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Rahul Gandhi pleads not guilty before court in defamation case

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Joe Biden calls for impeachment of U.S. President Trump

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Mayank's century helps India seize the initiative in the second Test

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NEARBY



Keirijiwal to address C40 via videoconferencing

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will address the C40 Climate Change Summit through videoconferencing on Friday, the Delhi government said in a statement here in the wake of the Ministry of External Affairs declining to permit him to visit Denmark to attend the event.

CITY ► PAGE 2

CISF Commandant held for planting drugs

NEW DELHI
A CISF Commandant and his friend have been arrested for allegedly planting drugs in the car of an IAS officer's husband, the police said on Thursday.

CITY ► PAGE 4

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FRIDAY REVIEW ► 8 PAGES
(IN TABLOID)

Trade, border dispute likely to dominate Modi-Xi talks

No joint statement, MoUs or agreements are expected after informal summit

SUHASINI HAIDAR
DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Trade issues, boundary disputes and multilateral cooperation are expected to dominate the "informal summit" at Mamallapuram as the seaside resort on the outskirts of Chennai prepares to host Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday and Saturday.

Mr. Xi will land in Chennai past 2 p.m. — about two hours after Mr. Modi. He will head to the Mamallapuram temple complex for an evening with Mr. Modi, which will include a tour of the monuments and a dance performance at the Shore Temple at sunset, followed by dinner. On Saturday, the talks will be more structured and will include time for a "one-on-one" meeting, followed by delegation-level talks.

Beyond formalities

"The objective is to ensure that the communication between the leaders is one

Modi-Xi summit: Great expectations



Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping in Wuhan during their informal meeting on April 28, 2018

- No MoUs or agreements are likely to be signed in Mamallapuram, only a joint communique is expected

- Talks likely on reducing bilateral deficit, opening market access for Indian companies and for Huawei in 5G trials, and on RCEP free trade agreement assurances
- After the informal summit, meetings are likely between the Special Representatives of the countries on boundary talks and between trade Ministers. Counter-terror exercises "Hand-in-Hand" will commence in December

- Extending "India-China plus one" diplomat training programme in Afghanistan, and joint projects for capacity building in other countries
- Enhancing Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar infrastructure project

which is routinised, easy going and indicates that President Xi Jinping and PM Modi are getting down to business in an informal way, not simply at a structured meeting where prepared statements are read out in a much more practical way," a senior official, briefing the media about the expectations from the summit, had said.

Both leaders would be re-

ceived by Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami and MEA officials, including Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Misri.

Security forces have been deployed along the entire East Coast Road leading to the coastal resort, while special Coast Guard patrols will monitor the beaches and

coastline. Journalists covering the event will be sequestered at a media hotel nearby, according to the arrangements that Mr. Palaniswami personally inspected on Thursday afternoon.

No joint statement is expected after the talks, nor have any MoUs or agreements been prepared as the outcome, officials involved in the planning said. They suggested that the Indian side will hope to keep discussions on the issue of Kashmir at a minimum.

Much will depend on the "personal chemistry" between the two leaders, say officials, who expect the discussions over bilateral concerns and joint initiatives will be smoother than those over contentious issues involving other countries, including ties with the U.S., India-Pakistan tensions, and Jammu & Kashmir.

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TWO SUMMITS, CONTRASTING OPTICS ► PAGE 13

A CHENNAI SETTING ► EDITORIAL

Govt. moves to reopen J&K for high-end winter tourists

Advisory on terror alert, issued on August 2, withdrawn

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Jammu & Kashmir government's decision to withdraw an August 2 advisory, asking tourists to leave the Valley, is aimed at "high value" foreign tourists who visit the State during winter to enjoy skiing and adventure sports, a senior government official said.

The official said the usual season for domestic tourists was over, and they were now aiming at a dedicated clientele who visit the Valley in winters.

The officials are non-committal on when mobile phone connectivity and the Internet will be restored in the Valley, which has been under severe restrictions since August 5.

"Security restrictions have been removed from almost all parts of J&K and Ladakh. The situation was reviewed, and it was decided that the August 2 advisory be withdrawn," Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Planning (J&K), told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12



Lull continues: Boatmen waiting for customers on the banks of the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

4 held under PSA freed

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Four persons, held under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), have had their detentions quashed this month and five senior leaders have been released in the Valley as the State starts an initiative to release detainees in phases.

Zahid Mir, a resident of Ganderbal's Pandach, who was lodged in a Lucknow jail under the PSA, has been

released. The detention of three minors, held since the first week of October under the PSA, was also quashed by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

In the past two weeks, former Congress legislator Shoaib Lone and former PDP legislator Yawar Dilawar Mir, under house arrest since August 5, have been allowed to move out.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Pollution kills



Spreading poison: A dead fish washed ashore along with garbage, mostly plastic waste, which was drained into the sea near Lawsons Bay Beach in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. Plastic waste poses a great threat to the marine ecosystem. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

'Assam tea estates violating labour laws'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A report by Oxfam, a confederation of independent charitable organisations focussing on the alleviation of global poverty, has flagged violation of labour rights in the tea estates of Assam.

Tea industry captains, however, said there was nothing new in Oxfam India's report finding tea plantation workers with "no toilets, crumbling houses, poor wages, lack of quality health and education entitlements".

Along with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Oxfam India had conducted the research that yielded the report 'Addressing the Human Cost of Assam Tea'.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 9

Former Ranbaxy promoters arrested

Singh brothers accused of cheating and diverting funds

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi police on Thursday arrested Ranbaxy's former promoters Shivinder Singh and his elder brother Malvinder Singh and three others on allegations of cheating and diverting ₹2,397 crore of Religare Finvest Ltd. (RFL). The five persons were taken into custody after questioning.

Sunil Godhwani, 58, the former chairman and managing director of Religare Enterprises Limited (REL), Kavi Arora, 48, and Anil Saxena, who also occupied important positions in REL and RFL, were also arrested by the EOW for allegedly diverting money.

RFL is a subsidiary of the REL. Mr. Shivinder Singh



Shivinder Singh

and Mr. Malvinder Singh were earlier the promoters of REL.

Held in Ludhiana

A senior police officer confirmed that Mr. Malvinder Singh, who had been absconding, has been arrested from Ludhiana in Punjab. He will be produced before

a magistrate in Saket Court.

The EOW had registered an FIR in March on a complaint from Manpreet Singh Suri of the RFL against Mr. Shivinder Singh, Mr. Godhwani and others, alleging that loans were taken by him while managing that firm but the money was invested in other companies.

According to the police, the complainant stated that they had absolute control on REL and its subsidiaries.

No financial standing

"They put RFL in poor financial condition by disbursing loans to companies having no financial standing and controlled by them. The companies to which loans were disbursed wilfully defaulted," Additional Commissioner of Police (EOW) O.P. Mishra said.

Moody's cuts India's FY20 growth to 5.8%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Moody's Investor Service has pegged India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the current financial year at 5.8%, lower than what the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projected last week at 6.1%.

India's growth will remain weaker than in the recent past, and the drivers of the deceleration are multiple, Moody's said.

"We forecast real GDP growth to decline to 5.8% in the fiscal year ending March 2020 (fiscal 2019) from 6.8% in fiscal 2018, and to pick up to 6.6% in fiscal 2020 and around 7% over the medium term," the rating agency said.

The fiscal year ending in March 2020 is internally considered by Moody's as fiscal 2019. Moody's also said that though the prospects for fiscal consolidation looked limited, rapid deterioration was unlikely.

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FINANCE MINISTER TO MEET GOVT. BANK CHIEFS ► PAGE 15

Stories out of thin air

Austrian novelist and playwright Peter Handke won the 2019 Nobel Prize for Literature while Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk was selected for the prize for 2018



An erring protagonist: In *Die Obstdiebin*, the young heroine is unaware of the strange fortune she is expecting

Many forms

Handke has established himself as one of the most influential writers in Europe after the Second World War

- His bibliography includes novels, essays, note books, dramatic works and screenplays

- The peculiar art of Handke is extraordinary attention to landscapes and the material presence of the world. At the same time, it shows an unending quest for existential meaning

- His work is characterised by a strong adventurous spirit and also by a nostalgic inclination

- A few of his works include *Die Obstdiebin oder Einfache Fahrt ins Landesinnere* (novel), *Über die Dörfer* (drama) and *Das Gewicht der Welt* (note book)



Magnum opus: Her best work is considered to be the historical novel *The Books of Jacob*

Many genres

- Tokarczuk, a Polish writer, is the 15th woman to have won the award out of 116 literature laureates since 1901

- She constructs her novels in a tension between opposites — nature versus culture, reason versus madness, male versus female and home versus alienation

- Her writings are also inspired by maps and a perspective from above, which tends to make her microcosmos a mirror of macrocosmos

- Her first book, *Podróż ludzi Księgi* (The Journey of the Book-People), which released in 1993, is set in 17th century France and Spain, where the characters are in search of a mysterious book in the Pyrenees

- Her works include *Gra na wielu bebienkach* (short stories) and *Bieguni* (novel)

REPORT ON PAGE 20

India slams Turkey for Syria action

'Ankara's campaign is unilateral'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday described Turkey's military action in Syria as "unilateral" and asked Ankara to respect Syria's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) called upon Turkey to exercise restraint.

"We are deeply concerned at the unilateral military offensive by Turkey in northeast Syria. Turkey's actions can undermine stability in the region and the fight against terrorism. Its action also has the potential of causing humanitarian and civilian distress," the MEA said in a release.

Turkey on Wednesday launched a military campaign, Operation Peace Spring, targeting the Kurdish YPG rebels, a branch of the PKK of Turkey that it considers a terrorist organisation.

Ankara claims the groups being targeted in the operation are already designated as terrorists in the U.S. and the European Union. Turkey has accused the PKK/YPG of



Turkey-backed fighters heading to Tal Abyad in Syria on Thursday. ■ AP

killing 40,000 civilians.

Tough diplomatic exchanges between Turkey and India have intensified in recent weeks following India's decision to end the special status of Kashmir. India issued a strong statement expressing "deep regret" after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan took up the Kashmir issue in his speech at the UN General Assembly.

"We call upon Turkey to exercise restraint and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria. We urge the peaceful settlement of all issues through dialogue," said the MEA.

THOUSANDS FLEE TURKEY'S ATTACK IN SYRIA ► PAGE 14

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