remarks were made at a press conference with Mr. Putin after their delegation-level talks at the 20th Annual Summit following a two-hour tête-à-tête on a ship.



Broad-basing ties: PM Modi and President Vladimir Putin at Zvezda shipyard, near Vladivostok, on Wednesday. • AFP

His remarks came against the backdrop of tension between India and Pakistan after New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

India has categorically told the international community that the dilution of Article 370 was an internal matter and advised Pakistan

to accept the reality. Pakistan is trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue after India's decision on August 5.

Russia has backed India's move, saying that the changes in the status are within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# Azhar, Hafiz and Dawood designated as terrorists

## Home Ministry acts a month after UAPA was amended by Parliament

VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, his deputy Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, who planned and executed the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, are the first four persons designated as "terrorists" under the anti-terror law passed by Parliament on August 2.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a gazette notification declaring them terrorists under Clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Home Minister Amit Shah said on August 2, "It is important to identify terrorists and not just organisations."

### Combating terror

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday declared four individuals as terrorists under the recently amended Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. A look at its provisions:

- It empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists. Previously, only an organisation could be designated as one
- It empowers the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to seize properties, which previously required permission from the Director General of Police
- Also, it allows NIA officers, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases. Before, only Deputy Superintendent

or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above, could do so

- Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, his deputy Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and underworld don Dawood Ibrahim have been designated as terrorists

Under Masood Azhar's leadership, JeM carried out an attack on the Pathankot air base

The UAPA was first amended in 2004, then in 2008 and again in 2013. The 2004 amendment was to ban organisations for terror

activities, under which 34 outfits, including the LeT and the JeM, were banned.

To designate Azhar, the MHA mentioned five cases,

including the February 14 Pulwama attack, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

"Maulana Masood Azhar is accused in various cases registered and being investigated by the National Investigation Agency and chargesheet had been filed against him in Pathankot air base attack case; ...Red Corner Notices No. A-1086/7-2004 and A-4367/5-2016 have been issued against Azhar... the Central government believes that Maulana Masood Azhar is involved in terrorism and Maulana Masood Azhar is to be notified as a terrorist under the said Act," the notification said.

Lakhvi has been listed for his involvement in four cases, including the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

### Life lessons



No full stops to learning: Children studying at a private tuition centre during the lockdown in Srinagar on Wednesday. The communication blackout has been eased, but uneasy calm still prevails in Kashmir. • NISSAR AHMAD (REPORTS ON PAGE 13)

# Kartarpur pact stuck over fees

## Pak. won't allow consular officials to accompany pilgrims

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

The agreement on the Kartarpur Corridor project, which will open the famed pilgrimage centre to Indians, could not be signed on Wednesday after Pakistan declared that it would charge fees from the visitors.

Government sources said the two sides, which met in Attari, were in agreement on most points, but the final pact was stalled over key differences.

Won't help in easy access "Owing to certain differences over a few issues, the agreement could not be finalised. Pakistan insisted on



Home Ministry official S.C.L. Das, left, addressing journalists at Attari.

charging a service fee for allowing pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, which is not agreeable in the spirit of smooth and easy access through the corridor," sources said.

It was also pointed out that Pakistan declined India's request to let consular

officials accompany the pilgrims. The presence of Indian consular officials at Kartarpur has acquired importance in view of the reported activities of Khalistan proponents in Pakistan.

India had objected to the inclusion of pro-Khalistan Gopal Singh Chawla in the reconstituted Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) and other such figures in the organisation that looks after Sikh holy shrines in Pakistan.

These names were removed from the PSGPC before the July 14 technical-level meeting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# SC Collegium rejects plea of Justice Tahiramani

## She wanted her transfer reconsidered

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has refused to accede to Madras High Court Chief Justice V.K. Tahiramani's request to reconsider its recommendation to transfer her as Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

It also refused similar requests made by two other High Court judges, Justices Vivek Agarwal and Amit Rawal. The Collegium explained plainly, in separate orders on September 3, that the three transfers were recommended in the interests



V.K. Tahiramani

of "better administration of justice".

The Collegium had recommended Justice Tahiramani's transfer to Meghalaya on August 28.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# Hong Kong leader scraps extradition law

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
HONG KONG

Hong Kong's Chief Executive on Wednesday bowed to a key demand of protesters following three months of unrest and announced the withdrawal of the extradition Bill. However, activists vowed to press on with their campaign.

After refusing for months to scrap the Bill, aimed at allowing extradition of criminal suspects to mainland China, Chief Executive Carrie Lam conceded as she called for calm.

PROMISES DIALOGUE PAGE 14

# Giriraj's lynching solution: breed only female cows

## Artificial insemination mooted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Promoting artificial insemination in cattle using sex-sorted semen "will help reduce lynching", Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh said on Wednesday.

The main benefit of using sex-sorted semen is that the farmer can ensure that only female calves or heifers are born. Mr. Singh pointed out that artificially inseminating cows using semen from genetically superior bulls would also improve the fertility and milk production capacity of

the calves they produce, thus incentivising farmers to keep them longer rather than abandoning them. "This will help reduce lynching," he told journalists, adding that if cattle were not left to stray, then the possibility of such problems would be lowered.

While mechanisation of agriculture has already led to the increasing obsolescence of bulls, ban on cattle slaughter, as well as instances of cow-related vigilantism have led to a collapse in the value of non-productive cows as well, forcing farmers to abandon them.

PM TO LAUNCH DRIVE PAGE 9

# 23 killed in Punjab fireworks factory fire

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

At least 23 people were killed and 27 injured in a blaze in a fireworks factory at Batala town in Gurdaspur district of Punjab on Wednesday.

The exact reason for the fire is yet to be ascertained and the Punjab government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into it.

An explosion took place around 4 p.m. in the factory,

situated in a three-storey building in the residential area. The impact of the blast was so powerful that a few nearby buildings and parked vehicles were damaged.

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

# Govt. to pull out all the stops to cut use of plastics

## Multi-Ministry effort, beginning on Oct. 2, includes voluntary work & awareness

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message on Independence Day, the Union government is working on a multi-ministerial plan to discourage the use of single use plastics across the country, likely to kick off on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti.

A presentation for the same has been prepared and circulated across the Ministries.

The nodal Ministry for the scheme would be the Ministry of Environment,

Forests and Climate Change, which has been asked not just to ensure and enforce the ban on single use plastics but also finalise the pending policy for Extended Producer Responsibility, especially on milk packets.

The Department of Industrial Promotion is to ensure that all cement factories use plastic as fuel, while the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has been asked to ensure that not only is plastic waste collected and transported responsibly along National Highways but also all



Shared responsibility: Urban local bodies will segregate waste into recyclable and non-recyclable categories.

collected plastic waste is used for road construction.

According to studies quoted by officials, roads constructed using water plastic are durable against extreme weather conditions

and are also cost-effective.

The Railways Ministry will organise massive shramdaans (voluntary work) on October 2 for collection of plastic waste at railway stations and along

rail tracks and will run advertising radio spots on all trains.

### Role for local bodies

Since 70% of the total plastic waste in India is from urban areas, all 4,378 urban local bodies have been tasked with massive shramdaan for plastic collection and segregation of waste into recyclable and non-recyclable categories.

Gram panchayats have been asked to mobilise shramdaan on October 2 to ensure that all roads under the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana, or rural roads programme, are built using plastic waste and segregate waste in rural areas.

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