## on Sunday



INLD releases poll manifesto, promises loan waiver for farmers



Four killed in shooting at illegal gambling club in New York City



Kipchoge becomes the first to run a marathon in under two hours page 17

Ashwin scalps four as India takes big lead in Pune Test page 17



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#### 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

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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# Summit will usher in a 'new era' in India-China relations: Modi

Both sides agree to set up a high-level economic & trade dialogue mechanism

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the second India-China "informal summit" would usher in "a new era" in ties that had seen "increased stability and fresh momentum" after the first summit between him and President Xi Jinping in Wuhan last year.

Initiating the delegationlevel talks at a private beach resort in Kovalam, 30 km from Chennai, Mr. Modi said, referring to the Wuhan summit, "We had decided that we would prudently manage our differences and not let them become disputes, be sensitive to each other's concerns, and be a reason for peace and stability in the world."

#### 'New momentum'

Talking of the many opportunities to enhance ties, he said, "The Wuhan spirit has given our relations new momentum and trust. Today, our Chennai Connect will begin a new age in relations between our countries."

At the beginning, Mr. Modi spoke a few words in Tamil to welcome the visiting dignitary.

In his response, Mr. Xi recalled that the initiative for the informal summit came from Mr. Modi and he had agreed to the proposal. The Wuhan summit had led to "healthy and steady development" in the ties. The two countries had "deepened strategic communication", apart from having "closer cooperation" at multilateral forums.

During talks, India and China agreed to set up a high-level economic and trade dialogue mechanism. It would include Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and China's Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said.

Asked about China's support for Pakistan in the Kashmir issue, Mr. Gokhale said the issue was not discussed. He added that the relationship was "not predicated on a single issue". However, Mr. Xi did brief Mr. Modi about Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit this week to Beijing, where Kashmir had prominently featured in their statements

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar in New Delhi)

**CANDID TALKS** ▶ PAGE 11



Chennai connect: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a hotel in Kovalam near Mamallapuram on Saturday. • PTI

### Xi moots 100-year plan to cement ties with India

ATUL ANEJA

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday declared that Beijing was pursuing an "unshakable policy" of developing close ties with India, and proposed a 100year plan to cement ties between the two ancient civilizations.

"Maintaining and developing China-India relations is China's unshakable policy. Under the current international situation, China and India shoulder increasingly important responsibilities in maintaining global stability and promoting development," the Chinese Foreign Ministry quoted Mr. Xi as saying following his talks over two days with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the historic temple

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town of Mamallapuram.

#### U.S. Senator warns against Huawei

SUHASINI HAIDAR

India will risk losing intelligence from the U.S. if it allows Chinese telecom major Huawei to be part of its 5G infrastructure, a U.S. Republican Senator said during a visit to Delhi that coincided with Chinese President Xi Jinping's arrival in Chennai.

Texas Senator Ted Cruz, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who also plays a crucial role in the U.S. reaction to developments in J&K, told The Hindu that while "legal questions" were for India to resolve internally, escalating India-Pakistan tensions were a cause for worry in America.

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## Postpaid mobile phones to ring again in Kashmir

Restoration on Monday to help 40 lakh

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

The government of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday said postpaid mobile telephony would be restored from October 14, after 71 days of a communication shutdown in the Kashmir Valley, but warned of threats "of widescale militant attacks being orchestrated from across the border".

"After reviewing the situation, it has been decided that all postpaid mobile phones, irrespective of the service provider, will stand restored and be functional from noon on Monday. This will cover all 10 districts of the Kashmir province," State Principal Secretary and official The Kashmir Valley has around 66 lakh mobile

phone users. spokesman Rohit Kansal

said at a press conference

The decision will help 40 lakh postpaid users in the Valley, which has around 66 lakh mobile phone users. It would also help tourists visit the State without difficulty.

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## Parliamentarians want to ditch BSNL, MTNL over poor service

SOBHANA K. NAIR YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

Fed up with call drops and poor network connectivity, several Members of Parliament (MPs) are keen to drop their official telecommunications providers, government-owned BSNL and MTNL

Based on their complaints, the House Committee of the Rajya Sabha, headed by the BIP's Om Mathur. proposed at its meeting on Friday that the MPs be allowed to switch to a private service provider.

Currently, there are three private operators in the country - Bharti Airtel, Vodafone-Idea and Reliance Jio. All MPs are provided three phone connections, one of which can be used for broadband services. As per the Housing and Telephone Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1956, 50,000 local calls are free each year.

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### <sup>+</sup> BJP leader shot dead in Deoband

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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



Kashmir Light Infantry centre on the outskirts of Srinagar on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Rush hour: Kashmiri youth waiting to submit application forms during an army recruitment rally at the Jammu and

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

STAFF REPORTER

The happiest Muslims in the world are found in India, thanks to the Hindu culture. 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

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

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

Home Minister Amit Shah greeted by Chief Information

Commissioner Sudhir Bhargava in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

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 governhas already pro-actively put the information in the public domain," said Mr. Shah, who was the chief guest at the 14th annual

formation Commission (CIC), the highest appeal body under the RTI Act.

Over the last 14 years, the

convention of the Central In-

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, internet 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

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** 

# 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 Kejri wal 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 15day 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-ex-

emption 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 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

the scheme.

"Two-wheelers do pollute the air and we believe they should not be exempt under odd-even. But given the number of two-wheelers in Delhi, it is impractical to take half of them off the roads. Delhi doesn't have public transport of the scale needed to do that," he said.

The Chief Minister said an in-principle decision has been taken to stagger office timings and that experts are being consulted on it. "We will share more information when a decision is taken. Our aim is not to fine violators heavily. We request them to follow the rule... but violators will be liable to pay fines are per the amended Motor Vehicles Act. We are looking into what the quantum of fine shall be," he said.

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