



SC to hear remission plea of Rajiv assassination convict Perarivalan Page 10



Pope condemns atrocities committed by U.S. clergy Page 12



Vinesh Phogat wins wrestling gold at Asian Games, scripts history Page 15



Kohli in fine nick again; England faces a mammoth target of 521 Page 16

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NEARBY



NGT sets up new body to consider Vedanta's plea NEW DELHI The National Green Tribunal has set up an "independent body" to decide Vedanta's plea challenging the Tamil Nadu government's order for closure of the Sterlite Copper plant in Thoothukudi. TAMIL NADU • PAGE 4

'PMK must compensate for damaging buses'

MADURAI A petitioner has moved the Madras HC seeking a direction to recover damages from the Pattali Makkal Katchi, after its cadre damaged buses following the death of party leader Kaduvetti Guru. TAMIL NADU • PAGE 4 METRO PLUS • 8 PAGES

U.K. confirms Nirav's presence

CBI seeks his detention and initiation of extradition proceedings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The United Kingdom has confirmed to the Indian agencies that Nirav Modi, involved in the ₹13,578-crore Punjab National Bank fraud case, is staying there.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has sought his detention and initiation of extradition proceedings.

"In response to our diffusion notice, issued through the Interpol, we received confirmation a couple of days ago about Mr. Nirav Modi's presence in the U.K. Therefore, based on the Interpol Red Notice issued against him in June, we have sought his detention," said a CBI official.

The agency has also sent the extradition request to the Union Home Ministry to be forwarded to the U.K.



Reining him in

- The co-ordinates: The United Kingdom has apprised the CBI that fugitive Indian diamondaire Nirav Modi is in their country
Mammoth fraud: Nirav Modi, along with others, is the kingpin of India's biggest banking fraud of over \$2 billion
Law catches up: The CBI has submitted an extradition request to the Home Ministry after the U.K.'s confirmation
Interpol notice: CBI has requested authorities in the U.K. to detain Modi on the basis of the Interpol's Red Notice against him

Mr. Nirav Modi, his wife Ami, who is a U.S. citizen, brother Neeshal, a Belgian citizen, and uncle Mehul Choksi, had left the country in the first week of January, days before the bank lodged a complaint with the CBI. On the request of investigating agencies, his passport was revoked in February. Since then, there were re-

ports that he had been spotted in several countries, including the U.K. It is alleged that he had also attempted to get permanent residency in Singapore.

Multiple reminders

The CBI had sought the help of its counterparts in as many as six countries to determine his location. Multiple reminders were sent to the Interpol coordination agency in the U.K.

Mr. Choksi, who was earlier in the U.S., has taken refuge in Antigua. He had applied for Antiguan citizenship in May last year and got it about six months later.

India has approached the Antiguan government seeking cooperation in getting his custody to ensure that he faces trial in the case.

Modi letter calls for positive engagement

Writes to Imran Khan of shared vision for South Asian peace

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for constructive engagement with Pakistan, sources confirmed on Monday. In a letter to his newly sworn-in Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan, Mr. Modi called for building good neighbourly ties for security and prosperity in the South Asian region.

"PM expressed India's commitment to build good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan and pursue meaningful and constructive engagement for the benefit of the people of the region," said an official source.

Counters Qureshi

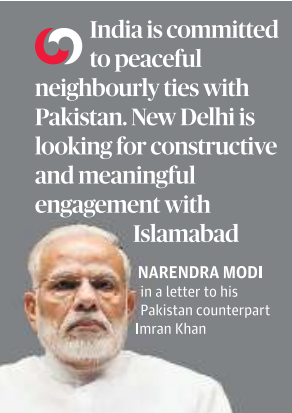
The Indian response came soon after the newly appointed Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Mr. Modi had indicated at dialogue in his letter that was sent on August 18.

However, the official said India had not called for dialogue so far and said, "Prime Minister wrote of constructive approach or engagement for the benefit of the people, by which he meant Pakistan should create a conducive atmosphere."

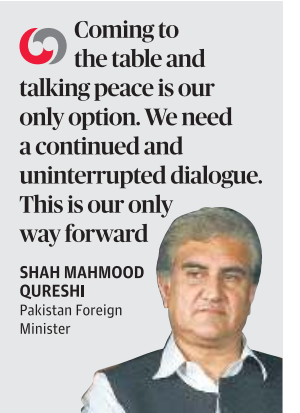
Mr. Modi's call for engagement comes in the backdrop of recent Indian insistence that Delhi will hold talks only if Pakistan acts against terror suspects and outfits.

For regional peace

The Prime Minister also reminded Mr. Khan to rid the region of violence, the source hinted, saying, "He recalled their telephone conversation, in which they spoke of their shared vision to bring peace, security and prosperity in the Indian sub-



India is committed to peaceful neighbourly ties with Pakistan. New Delhi is looking for constructive and meaningful engagement with Islamabad. NARENDRA MODI in a letter to his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan



Coming to the table and talking peace is our only option. We need a continued and uninterrupted dialogue. This is our only way forward. SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI Pakistan Foreign Minister

Pak. Minister offers 'continued dialogue'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's new Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday extended the hand of friendship to India soon after taking oath by offering "uninterrupted" dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues. Mr. Qureshi stressed that it was the "only wise course" as the two countries could not afford any "adventurism".

Speaking to the media at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after being sworn in, Mr. Qureshi said Islamabad wants to rebuild ties with eastern and western

continent, in order to make it free of terror and violence, and to focus on development".

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs later clarified Mr. Qureshi's statement and said the Indian leader had sought "constructive engagement".

Mr. Qureshi, in his first re-

neighbours and create peace in the region.

Stating that Pakistan wants to resolve all issues with India through talks, Mr. Qureshi said, "We need a continued, uninterrupted dialogue. It is the only wise course for us." Mr. Qureshi, who is also vice-president of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, said External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had sent a letter on Sunday to congratulate Prime Minister Imran Khan and mentioned talks to resolve issues.

"I welcome her letter," he said.

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Road, rail services partially restored in Kerala

Domestic flights begin from Kochi naval air base; focus on communications, power & water supply



Long way to normality: A girl having breakfast at a relief camp opened in a government school in Ernakulam on Monday. • THULASI KAKKAT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A battered Kerala began picking up the pieces on Monday as the rain abated and water began receding from flood-affected areas even as the Central government said the situation in the State had been categorised as an L3 level disaster under the National Disaster Management Guidelines. (L3 is the highest disaster categorisation by scale and population of the devastated area.)

Death toll 223

As many as six deaths were reported in the State on Monday, taking the toll since August 8 to 223. A total of 10,28,073 people, including 1,01,049 children, were housed in 3,274 relief camps.

Road, rail and air traffic were partially restored.

Efforts were on to resume communication services and power and water supply. Distribution of relief material was stepped up, even as people began returning to their houses. Local collectives were constituted to help residents clean up their houses and disinfect water sources. Medical teams began fanning out across the districts.

Domestic flights from Kochi began from the naval air base on Monday with carriers using small aircraft. A medical team began an arduous trek to Palakkad's Nelli-yampathy hill station, which was cut off by landslides.

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Rupee's recovery spurs stock market

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Indian benchmark equity indices rose to new highs on Monday as investor sentiments were lifted on account of a positive trend across most leading Asian markets and a recovery in the rupee against the dollar.

The 30-share Sensex gained 330.87 points or 0.87% to close at a new high of 38,278.75 with 23 of its constituents gaining ground.

Auto and metal majors like Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Bajaj Auto and Vedanta

were among the top gainers of the day.

Infosys, meanwhile, was the first performer among the Sensex pack on Monday, shedding over 3% or ₹46.15 to close at ₹1,385.20 after the company's chief financial officer M.D. Ranganath resigned on Saturday.

The broader Nifty breached the 11,500-mark for the first time, gaining 81 points to close at 11,551.75.

Among other major Asian markets, Hang Seng gained 385 points.

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Stalin set to become DMK chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The stage is set for the election of DMK working president M.K. Stalin as the president of the party on August 28 when the DMK general council is slated to meet. The president's post had fallen vacant following the death of M. Karunanidhi. DMK general secretary K. Anbazhagan on Monday announced that the general council would elect the president and treasurer of the party.

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Publicise order on homework ban: HC

Asks CBSE to warn schools, issue ads

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S. CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to issue advertisements in all leading newspapers stating that the court had banned homework for Class I and II students and that stringent action would be taken against schools if complaints were received with regard to violation of the court order.

Justice N. Kirubakaran issued the directive after observing that the CBSE's cir-

cular about the ban may not serve any purpose unless the general public and NGOs were made aware of the order and encouraged to lodge complaints.

The judge said the advertisement should also publicise the order that no subject other than mathematics and language should be taught in Classes I and II and that students of Classes III to V could be taught environmental science as an additional subject.

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Crowdfunding plea to save Dalit women's radio

Sangham Radio, India's first community radio station, is struggling to stay alive

R. AVADHANI MACHANOUR

India's first community radio station, Sangham Radio, owned and run by 5,000 poor, mostly Dalit women in one of India's most underdeveloped areas, is on the verge of closing down, unless its crowdfunding campaign raises enough funds.

The radio station, an initiative of the Deccan Development Society (DDS), a local grassroots organisation, was started in 1998 in Machanour village in Telangana's Sangareddy district. It caters to the Sanghams (self-help groups)

of underprivileged, rural women. It got its licence to broadcast in 2008, and has been in operation for 10 years. The programme content is generated entirely by the 5,000-odd women, largely agricultural workers.

"When it was born 20 years ago and was 'licensed to broadcast' 10 years ago, Sangham Radio heralded a new media space for the underprivileged, rural peasant women of India," notes the appeal on the crowdfunding webpage, https://milaap.org/fundraisers/dds-sangham-radio. The radio station's



Ears to the ground: The content for Sangham Radio is generated entirely by around 5,000 women. • MOHD ARIF

financial crisis stems in large part from the unpaid dues from the government for advertisements aired on the station. "Dues to Sangham Radio over the last three

years has gone up to ₹3.25 lakhs," states the appeal. "We could not collect donations from outside India as we have to run the community radio on our

own," said M. Narsamma, one of the two women who run the station. "Some of our listeners have been asking us why they cannot hear our broadcasts. We told them that we need new transmitters and each one costs about ₹3 lakh. This is the reason we are trying to raise money."

"As the first authentic community radio in India, Sangham Radio has put the small and marginalised woman at the frontier of communication... any extinction of this radio station would be a travesty," said P.V. Satheesh, director, DDS.

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