

ELSEWHERE



Trump picks Scalia for Labour Secretary's post
WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump has selected lawyer Eugene Scalia to be his new Labor Secretary. Previous secretary Alexander Acosta had resigned over his handling of a plea deal with financier Jeffrey Epstein in 2016. AFP

'China home to worst human rights crisis'

WASHINGTON
U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said China was home to one of the worst human rights crisis of the present times, slamming Beijing for violations against minorities. PTI

Kosovo PM resigns after summations from war court

PRISTINA
Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj, a wartime commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army, resigned on Friday after being called as a suspect before a war crimes court in The Hague. AFP

Israel spyware firm can hack data from social media: report

NSO told buyers it can scoop user data from servers of Apple, Google, Facebook

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

An Israeli spyware firm has told clients it can scoop user data from the world's top social media, the *Financial Times* reported on Friday.

The London-based newspaper wrote that NSO group had "told buyers its technology can surreptitiously scrape all of an individual's data from the servers of Apple, Google, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft, according to people familiar with its sales pitch".

Denies link

An NSO spokesperson, however, denied the allegation. "There is a fundamental misunderstanding of NSO, its services and technology," it said.

"NSO's products do not provide the type of collection capabilities and access to cloud applications, services, or infrastructure as listed



Cyber threat: The tool can access history of a target's location data, archived messages and photos. *GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

and suggested in today's *FT* article."

In May, Facebook-owned WhatsApp said it had released an update to plug a security hole in its messaging app that allowed insertion of spyware that could be used to spy on journalists, activists and others.

It said the attack bore "all the hallmarks of a private company that works with a number of governments around the world".

It did not name a suspect but Washington-based analyst Joseph Hall, chief technologist at the Center for Democracy and Technology, said at the time that the hack appeared related to the NSO's Pegasus software.

It is normally sold to law enforcement and intelligence services.

Friday's *FT* report, citing documents it had viewed and descriptions of a product demonstration, said the

programme had "evolved to capture the much greater trove of information stored beyond the phone in the cloud, such as a full history of a target's location data, archived messages or photos".

NSO says it does not operate the Pegasus system, only licensing it to closely vetted government users "for the sole purpose of preventing or investigating serious crime including terrorism". The group came under the spotlight in 2016 when researchers accused it of helping spy on an activist in the UAE.

NSO is based in Herzliya, near Tel Aviv. It says it employs 600 people in Israel and around the world.

Pegasus is an invasive tool that can reportedly switch on a target's cell phone camera and microphone, and access data on it, effectively turning the phone into a pocket spy.

Tehran dismisses U.S. claim of destroying Iranian drone

Trump reiterates U.S. warship shot it down for coming too close

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Iran on Friday denied President Donald Trump's claim that a U.S. warship destroyed an Iranian drone near the Persian Gulf.

The Iranian military said all its drones had returned safely to their bases and denied there was any confrontation with "USS Boxer" naval vessel the previous day.

"We have not lost any drone in the Strait of Hormuz nor anywhere else," tweeted Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Mr. Trump on Friday insisted the U.S. had taken down an Iranian drone that was threatening a U.S. naval vessel in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. "No doubt about it, no - we shot it down," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump on Thursday said that the vessel took action after the drone ignored commands to stay away and came too close to it.



In troubled waters: A file photo of USS Boxer. *AFP

Iran says it has seized tanker

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TEHRAN

Iran said on Friday it has captured a British-flagged oil tanker, Stena Impero, in the Gulf.

The website of Iran's Revolutionary Guard said the tanker was seized for "non-compliance with international maritime laws and regulations" and was taken to an Iranian port. The report did not say which port.

Gibraltar extends Iran tanker's stay

REUTERS
LONDON

Gibraltar's Supreme Court ruled on Friday that a seized Iranian tanker suspected of breaching sanctions by shipping oil to Syria can be detained for 30 more days.

The Grace 1 supertanker was intercepted by British Royal Marines and Gibraltar's police on July 4 as it was on waters claimed by Gibraltar.

Kabul University blast kills 8

Students were waiting to take an examination at the time

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

At least eight people were killed and dozens more wounded on Friday when a bomb detonated near Kabul University while students were waiting to take an exam, officials said.

The blast comes amid a wave of violence across Afghanistan, where civilians are being killed almost every day in the country's grueling conflict, now in its 18th year.

The Taliban denied any



Security personnel at the site of a bomb explosion in front of Kabul University on Friday. *AFP

involvement in Friday's blast.

Health Ministry spokesman Wahidullah Mayar said the death toll had reached

eight, with another 33 injured. "Wounded have been receiving the required medical and surgical treatment," he said on Twitter.

Indian jailed for smuggling people into U.S.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

A 51-year old Indian-origin woman was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and ordered to forfeit more than \$7 million for her role in smuggling hundreds of undocumented people, primarily from India, into the U.S. for fees ranging from \$28,000 to \$60,000 per person.

Last year, Hema Patel pleaded guilty to smuggling of people for financial gain.

Merkel shows solidarity with lawmakers

Says Trump's tweets against Congresswomen "go against what makes America great"

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday condemned President Donald Trump's xenophobic tweets against four minority Democratic Congresswomen, saying the U.S. leader's attacks "go against what makes America great".

"I firmly distance myself from (the attacks) and I feel solidarity towards" the women, she told journalists.

"In my view, the strength of America lies in that people from different (origins)

contributed to what makes the country great."

Mr. Trump on Sunday urged a group of four progressive Democratic congresswomen of colour - all American citizens and three of them U.S.-born - to "go back" to their countries of origin.

Despite a domestic uproar over the comments which were deemed "racist" by the House of Representatives, Mr. Trump repeatedly renewed his attack.

"If you're not happy here, you can leave... This is about



Angela Merkel

love for America, certain people hate our country," he tweeted on Tuesday, while repeating the same message to a rally on Wednesday.

International condemnation has rained down over the comments. British Prime Minister Theresa May called them "completely unacceptable". New Zealand's leader Jacinda Ardern said she "completely and utterly" disagreed with Mr. Trump.

While usually refraining from commenting on other countries' domestic politics, Ms. Merkel on Friday had markedly sharp words about Mr. Trump's latest attacks.

Questions over racism are particularly sensitive in Germany given its Nazi past.

Airspace closure costs Pak. \$50 mn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan suffered a whopping \$50 million loss after it closed its airspace with India for nearly five months following the Balakot air strikes in February, according to the country's Aviation Minister.

Pakistan closed its airspace on February 26 after the Indian Air Force struck a Jaish-e-Mohammed camp in Balakot in retaliation for the Pulwama attack.

Pakistan's Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan said that the Civil Aviation Authority suffered a loss of Rs. 8.5 billion (\$50 million), but underlined that this restriction "hit India harder than Pakistan".

DA files complaint in U.S. court against art dealer for trafficking antiquities

Subhash Kapoor and 7 others smuggled artefacts, worth about ₹988 cr., from India, Pak., Afghanistan, Nepal and other countries, say court documents

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Eight individuals, including Subhash Kapoor who achieved notoriety on allegations of antiques trafficking, were charged in a Manhattan court last week in connection with the looting and trafficking of antiquities, a criminal complaint filed by the Manhattan District Attorney's office revealed.

Kapoor is allegedly the ring leader of a network that trafficked in thousands of antiquities from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Thailand and Cambodia, as per the complaint filed by prosecuting attorneys Matthew Bogdanos and Christopher Hirsch, both Manhattan Assistant District

Attorneys. Kapoor, 70, is currently in jail in Tamil Nadu, as he awaits trial on similar charges. He was arrested in Germany in 2011 and extradited to India thereafter.

Loot of over two decades
The idol and antiques trafficking occurred over a period of at least two decades from 1986, when Kapoor's company Art of the Past was incorporated, to October 26, 2016, when it was dissolved. The total value of the antiques stolen exceeded \$14,35,17,000 (about ₹988 crore), the court documents revealed.

In addition to Kapoor, individuals named in the complaint are Sanjeev Asokan, Dean Dayal, Ranjeet Kanwar,

Aditya Prakash, Vallabh Prakash, Richard Salmon and Neil Perry Smith.

The charges brought against these individuals include knowingly possessing stolen property in excess of \$1,000,000 with the intent to benefit a person other than the owner and to impede recovery of said property by the owner.

'False legitimacy'

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Investigations (DHS-HSI) investigation led to the seizure of over 2,600 antiques, documents and computers related to Kapoor's and his employees' business dealings for Art of the Past. The complaint said that



Subhash Kapoor, 70, is currently lodged in prison in Tamil Nadu. *M. MOORTHY/FILE

Kapoor loaned antiquities to major museums and institutions, thereby creating a false veneer of legitimacy, describing the laundering process as "the creation of a

false history of an antiquity - generally through forged invoices and letters - attempts to cleanse an antiquity of its illegal past".

"There is absolutely no doubt that Subhash Kapoor and his accomplices have wreaked havoc on our historical sites and temples. They helped create an obnoxious market for antiquities and hurt us very badly," India's Consul General in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty, told *The Hindu*.

"The happy part of this story is the extraordinary cooperation we received from the Americans and the authorities in India and several police departments. I have worked personally with Manhattan District Attorney

Cy Vance's office and he came to the Consulate not long ago and handed over two extraordinarily valuable pieces. As a result of the cooperation, several trafficked antiquities have been returned to India and some more are in the pipeline. The indictment is a very positive step and will discourage other traffickers," Mr. Chakravorty said.

Faces 86 counts

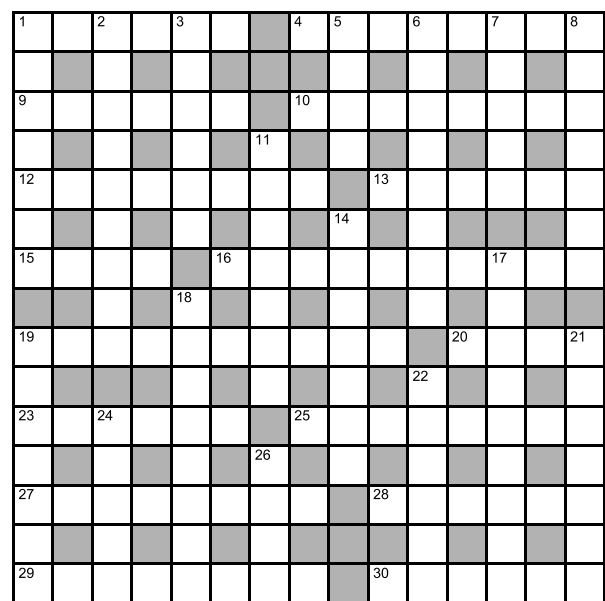
Kapoor faces 86 counts, including grand larceny, criminal possession of stolen property and scheme to defraud in the first degree.

"The case filing by the U.S. law enforcement is a lesson for our own law enforcement on how meticulous an inves-

tigation should be conducted. Sadly, it's precisely this lack of qualified work both on the technical support from the Archaeological Survey of India and even support from a legal standpoint that has allowed looters to escape from the clutches of the law despite the thousands of idols he sold," said S. Vijay Kumar, a Singapore-based art enthusiast and co-founder of the India Pride Project.

"Further, this filing exposes the dark underbelly of the art world using Hong Kong as an important transit point and also the criminal nexus between professional restorers in London and America." (With inputs from R. Sivaraman in Chennai)

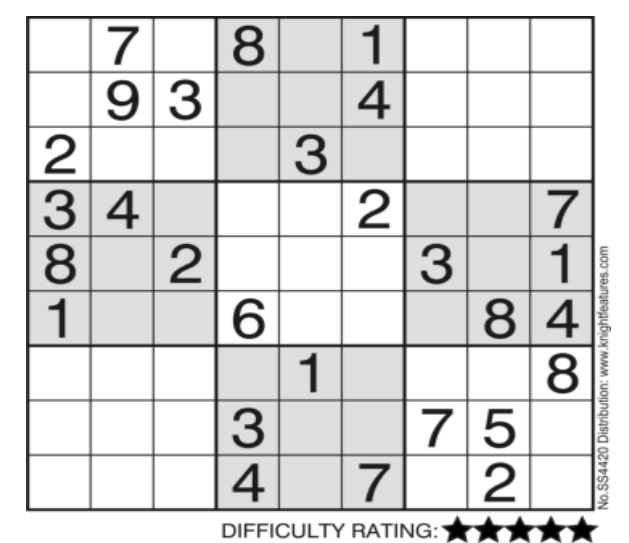
THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12683



- ACROSS**
- Obstacle being chic? (6)
 - Captive sailors went round in circles (8)
 - Complex vitamin bonds in lettuce (6)
 - Publicity-seeking noisemaker - one can go on and on (8)
 - Pay attention to opinion and reputation (4,4)
- DOWN**
- Use a tee in home (7)
 - An insect showing hesitation - Roach, possibly (9)

- (set by Scintillator)
- Software engineer's uncontrollable itch to consume drug (ecstasy) (6)
 - Short skirt invites endless disapproval, again! (4)
 - These can give rise to shocks (10)
 - Undoubtedly, Faraday by and large was working out Newton (3,3,4)
 - Taking top off, search a person for hazard (4)
 - Wind not inspiring the States (6)
 - Forks out behind old insects (8)
 - Where a lion is (lair?) mostly withdrawn, rejective (2,6)
 - Trade in cherry gives me energy for promotion (6)
 - Rent lettings for occupation (8)
 - A 30-sec video before release of *Joker* (6)
 - Dunk in sauce that's cold (6)
 - Rub on the back softly (4)
 - Failing man penned sad notebooks (2,3,3)
 - Judges change heart, eject violently (5)
 - They can leave you in stitches by running errands (7)
 - Seat of old dynasty in Turkey (7)
 - One casts aspersions on Queen departing Great Britain and Ireland? (7)
 - Sense of endless mist, possibly? (9)
 - At home, a lungi is worn about the groin (8)
 - When baby boomers were born in, i.e., stiff conditions (7)
 - Right, ask him about a place in North India (7)
 - Cold outcome of partners securing last grade in engineering branch (6)
 - Study accounts of auto firm, Tesla (5)
 - Gape at flight turning north (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12682

E	K	D	A	B	B			
S	H	I	N	E	R	U	N	F
C	R	V	I	T	B	O		
M	A	R	K	D	O	W	N	
L	I	P	I	D	O	R	O	L
O	U	T	O	O	G			
S	P	U	R	O	F	T	H	E
S	L	O	L	E				
S	H	E	B	E	N	M	E	R
C	H	U	R	C	H	I	N	I
I	O	P	R	N	I	I		
S	T	U	P	O	R	F	L	A
T	D	T		Y	N	G		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	6	1	8	9	7	3	5
8	7	1	2	5	3	9	4	6
9	5	3	4	6	7	8	2	1
5	1	7	8	9	2	3	6	4
2	9	8	6	3	4	5	1	7
6	3	4	5	7	1	2	8	9
1	4	5	7	2	8	6	9	3
3	6	2	9	4	5	1	7	8
7	8	9	3	1	6	4	5	2

FAITH

The three gunas

In chapter 14 of the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna how the three gunas - sattva, rajas and tamas - keep the atma bound to samsara, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. The Lord says that what He is now going to tell Arjuna is uttamam jnanam - the best form of knowledge. Not only should we acquire knowledge of the gunas, but we must also be devoted to God to attain moksha. Those who have knowledge of the gunas and worship Him become like Him, in the sense that they are not born during creation - na upajAyante. Nor do they lose their jnana at the time of pralaya - na vyathanti. The Lord has already spoken about prakrti and purusha. So, we should view this knowledge of the gunas together with that. So, knowledge of prakrti, purusha and gunas gives liberation from births and deaths. "Such atmas become similar to Me," says the Lord. They do not attain onement with the Supreme One. The distinction between jivatmas and the Paramatma is not lost, even when the jivatmas reach Sri Vaikuntha.

Just as a seed is planted in the Earth, the Lord plants a jiva in Prakrti. Prakrti is the place where the jiva has experiences according to its karma. This applies to all, whether it is Brahma or a blade of grass. Lord Krishna is responsible for all births. In this sense He is the father, for He is the One who plants the jivas on this earth. Every birth is according to the jivatma's karma, and for each of these births Lord Krishna is the father. Sattva, rajas and tamas cannot be understood by observation. Can we tell if something is poisoned just by looking at it? Only when the effects of the poison begin to show up in a person who consumes it do we realise that the food was poisoned. In the same way, we can understand the three gunas only from the effects they manifest.