

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

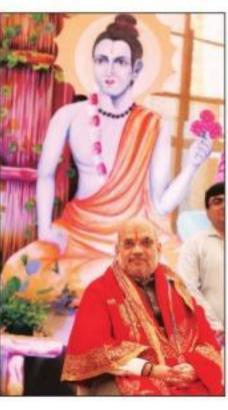
Fadnavis 2.0

As a Brahmin CM in a Maratha-dominated political landscape, he faced a tall order. Some deft politicking later, the 47-yr-old looms large BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

Hearing Ayodhya

As hearing in final case to decide fate of disputed site concludes this week, a town longs for closure, its young wait for jobs

Indians, it seems, can't have enough of biryani. But what does mass production mean for the dish?



Shah at a VHP 'maha yagna' in Delhi Saturday. Amit Mehra

Less RTI use shows Modi govt more open: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 12

THE NARENDRA Modi government is creating such a transparent system of governance that there is less need for citizens to use the RTI Act to access information. Home Minister Amit Shah said Saturday.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is determined to create a system where there is enough suo motu disclosure of information so that the need to file RTI applications itself is reduced; so that less RTI applications are filed,' Shah said addressing the 14th Annual Convention of the Central Information Commission.

His statement comes at a time when activists have been attacking the government over amendments to the RTI Act, saying these dilute the spirit behind the legislation.

At a panel discussion on 'Gandhian Thoughts and RTI' at the CIC conference, JD(U) national general secretary Pavan K Verma raised these amendments, saying that had he been alive, Mahatma Gandhi would have held a satyagraha against them. A BJP ally, the JD(U) had supported the amendments in

Parliament. "The success of a transparent government lies not in an increase in the number of RTI CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WEST STANDARDS OF RIGHTS CAN'T APPLY HERE: SHAH PAGE 6

WORLD



TRUMP ORDERS TROOPS, ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA, PAGE 17

WILL 'PRUDENTLY MANAGE' DIFFERENCES, SAYS PM

India, China set up trade dialogue; skirt Kashmir, plan next meeting

Xi briefs Modi on Imran visit and PM listened, says Foreign Secretary

SHUBHAJIT ROY MAHABALIPURAM, OCT 12

SIGNALLING INTENT to address Delhi's concerns over the massive trade deficit between the two countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a high-level economic and trade dialogue mechanism at the level of finance ministers to address the issue and encourage mutual investments.

The Indian side underlined that the prickly issue of Jammu and Kashmir did not come up in talks between the two leaders, though Xi briefed Modi on his recent talks with Pakistan PM Imran Khan in Beijing. Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the Kashmir issue was "not raised, and not discussed". While he added that the Chinese President told the PM about Khan's visit, and "PM Modi listened", Gokhale did not elaborate.

Since the Modi government scrapped the special status to J&K, relations with Beijing have been uneasy, with a series of statements by Chinese officials on the matter drawing sharp reaction from Delhi.

Ahead of the delegation-level talks, Modi said they had decided to be "sensitive to each other's concerns". "We have CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM gifts Xi a handwoven silk shawl with his image, in Mahabalipuram on Saturday. Reuters MORE REPORTS, PAGES 6, 17

Xi arrives in Kathmandu to forge a bold new chapter, pitch trans-Himalayan corridor

CRAJA MOHAN

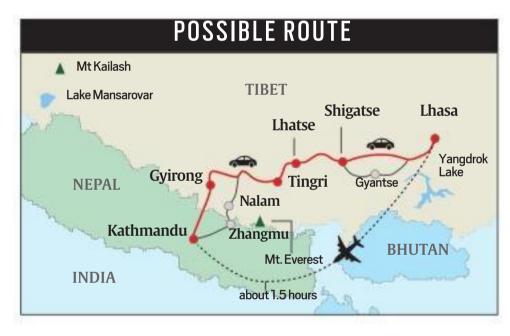
SINGAPORE, OCTOBER 12

WELL BEFORE Delhi absorbs the meaning of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second informal summit with Xi Jinping, it will have to come to terms with the Chinese leader's grand plans to build a trans-Himalayan corridor between China and Nepal. One special focus of the corridor is a railway line that will connect Tibet's capital Lhasa to

Kathmandu and run eventually to Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha close to the Indian border.

The question of Beijing's support for Islamabad on Kashmir may have dominated India's recent discourse on China. Delhi, however, might be compelled to pay attention to the equally consequential developments unfolding in the relationship between China and Nepal.

Pretty soon too. President Xi **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Collector says can't expel citing poll code, varsity sticks to stand

WARDHA COLLECTOR Vivek

sity was free to act against the students under its own rules, but could not cite the MCC. Maharashtra's Chief Electoral

Our accounts dept staff raided by Income Tax, vendetta, claims Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

DAYS AHEAD of the Assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra, the Congress on Saturday claimed that the Income Tax department had raided the houses of five of its salaried employees, who work in the accounts department at its 24, Akbar Road headquarters, and accused the BIP government of working with "vendetta in mind".

Sources in the Congress said the house of Mathew Varghese, a cashier in the accounts department at 24, Akbar Road, in Chottanikkara in Kerala was among those raided on Saturday. Varghese has been working with the party office's accounts department for over four decades.

Congress leaders claimed IT

officials went to the house of another AICC employee, mistaking him for his namesake in the accounts department.

Claiming that the accounts department of the party is shut just days ahead of the Assembly elections, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said, "It is election time, we have to give funds to our candidates, we have to spend on publicity, but the accounts section is closed. All our accountants have been summoned. Income Tax people are sitting at their homes."

Accusing the government of targeting the Opposition, Sharma said, "This government... CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KARNATAKA CONG LEADER'S AIDE FOUND DEAD PAGE 8



CLICK,

REPEAT

EAT,

area on Saturday afternoon left seven injured. It was the second such attack in Kashmir this month. Shuaib Masoodi

68 days later, mobile services to return in Valley from Monday

Prepaid services, Net stay suspended

NAVEED IQBAL

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12

AFTER 68 DAYS of a communication lockdown in Kashmir, authorities on Saturday announced that post-paid mobile phone services — around 40 lakh in the Valley — would be made operational from noon on Monday.

"Having reviewed the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, a decision has been taken to restore mobile-phone facilities in all the remaining areas of Jammu and Kashmir. More specifically, all post-paid mobile phones, irrespective of the telecom service provider, will stand restored and be functional from 12 noon on Monday, October 14, 2019," J&K government spokesperson Rohit Kansal said.

However, over 20 lakh prepaid mobile phones, and mobile and other Internet services will remain deactivated for now.

Since August 16, the adminis-

INSIDE

GOVT TO RETHINK PHONE RESTORATION IF VIOLENCE SURGES

BDC POLLS: 27 WIN UNOPPOSED. 10 BJP PAGES 6, 7

tration has been easing restrictions in a phased manner. Partial fixed-line telephony was resumed in the Valley on August 17 and by September 4, nearly 50,000 landlines were declared operational. In Jammu and Ladakh, mobile phones had been

made functional earlier. Mobile phones were also made functional in Kupwara district of Kashmir shortly after. While educational institutions are also open, attendance has

been slim. Underscoring that the move

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Army scours LoC hills for militants 15 days after encounter

BASHAARAT MASOOD GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 12

OVER THE last 15 days, several hundred soldiers, assisted by para commandos, have been combing the forests of Gangabal, a mountainous terrain bordering Gurez sector on the Line of Control (LoC), searching for militants who may have escaped a gunfight on September 27.

Sources said that on September 27, Army men spotted a group of militants walking along the Gangabal lake. When challenged, the militants, believed to be part of a group that infiltrated the Valley through Gurez sector, opened fire. In the encounter that followed, a militant was killed while at least two of his associates managed to es-

Mental Health Cell said that in

2016-17, the survey was con-

ducted across 77 lakh homes

and "we were able to diagnose

10,213 farmers and family mem-

bers with depression". In 2017-

18, approximately 78 lakh

cape. Two days later, the Army spotted another militant, who was killed in a brief shootout.

A week after the encounter, police said, a family from Warpora village in Sopore claimed that one of the militants killed in the encounter was their son Qamar-ud-din War. According to police records, War crossed the LoC on a Pakistani passport more than a year ago.

"The family approached us and when we showed them pictures of the body, they recognised him," said a police official in Kangan in Ganderbal district. "We are waiting for the DNA report before we go ahead."

Every summer, hundreds of trekkers take a high mountainous mule track that goes through thick forests and barren plains to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE CITY

NO TO PRIVATE CNG CARS IN ODD-EVEN PAGE 3

EXPRESS NETWORK



YET IN BENGAL

LAND BILL HEARING PAGE 8

Srinivasan daughter, Shah son, Anurag brother: the 'new' cricket officialdom

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY & DEVENDRA PANDEY KOLKATA, MUMBAI, OCT 12

THE OLD hands are out, done in by the Lodha reforms. N Srinivasan, Niranjan Shah, Anurag Thakur, Amit Shah, Parimal Nathwani and Chirayu Amin are no longer part of the BCCI/cricket administration, because the new cricket board constitution has made them 'ineligible'. But as the Committee of Administrators (CoA) demits office on the day of the BCCI general body meeting on October 23, among the new faces will be progenies, siblings and/or familv members of famillar names.

Rupa Gurunath, the daughter of former BCCI and International Cricket Council president N Srinivasan, is the new Tamil Nadu

have been counselled in four

years, and 11,304 hospitalised

due to severe mental break-

Assembly in June, the govern-

ment had acknowledged 12,021

farmers suicides in the state be-

tween 2015-18, and over 600

The 14 districts covered un-

der the Prerana scheme are

Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Hingoli, Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad,

Parbhani, Akola, Amravati,

Buldhana, Washim, Yavatmal

and Wardha, spread across

Marathwada and Vidarbha

this year alone.

In a report submitted in the



(HPCA) president Anurag Thakur's brother Arun now

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TRACKING

CHANGE»

EVERY SUNDAY

For all Change stories, log on to

www.indianexpress.com/change

Witness Change? Write to us at

change@expressindia.com

of Health Services, Maharashtra,

told The Sunday Express that

they had devised a public health

questionnaire with 12 points on

the checklist, as per guidelines of

the WHO, and trained ASHA

workers to conduct the survey.

Prakash Muperi of the state's

Dr Sadhana Tayade, Director

Cricket Association (TNCA) president. At the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA), the new president is Jaydev Shah, the son of Niranjan Shah, who was its secretary for over four decades. Former BCCI and Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association **VIVEK DESHPANDE** NAGPUR, OCTOBER 12

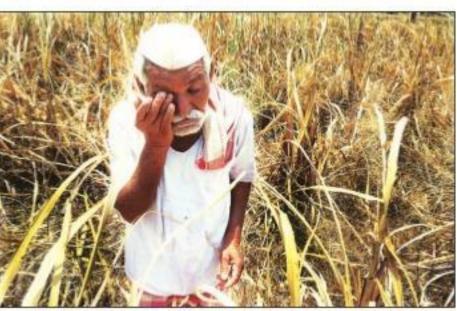
Bhimanwar has directed Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwavidyalaya (MGAHV) to revoke expulsion letters issued to six students over a dharna and a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing the model code of conduct (MCC) for the coming elections, saying it had no authority to invoke it.

Bhimanwar said the univer-

Officer Baldev Singh told *The* Sunday Express that the MCC doesn't apply on the campus. "The university isn't authorised **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Maharashtra mental health plan holds hands through rural distress

The Health Department has been running a scheme in 14 drought-hit dists including Latur, above, since 2016. File



in Vidarbha Saturday, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis blamed NCP chief Sharad Pawar and his policies for farmer suicides in the state. "Farmer suicides are the sins of Sharad Pawar and his government in Maharashtra. They started and increased during your regime," he said. REPORT PAGE 7

FARMER SUICIDES ARE

Mumbai: Addressing an

election rally in Akol tehsil

PAWAR'S SINS: CM

homes were visited by ASHA workers where they were able to narrow down 8,645 people with depression. In 2018-19, 83 lakh homes were surveyed and 19,923 farmers diagnosed with mild to severe depression. Among the 2018-19 numbers, 14,006 farmers were found

with mild depression symptoms (prolonged periods of sadness, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** **TRIPLE MURDER** FROM OCT 15. SC

Under the Prerana mental health service scheme, which started in 2016, 46,542 farmers

MASCARENHAS PUNE, OCTOBER 12 AS RURAL distress emerges as one of the issues in the coming

ANURADHA

Maharashtra elections, figures from a state Health Department scheme show that more than 45.000 farmers in the state's 14 drought-prone districts have been diagnosed with depression in the past four years, of whom around one-fourth had to be hospitalised.