

## National News

### 'Nobody knows what is happening': Omar Abdullah after meeting J-K gov

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 3,

National Conference leader and former chief minister Omar Abdullah met governor Satya Pal Malik amid tension in the state over the cancellation of Amarnath Yatra by the Centre; there are also concerns over the deployment of additional troops in Srinagar over the

past week. "We wanted to know about the current situation in J&K. When we ask officials, they say something is happening, but nobody knows what is actually happening," Abdullah told reporters. Post meeting the governor, the NC leader said that he would like the Centre to make a statement on the issue.

"The governor isn't the final word on J&K. The final word on J&K is the Govt of India. Therefore, more than what Governor tells us publicly, I definitely would like to hear from Govt of India publicly that there is nothing people have to worry about," said Abdullah who led a delegation to the governor this afternoon.

### Parliament passes Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, Bill - 2019

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 3,

Parliament has passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, AERA (Amendment) Bill- 2019. The bill increases the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major

airports from 15 lakh to over 35 lakh passengers. Earlier, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 defines a major airport as one with annual passenger traffic over 15 lakh, or any other airports as notified by the central government.

As per the provision of the bill, the Authority will not determine the tariff, tariff structures, or the development fees, in cases where these amounts were a part of the bid document on the basis of which the airport operations were awarded.

### Kerala journalist killed after IAS officer's car rams his bike

Courtesy HT  
Thiruvananthapuram Aug 3,

The bureau chief of Malayalam daily Siraj, K Muhammed Basheer (35), was killed in a road accident in Thiruvananthapuram in the early hours of Saturday after a speeding car hit his motor bike. State Survey director Sreeram Venkataraman was in the car when the accident took place, police said. Police said both occupants of the vehicle, including the IAS officer, were in an inebriated condition and the



car was cruising at a high speed. The journalist died on the spot. Later, Venkataraman told the police that his friend Fava Phiroze was driving the car when the accident took place. The vehicle was registered in her

name. However some of the witnesses said the IAS officer was driving the car. Venkataraman, a young IAS officer, was in the news two years ago when he carried out a massive demolition drive in a hill resort at Munnar. He was abruptly transferred after he pulled down a cross allegedly installed by a church at a public place. A second rank holder in 2013 civil services examination, he began his career as a sub collector in Idukki. Basheer is survived by his wife and two minor children.

### Unnao rape survivor accident: CBI gets 3-day custody of killer truck driver, cleaner

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 3,

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has got approval from a court to keep the truck driver and cleaner of the truck, which crashed into the Unnao rape survivor's car on July 28. The driver Ashish Kumar Pal and cleaner Mohan, involved

in the mysterious accident, will now be questioned further on how the incident occurred. Earlier in the day, another startling fact related to the accident case emerged. CCTV footage near the toll plaza at Lalganj area of Rae Bareilly, which is about 20 kilometres from the crash site, showed that the truck's number plate was not smudged.

The footage retrieved by local police showed that the truck entered the area around 5.20 am on July 28 and the accident occurred hours later at 12:40 pm.

The owner of the truck Devendra Singh had earlier claimed that the number plate of the truck was deliberately blackened out with grease to evade the EMI payments. However, police are now suspecting the driver of smearing grease over the number plate moments before the crash.

The driver-cleaner duo was arrested by the police soon after the accident was reported. The Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer were critically injured in the crash but survived. However, two of the victim's relatives succumbed to death. After the crash, the victim's family again raised an alarm that their lives were in constant threat from rape accused Kuldeep Sengar, who was expelled as BJP MLA after the fresh murder charge.

Supreme Court has now directed all cases related to the Unnao rape to be transferred from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi. The court had also slammed the Uttar Pradesh government for mishandling the case and asked it to immediately hand over Rs 25 lakh as compensation to the rape survivor.

The top court gave CBI 14 days to file a report in the accident case and asked for the trial in all five cases to be completed within 45 days.



## International News

### India, US agree on collaboration in defence sector

Agency  
Washington Aug 3,

Indian and US officials have agreed to pursue a policy environment conducive to collaboration between the defence industry and start-ups in both countries. An understanding in this regard was reached during the 15th meeting of the India-US

Defence Policy Group (DPG) in Washington yesterday. The Indian side was led by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra, while US team was led by the Undersecretary of Defence for Policy, John Rood. The DPG is the apex official-level meeting mechanism between India and the US on defence issues, which comprehensively reviews and

guides all aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The meeting took stock of the progress made in various fields of defence cooperation in recent years, including in defence trade, technology, procurement, industry, research and development. Indian Embassy in its statement said both sides underlined the

importance of collaboration between the defence industry and start-ups in the two countries and agreed to pursue a policy environment conducive to this. The two sides reaffirmed the role of the DPG as an important part of the ministerial 22 mechanism, helping translate the shared strategic vision of cooperation into reality.

### One person died, several injured after powerful undersea earthquake rocked Java island

Agency  
Indonesia Aug 3,

In Indonesia, at least one person died and several were injured after a powerful undersea earthquake rocked heavily populated Java

island. The 6.9 magnitude quake last evening sent residents fleeing to higher ground, while many in the capital Jakarta ran into the streets. Officials from Indonesia's national disaster agency

warned the quake could generate a tsunami as high as three metres, but it was lifted several hours later. Authorities today said a panicked 48-year-old woman had died of a heart attack as the strong quake rocked the

region. Officials said four more people were injured and over 1,000 evacuated to temporary shelters. More than 100 buildings were damaged, with some 34 houses destroyed.

### Ex-Maldives Vice President, who sought asylum in India, sent back

Agency  
Maldives Aug 3,

Former Vice President of Maldives Ahmed Adheeb Abdul Ghafoor, who had sought political asylum in India, has been sent back to his home country. Police today said Adheeb, who arrived in Thoothukudi on a cargo vessel along with nine crew members on Thursday, was not allowed to

disembark from the ship since he did not possess valid documents to enter India. Police said Adheeb left for his home country midnight last night in the same ship. Coast Guard personnel oversaw the vessel leaving Indian waters. A UK lawyer representing the politician had said that Adheeb had sought political asylum in India as he faces a serious risk to his life in his home country.

### Basic strength of India-Nepal relationship is truth and mutual respect

Agency  
New Delhi Aug 3,

Bharatiya Janata Party's Foreign Affairs Department In-charge, Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwala has said basic strength of India-Nepal relationship is truth and mutual respect. Speaking at an interaction programme on "Nepal Bharat Cooperation: Prospects and Challenges in Present Context" in Kathmandu this evening, Dr. Chauthaiwala said bilateral

relations can be taken forward based on pragmatism and deepening civilization connect. He said a section of people in Nepal think that India has a kind of design to overwhelm or dominate Nepal's polity. Rejecting such misconception, Dr. Chauthaiwala said India is fully aware that Nepal is a sovereign country and Nepal has to decide its fate and chart path of development. He said India is there to extend helping hand on equal term basis.

## North East news

### NEHUSU bats for changing NEHU academic calendar

Courtesy Northeast now  
Shilong Aug 3,

The North-Eastern Hill University Students' Union (NEHUSU) has decided to discuss the need to change the academic calendar of NEHU.

It decided to do to ensure that there is no delay in the declaration of results of various examinations conducted by the university. The students' union also demanded that the NEHU authority should pass a resolution ensuring that the results would be declared in the first week of July every year.

The NEHUSU took this decision on Friday after the NEHU authority delayed the declaration of results of exam conducted for 6th-semester

students of various colleges in the state. The union also announced its decision to put off its indefinite strike in view of the declaration of the 6th-semester results by NEHU. NEHUSU adviser Rangdajied Marweñ said that the delay in declaring the 6th-semester results has affected students of different colleges in the state especially those who wanted to seek admission in universities outside the state. "NEHU, which is the Central university, cannot accommodate all students who wanted to pursue higher studies," Marweñ said. "The main cause behind the delay in declaring the results is because some colleges submitted the answer scripts late," Marweñ further observed.

He slammed the teachers of those colleges and held them responsible for the delay in submitting the answer scripts to NEHU. He further alleged that such teachers do not care about the career of students at all. The NEHUSU also blamed the NEHU vice-chancellor saying if it was not for his failure, those colleges would not dare to delay in submitting the answer scripts. "We have to further discuss the

need to change the academic calendar of NEHU to ensure that such incidents do not happen in future," he said. "We have also demanded from the NEHU authority to pass a resolution that the results would be declared in the first week of July every year," Marweñ further said. He also urged the Meghalaya education minister Lakhmen Rymbui to look into this matter seriously.

### Shweta Agarwal Murder: Prime accused Govind Singhal sentenced to death

Courtesy Northeast now  
Guwahati Aug 3,

Govind Singhal, the prime accused in the Shweta Agarwal murder, was sentenced to death by a fast-track court in Guwahati on Saturday. Apart from Govind, his mother Kamla Devi Singhal and elder sister Bhawani Singhal, both accused of the murder, were also sentenced life

imprisonment. The three accused were convicted on Wednesday (July 31). Shweta Agarwal, a 5th semester BCom student of KC Das Commerce College was murdered on December 4, 2017, in Guwahati's Shantipur area. Prime accused Govind, during the investigation, had confessed to the murder.

### Tree-clearing activities in Manas Tiger Reserve stopped

Courtesy Northeast now  
Guwahati Aug 3,

Tree clearing activities in Manas Tiger Reserve for the expansion of grasslands has been stopped.

The decision came after the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)'s Management Effective Evaluation (MEE) report.

The report suggested that the tiger reserve should first maintain its existing grasslands and they go for expansion. The MEE report stated that artificial grasslands have been found in large areas of the Manas Tiger Reserve. The artificial grasslands were found to be created by clearing large trees and burning timber and debris on the cleared areas. The management authorities

of the tiger reserve have been following the practice of burning all the grasslands in winter so as to facilitate the growth of fresh grass, the report added. The report also mentioned that natural grasslands also exist in the tiger reserve. Apart from halting the expansion of grasslands by clearing tree growth, the management of the tiger reserve has been asked to increase the population of swamp deer and hog deer as they are good sources of food for the tigers. The management evaluation of fifty tiger reserves was carried out in order to assess the condition of these good habitats of the big cat that plays a great role in maintaining the balance of an ecosystem.