



on Sunday



INLD releases poll manifesto, promises loan waiver for farmers  
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Four killed in shooting at illegal gambling club in New York City  
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Kipchoge becomes the first to run a marathon in under two hours  
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Ashwin scalps four as India takes big lead in Pune Test  
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## NEARBY



Eight civilians injured in Srinagar blast

SRINAGAR

Eight people were injured as suspected militants hurled a grenade on Hari Singh High Street, a commercial hub, here on Saturday. The incident took place between 2.30 p.m. and 3 p.m. when there was a heavy rush of people buying from stalls and carts on the pathway.

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Cannot give up claim to Ayodhya site: AIMPLB

LUCKNOW

The status of the land in Ayodhya where the Babri Masjid stood till December 6, 1992, cannot be "altered, changed or transferred in any manner", the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said here on Saturday. The Board rejected opinions by some prominent Muslims in favour of giving up claim to the disputed Ayodhya site.

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## BJP leader shot dead in Deoband

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

A local BJP leader was shot dead in Deoband area of Saharanpur on Saturday morning. According to the police, Dhara Singh, a corporator in Deoband Municipal Corporation, was going to the local sugar mill where he worked when he was stopped near the railway crossing. He was shot at by two bike-borne unidentified assailants from close range.

"We have formed two teams and combing operation has started," said Saharanpur SSP Dinesh Kumar P. This is the second murder of a BJP leader in the area in five days. On October 8, Yashpal Singh, former district vice president of the BJP Kisan Morcha, was gunned down in Miragpur village of Deoband.

## Jostling for jobs



**Rush hour:** Kashmiri youth waiting to submit application forms during an army recruitment rally at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry centre on the outskirts of Srinagar on Saturday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## 'Govt. transparency eliminating need to file RTI'

Shah says Centre itself pro-actively putting out information in the public domain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Modi government is so transparent that it is eliminating the need to file Right to Information (RTI) requests, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday, speaking on the 14th anniversary of the RTI Act.

"A large number of RTI applications does not indicate the success of a government. We want to introduce a system where people do not feel the need to file an RTI request in order to get information, because the government has already pro-actively put the information in the public domain," said Mr. Shah, who was the chief guest at the 14th annual convention of the Central Information Commission (CIC), the highest appeal body under the RTI Act.

Over the last 14 years, the



Home Minister Amit Shah greeted by Chief Information Commissioner Sudhir Bhargava in New Delhi on Saturday. ■ PTI

RTI Act has acted as a bridge between the government and the people, to build the public's trust in the system, said the Home Minister.

His statement comes at a time when the Home Ministry has responded to a recent RTI request on the shutdown in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it has no information on orders issued to detain political leaders or to curb telecom, inter-

net and transport networks in the State.

### No appointments

In his speech, Mr. Shah made no mention of this year's biggest change to the RTI law. In July, the Centre pushed the RTI Amendments Act through both houses of Parliament, giving itself the power to set the tenure and salaries of State and Central information

commissioners, thus potentially threatening their autonomy.

Despite widespread vacancies, no new commissioners have been appointed since then.

"The government has not yet framed the rules after amending the Act, so no commissioners can be appointed anywhere in the country until it does that. This is simply a way of stifling the commissions and the implementation of the Act," said Ms. Bhardwaj.

She has approached the Supreme Court again, seeking its intervention to ensure implementation of its February 2019 order directing the Centre and states to immediately fill the vacancies in the commissions.

EXPAND DEFINITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SAYS SHAH ► PAGE 10

## Women exempted from odd-even scheme

No relief for private vehicles running on CNG this time, says CM Kejriwal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced that women will be exempted from the odd-even scheme that will be enforced in Delhi from November 4 to 15. However, there will be no relief for private vehicles running on CNG unlike the previous two occasions. The Delhi government was still mulling over exemption for two-wheelers from the road rationing scheme, he said.

This will be the third time that the scheme will be enforced in Delhi after two 15-day periods in January and April, 2016.

"Keeping the security of women in mind, we have decided to exempt women from the odd-even scheme. All vehicles being driven by a lone woman driver, a woman driver ferrying female



The vehicle-rationing scheme will be enforced in Delhi from November 4 to 15. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

passengers or those with women drivers and children below the age of 12 will be exempt," Mr. Kejriwal said at a press conference here.

Explaining the non-exemption for CNG vehicles this time, the Chief Minister said it was due to complaints the government received about black marketing and misuse of CNG stickers when the scheme was enforced earlier. "We observed that the stickers used to denote

CNG vehicles were sold in the black market and misused by some people to bypass the scheme. This defeats the purpose of odd-even," he said.

### Undecided on two-wheelers

On two-wheelers, Mr. Kejriwal said the government was trying to "resolve the contradiction" on this issue in addition to figuring out the fines to be levied on drivers violating the provisions of

## Muslims in India are the happiest, says RSS chief

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The happiest Muslims in the world are found in India, thanks to the Hindu culture, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said here on Saturday.

"Hindu" is not a religion or a language, he said, addressing a gathering of intellectuals. Neither is it the name of a country. "Hindu" is the culture of all those who live in India... one that accepts and respects diverse cultures. When any nation has deviated from the right path, it has come to us in search of truth, he said.

"When Jews were wandering, India was the only nation where they got shelter. The Parsis practise their religion freely only in India. The happiest Muslims are found in India. Why is it so? Because we are Hindus," he said.

"It is our Hindu Rashtra.



Mohan Bhagwat addresses an event in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. ■ PTI

Many in India are ashamed of proclaiming their Hindu identity. There are some who will say they are proud of being Hindu. There are others who will say they are Hindu, but show their annoyance at the continuous utterance of the word. There are some who are cautious about their Hindu identity. When you ask them behind closed doors, then they will admit that they are Hindus. Because their interest are affected," said the RSS chief.

## Delhi trying to backtrack on peace deal: NSCN(IM)

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) on Saturday said that the Centre was trying to twist the Framework Agreement and backtrack on its commitments on the solution to the Naga peace process.

The accusation follows a fresh round of talks between the Centre and NSCN-IM in Delhi on Thursday.

The contents of the Framework Agreement, signed on August 3, 2015, are shrouded in secrecy, but the NSCN-IM has claimed that the pact recognises the sovereignty of the Nagas besides indicating that the deal would entail a separate flag and Constitution.

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