

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY  
JULY 21, 2019  
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**SUNDAY STORY** PAGE 11

**At Home**

It's 50 days since the BJP chief took over the portfolio central to party's agendas. A look at Shah's MHA, and the party preparing for life after

**BIG PICTURE** PAGES 12-13

**Will & Grace**

In loss of the Cup, there were two high points: one of them India's most aggressive pacer, other its most stylish batsman



For nearly five decades, Shanta Gokhale, 79, has chronicled and critiqued literary and theatrical traditions in India. Looking back at a life of fullness

**BJP maintains a facade of distance, but its prints all over Karnataka row**

**CM who shaped new Delhi Sheila Dikshit passes away**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying his tributes to Sheila Dikshit at her residence in New Delhi on Saturday. Next to him is Sheila's son and former Congress MP Sandeep Dikshit. Via PMO Twitter handle

**JOHNSON T A**  
BENGALURU, JULY 20

A SIGN of the Opposition BJP's single-minded determination to win the trust vote against the Congress-JD(S) coalition in Karnataka has been evident in its refusal to be baited into a clash with ruling MLAs in the Assembly despite allegations of BJP leaders paying MLAs to defect and topple the government. In the House Friday, before Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar extended confidence motion proceedings until Monday, JD(S) MLA Srinivas Gowda accused BJP MLAs Dr C N Ashwathnarayan, S R Vishwanath and former MLA C P Yogeshwar of offering him Rs 5 crore in cash and the guarantee of Rs 25 crore more if he joined the BJP. Another JD(S) MLA, and minister, Sa Ra Mahesh claimed the BJP had offered JD(S) leader H Vishwanath Rs 28 crore to defect. "He said he had run up debts to contest the election last year," Mahesh said.

Till the end the leader Cong turned to in Capital, she dies of cardiac arrest

Knew how to take along rivals, within and outside

**MANOJ C G**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 20



1938-2019

VETERAN CONGRESS leader and three-time Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit died of cardiac arrest Saturday. She was 81. Its longest-serving Chief Minister, Dikshit was instrumental in transforming Delhi into a world-class city, earning her national fame and catapulting her to the front-line of the Congress leadership. She became Chief Minister in 1998 when the Congress was in political wilderness and the organisation in utter disarray. And

battling rampant factionalism, Dikshit reigned supreme in Delhi's politics, spearheading the Congress back to power in 2003 and 2008, becoming a middle-class icon. But in 2013, just as dramatically as she rose, Dikshit fell. I joined her in August 1998,

**PAWAN KHERA**

IT IS most difficult to write the obituary of a person you have been so close to, within hours of her passing away. Sheila Dikshit was a combination of rarities that defied several stereotypes. As a human being, she never allowed her political rivalries and differences to come in the way of treating another human with dignity and respect. As a politician, she refused to succumb to her personal likes and dislikes.

**SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS**

when she was made president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee, tasked with reviving a faction-ridden party and uprooting the BJP from Delhi. The city, largely considered an RSS bastion, was slowly noticing

**FULL COVERAGE**  
PAGES 3, 4

**Naga hand to OBC faces, Govt sends message with its Governor picks**

**NIA lists Malik 'ISI links, properties'; lawyer slams bid to 'malign' him**

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

IN KEY reshuffles and fresh appointments with an eye on state-level politics, the government on Saturday appointed Naga talks interlocutor R N Ravi as the new Governor of Nagaland and shifted Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel to Uttar Pradesh. Patel has been replaced by Bihar Governor Lalji Tandon in Madhya Pradesh, while BJP veteran Phagu Chauhan takes over in Bihar. Noted lawyer and former Janata Dal MP Jagdeep Dhankhar

**EXPLAINED**

**Political signalling**

THE choice of Ramesh Bais, Jagdeep Dhankhar, Phagu Chauhan and N Ravi carries a message for their native states or the states they are headed to. Dhankhar's legal acumen may also come handy in the bitter Bengal battle.

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

AN INVESTIGATION report prepared by the NIA on JKLF chief Yasin Malik alleges he was in touch with Pakistan's ISI, had received funds from Islamabad to "foment trouble" in the Valley, and amassed properties worth more than Rs 15 crore. The NIA, which is probing a case of terror funding against Kashmiri separatists, including Malik, claims some of these properties include government land. Denying the allegations, Malik's lawyer Raja Tufail called it an "exercise to malign him".



**JKLF chief took funds from Pak to fuel unrest: NIA report**

**IF NOT TALKS, KNOW WELL HOW TO SOLVE KASHMIR: RAJNATH**  
PAGE 7

**WORLD**



**TENSIONS RISE AS IRAN SEIZES SHIP WITH 18 INDIANS; BRITAIN TERMS IT HOSTILE ACT**  
PAGE 17

**SONBHADRA KILLINGS**

**Constable sought compromise, hinted at attack, says eyewitness**

**ASAD REHMAN**  
UMBHA (SONBHADRA), JULY 20

AN EYEWITNESS to the firing that left 10 dead in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district has said that a constable at the nearest police station had called him earlier that day for a "compromise" on the land dispute, warning that "something might happen" if he didn't turn up. The witness, Ram Rajya, has also claimed that he called up Sonbhadra Superintendent of Police Salmantaj Jafertaj Patil to seek help, after hearing that an attack was imminent, but said he was directed back to the police station. Ram Rajya said Constable Satyajit of the Ghorawal police station called him saying the SHO wanted to talk to him regarding the land dispute that led to the firing. "He said that if I don't come, then I should not blame the administration if something happens. That means he knew something was going to happen."



The pipe in which many hid during the attack. They were forced out, and shot, said villager Ram Bali. Vishal Srivastav

I had also heard from people in neighbouring villages that the pradhan of Murtiya village (who allegedly led the firing) was collecting tractors and men." Rajya said he called up SP Patil and told him the pradhan, Yagya Dutt, was planning something. "The SP told me that the Inspector at the police station would handle the matter." Rajya said he made several calls to emergency numbers 100 and 1076 from 11 am to 11.30 am, af-

ter the attack started. Police took an hour arriving from the Ghorawal police station, over 30 km away, over a kutchra road. By then, Dutt and his men had allegedly fled. The SP, however, denied receiving any calls from Rajya. "I

**PRIYANKA MEETS VICTIMS AT STATE GUEST HOUSE**  
PAGE 6

**Pressure drop in helium tank led to moon mission delay**

**AMITABH SINHA**  
PUNE, JULY 20

A SUDDEN drop in pressure in one of the tanks containing helium gas on the GSLV Mk-III rocket was behind ISRO's decision to abort the Chandrayaan-2 moon mission last week, *The Sunday Express* has learnt. Less than an hour before lift-off on July 15, India's first mission to land on the moon was

scrubbed after what ISRO said was a "technical snag". ISRO has said its expert committee had identified the problem and applied corrective measures, and that the system was now functioning normally. Chandrayaan-2 is now set to launch Monday. But last week, scientists were unable to assess the exact cause of the sudden pressure drop. "The pressure in one of the helium tanks was observed to be falling. It happened while the cryogenic fuel, which is super-cooled to temperatures well below -100 degrees Celsius, was being loaded. Because of the extremely low temperatures of the fuel, the environment surrounding the fuel tanks also got cooled," said an ISRO scientist associated with the mission. "This helium tank was in close proximity to the fuel tank. So, the pressure drop could be because of the loading of the

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**Nominations**

The nominations should be sent with complete details of both the nominator and the nominee. These details must include background information, field of activity, research, measurable outcomes, impact on individuals & society and other achievements of the nominee. The information must be duly supported with adequate evidence and signed by the nominator. The nomination form is available on the website of Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust - www.nskt.org

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**Kumbalangi days: Kerala self-help network trains, rolls out all-women construction teams**

**VISHNU VARMA**  
KUMBALANGI, JULY 20

"THOSE WERE the days when freshly distilled arrack flowed like a river across the state. And in that river, our husbands swam and frolicked." Sicily, who goes by one name, was a 28-year-old bride in early-1970s Kerala when she arrived at her in-laws' house to discover that her husband was a drunkard. Kunjappan, her spouse, would do odd daily-wage jobs and spend his entire earnings on

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Sicily (left), 74, and the other members of her construction team at site of their latest project in Kumbalangi. Vishnu Varma

raise her young children. Philomina, 56, has had a similar trajectory. With her husband, a fisherman, squandering his wages at arrack shops, she too was forced to work as a helper at construction sites and later take up any job that came her way under the MGNREGA, from cleaning canals to cutting weeds and building cowsheds. Sicily, now 74, and Philomina were drafted last year into all-women construction units under Kudumbashree, Kerala's famed women self-help network. The

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