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IN MAURITIUS PAPERS, A REAL ESTATE FUND THAT NEVER TOOK OFF PAGE 17

Chandrayaan moves into higher orbit, next manoeuvre tomorrow EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, JULY 24

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, JULY 24

TWO DAYS after being launched and placed in an earth orbit, Chandrayaan-2, India's first attempt to land on the moon, made its first orbit-raising manoeuvre on Wednesday afternoon and moved into a higher orbit.

The onboard propulsion system of the spacecraft fired for 48 seconds shortly before 3 pm on Wednesday, and moved into a new elliptical orbit, that is 230 km from the earth's surface at its nearest point, and 45,163 km at its furthest, a statement from ISRO said.

On Monday, after being launched, Chandrayaan-2 had been placed into an orbit that was 170 km at its nearest and 45,475 km at the furthest.

"First earth bound orbit raising manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft has been performed successfully today at 14:52 hrs IST as planned, using the onboard propulsion system for a firing

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## SBI consortium gave loan to Sterling 3 yrs after own subsidiary flagged default

KHUSHBOONARAYAN MUMBAI, JULY 24

A CONSORTIUM led by State Bank of India (SBI) loaned money to Sterling Group, owned by Nitin Sandesara, Chetan Sandesara, in 2015 even though SBI's own subsidiary, State Bank of Mysore, had filed a criminal complaint against Sterling Biotech Ltd for loan default, as early as 2012 and declared its promoters "willful defaulters" in 2014, The Indian Express has learnt.

Sources said that in 2012, State Bank of Mysore (SBM) had moved a magistrate court in Mumbai asking it to issue an ar-

rest warrant against the promoters of Sterling Group for defaulting on loan repayment of Rs 80.90 crore. Subsequently, in 2014, SBM, which was 90 per cent owned by SBI, was the first bank to declare Nitin Sandesara, Chetan Sandesara and Sterling Biotech willful defaulters as per guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Despite this, in September 2015, a SBI-led consortium of banks extended guarantees in the form of Standby Letters of Credit (SBLCs) of around Rs 1,300 crore to Sterling Global Oil Resources Ltd, a foreign subsidiary of the beleaguered Sterling Group.

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## Palki photobombs first visit by top official to J&K village, he says couldn't walk all the way

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, JULY 24

AT FIRST look, it's a bureaucrat throwing his weight around, literally. Maybe, a case of poor judgement. Or simply, bad optics.

But the official who was captured on camera being carried on a makeshift cot by residents of a remote village in a mountainous area of J&K, in an image that has gone viral on social media, insists it's none of the above.



## FROM BENGAL, ACROSS THE TABLE

A delegation of Trinamool Congress MPs meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI REPORT, P7

## Numbers on its side in RS, Opp plans to force 7 Bills to panels

MANOJ CGG & ABANTIKA GHOSH NEW DELHI, JULY 24

WITH THE government planning to extend the Parliament session to push through several legislation, the Opposition parties met Wednesday and identified as many as seven Bills which they want sent to Select Committees for scrutiny. A confrontation is likely Thursday when the RTI amendment Bill is expected to come up in Rajya Sabha.

UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi met Opposition leaders at the Congress Parliamentary Party office, but the SP and TMC stayed away. Later, leaders of both these parties attended a meeting in the chamber of Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad. Both meetings aimed at evolving a common Opposition strategy over Bills in the two Houses. TMC leader Derek O'Brien listed the seven Bills in Rajya Sabha which, he said, could not be passed without legislative scrutiny. The Bills are: The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights of Marriage) Bill, 2019; The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019; The Code Wages Bill, 2019; The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code Bill, 2019; The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019; The DNA Technology

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## Imran admits: Our previous govts lied, Kashmir militants still in Pak

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, JULY 24

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan has admitted that about 30,000-40,000 "armed people", who have been trained and fought in some part of Afghanistan or Kashmir, are in Pakistan and accused the previous governments of not telling the truth to the United States about the militant groups operating in the country. India and Afghanistan accuse Pakistan of providing safe haven



Imran Khan with Donald Trump on Monday. AP

to the Afghan Taliban, Haqqani Network, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other militant groups, which carry out

attacks in the two countries.

Khan, who is on a three-day official visit to the US, also admitted to American lawmakers that successive governments in Pakistan did not tell the truth to the US, in particular in the last 15 years, that there were 40 different militant groups operating in his country.

"Until we came into power, the governments did not have the political will, because when you talk about militant groups, we still have about

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## Dhoni's wife was a director with 25% stake in Amrapali Group firm

SANDEEP SINGH & ANIL SASI NEW DELHI, JULY 24

EVEN AS M S Dhoni has maintained that he was merely a brand ambassador of the Amrapali Group, filings made by the Delhi-based real estate company with the Registrar of Companies, when viewed alongside Tuesday's Supreme Court judgment, point to a more complex relationship between the former India captain and the beleaguered company now indicted for fraud.

Dhoni's wife Sakshi Singh Dhoni was a director and a 25 per cent shareholder in a group company called Amrapali Mahi



SC has cancelled Amrapali Group's registration

Developers Pvt Ltd (AMDPL), where Amrapali Group CMD Anil Kumar Sharma held the remaining 75 per cent stake (till September 2014, as per records available).

AMDPL, according to the findings of a forensic audit on the Amrapali Group submitted to

EXPLAINED. Move to stand up, be counted. OUTNUMBERED IN LS, Opposition parties will stand up to be counted in RS where they enjoy numerical superiority. By identifying seven Bills which they want sent for Parliamentary scrutiny, they want to not just allay concerns but also make the point that they can't be brushed aside.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

HOW DELHI GIVES U.S. A HAND IN PAK BY MANI SHANKAR AIYAR PAGE 14

WORLD. BORIS JOHNSON TAKES CHARGE AS UK PM PAGE 16

## KARNATAKA GOVT FORMATION Wary BJP takes the call: Will stake claim

Consults legal advisers, fears Congress is trying to win back rebel MLAs

LIZ MATHEW & JOHNSON T A NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, JULY 24

JUBILANT AFTER the fall of the Congress-JD(S) coalition in Karnataka, the BJP Wednesday initially indicated it would not rush to stake claim to government formation, but as the day wore on, the party drew up plans to approach Raj Bhavan either Thursday or Friday to press its claim.

Sources in the BJP said BS Yeddyurappa is likely to convene a meeting of party MLAs on Thursday before they approach Governor Vajubhai Vala. "Things will be on fast-forward in Bengaluru on Thursday," party sources said in the evening.

The party initially indicated it may wait until the Supreme Court decides on the petitions of the rebel coalition MLAs, and the Speaker takes a stand on their resignations. But by evening, party leaders, who were consulting legal advisers, said the Supreme Court order may not have a bearing on the develop-

BUSINESS AS USUAL. By UNNY. Speaker, Governor, Lordships and Law's willings, all wait, Sometime like a GOVT.

EXPLAINED. SIMPLY PUT ANTI-DEFECTION LAW, ITS LIMITS PAGE 13

ments in the assembly and the Speaker can take a final decision on the rebel MLAs. According to the Bommai judgment, the Speaker enjoys overwhelming powers in

Meanwhile in MP, two BJP MLAs vote with Congress

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, JULY 24

A DAY after the BJP toppled the Congress-JD(S) ruling coalition in Karnataka in a trust vote, its leader in MP claimed that his party could bring down the Congress government within 24 hours of getting a signal from its "No 1 and No 2". But hours later, the Kamal Nath government proved its majority in the Assembly — and managed to get two BJP MLAs to vote with it.

The two MLAs, Narayan Tripathi and Sharad Kol, were found to have voted in favour of the Dand Vidhi (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak 2019, when a BSP MLA demanded division of votes.

The BJP did not participate in voting but the amendment Bill

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RELATED REPORT PAGE 8

## Man behind FIR against woman in CJI case can't be found: Police

PRITAM PAL SINGH & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI JULY 24

A 31-YEAR-OLD man, who accused a former Supreme Court woman employee of cheating him of Rs 50,000 on the pretext of getting him a job at the top court, has not been found at his residential address in Haryana since April, police have told a Delhi court.

The woman accused in this

case is the same person who had levelled allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. In a sworn affidavit, she had called the cheating case filed against her as "false and frivolous", and claimed that she was being victimised for complaining against the CJI.

The non-availability of the cheating case complainant, Naveen Kumar, at his Haryana address was disclosed on July 19 before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Manish Khurana who had called for the man's

presence in court. Earlier, the Delhi Police Crime Branch had sought cancellation of the bail granted to the woman on March 12 after the man alleged he was being threatened by the woman and her husband.

When The Indian Express had visited Kumar's hazzar home in April, his mother Meena (50) had said that her son left for Chandigarh at 7 am on April 20, and his phone was switched off thereafter. She said that she had told him "not to file

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