



Chhota Rajan convicted for shooting hotelier B.R. Shetty in 2012

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Conte resigns as Italian PM, says Salvini harming nation for political gain

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SBI to waive processing fees on vehicle loans to boost loan demand

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Prannoy stuns Lin Dan in second round; Sai Praneeth also advances

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NEARBY



Yamuna swells, over 17,000 evacuated

NEW DELHI
Over 17,000 residents of low-lying areas near the Yamuna have been evacuated as the water level continued to rise on Tuesday and was above the danger mark throughout the day, said officials. The water level at the Old Yamuna Bridge at 8 p.m. on Tuesday was 206.36 metres, which is above the danger mark of 205.33 metres.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Another AAP MLA disqualified

NEW DELHI
AAP Sultanpur MLA Sandeep Kumar was disqualified by Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Tuesday under the anti-defection law. He was disqualified for allegedly supporting the Bahujan Samaj Party and the action was taken based on a petition moved by AAP MLA and chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhargava.

CITY ► PAGE 3



OPPORTUNITIES ► PAGE 15

Aadhaar-social media link: SC concerned over misuse of web

Court for balancing right to privacy with preventing crime, fake news

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stressed the need to find a balance between the right to online privacy and the right of the State to detect people who use the web to spread panic and commit crimes.

A Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Ghose expressed concern over the dangers of the dark web. "Though I do not know how to access it, I have heard about the dark goings-on in the dark web. It is worse than what happens [in the service web]," Justice Gupta said.

The Bench's comments were in response to submissions by Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government along with advocate Balaji Srinivasan, about the need to link social media profiles of registered users with their Aadhaar numbers, and if required, have platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp share the 12-digit unique identity with law enforcement agencies to help detect crimes.

Mr. Venugopal argued, "The linking of social media profiles with Aadhaar is needed to check fake news, defamatory articles, pornographic materials and anti-

Keeping track

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Facebook's plea to transfer various cases related to demands to link social media profiles with Aadhaar numbers. The court issued notices to the Centre, Google, Twitter, YouTube and others and sought their response by September 13.

Various petitions are pending in the Madras, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh High Courts involving Facebook

The petition pending in the Madras High

Court pertains to linking people's WhatsApp accounts to their Aadhaar numbers. The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Madras High Court can continue the proceedings but cannot pass final orders

Mukul Rohatgi and Kapil Sibal represented Facebook and Whatsapp at the hearing on Tuesday and asked that the petitions be transferred to the SC. Attorney General K.K. Venugopal represented Tamil Nadu and opposed the transfer

Justice Deepak Gupta said the case represents a conflict between right to privacy and the duty to prevent online crimes

national and terror contents in the online media."

He said the government found it a challenge to trace the 'originator' of such online content. The services of social media platforms, which were used to circulate such content, was the need of the hour. "We do not have the mechanism to find out the originator... We cannot have people commit crimes."

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Kapil Sibal, representing social media platforms, said they had moved the Supreme Court for the sole purpose of transferring the proceedings pending in High Courts to the apex court for adjudication.

Multiple cases

Facebook contended that there were four petitions – two in the Madras High Court

and one each in the Bombay and the Madhya Pradesh High Courts – on the issue. Mr. Rohatgi said Mr. Venugopal was unnecessarily delving into the merits of the case and he should only argue on the question of transfer.

The court, as the highest court in the country, and not the High Courts, should decide the issue that affected the privacy of an online user. A decision of the top court would cover the entire span of the country and would uniformly apply to all the States, he said.

There was a risk that the High Courts might arrive at conflicting decisions on the issue. It would be better to have the Supreme Court take the final call. The Tamil Nadu police were saying that Aadhaar should be used for linking user profiles, he said.

"They cannot tell us how to run our platforms. We have end-to-end encryption on WhatsApp and even we do not have access to the content. How can we tell them what is the Aadhaar number? We also have to take care of the privacy of the users," he stated.

Mr. Sibal said a decision of the Indian courts would have global ramifications.

Both lawyers pointed out that a nine-judge Constitution Bench had declared privacy as a fundamental right associated with life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Mr. Venugopal asked why social media platforms have decided to approach the Supreme Court at this point of time.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Free to fly



Unease in the air: A woman walks amid fluttering pigeons on the 16th day of curfew in Srinagar on Tuesday. Sporadic incidents of stone-throwing continued in parts of the Kashmir Valley. The government plans a major outreach to bring normalcy by organising public 'darbars.'

■ NISSAR AHMAD (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

NRC is an internal matter, Jaishankar tells Bangladesh

Remarks indicate India's stand before publication of final list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) process, now under way in Assam, is internal to India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday in Dhaka.

Addressing a press conference after meeting his counterpart A.K. Abdul Momen, Mr. Jaishankar said, "It's an internal matter." He was responding to a question on the future of more than four million people likely to be affected by the process.

His statement is significant as it indicates India's official position just days before the final NRC list is to be published on August 31. In July, Mr. Momen had expressed concern about the



S. Jaishankar speaking to journalists on his arrival in Dhaka on Monday. ■ PTI

Time increased for NRC appeal

As the August 31 deadline for the final publication of the National Register of Citizens nears, the Home Ministry has said those who are left out will be given an opportunity to move the Foreigners Tribunals. The time limit to appeal has been increased from 60 to 120 days. ► PAGE 12

The event raised eyebrows as no joint statement was issued after the meeting, indicating some differences on key issues.

PROMISE OF HELP ► PAGE 12

Kamal Nath's nephew Ratul Puri arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, in connection with the money-laundering probe into an alleged bank loan fraud case involving ₹354.51 crore.

Mr. Puri was produced before a city court that granted his six-day custody to the ED.

The arrest was made late on Monday on the basis of a First Information Report (FIR) registered last week by



Ratul Puri

the Central Bureau of Investigation against Moser Baer India Limited (MBIL) and others.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

CBI and ED teams visit Chidambaram's house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Teams of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate reached the Jorbagh residence of former Union Minister P. Chidambaram on Tuesday to arrest him in the INX Media case, soon after the Delhi High Court rejected his application for anticipatory bail. However, he was not there.

Late at night, the CBI pasted a notice on the wall outside Mr. Chidambaram's house, asking him to appear



ED officials at P. Chidambaram's residence in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

before the probe team within two hours of the receipt of summons.

The agency is also learnt

to have sent the summons through email.

'A CLASSIC CASE' ► PAGE 12

Chandrayaan-2 placed deftly in lunar orbit

Moon mission crosses a milestone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A nerve-wracking 30-minute manoeuvre performed from the Indian Space Research Organization's Mission Operations Complex here on Tuesday ensured that Chandrayaan-2, the Indian lunar lander-rover spacecraft, slid precisely into its planned orbit around its destination: the moon.

The Lunar Orbit Insertion was carried out at 9.02 a.m. from the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).

It was a major milestone, K. Sivan, Chairman of ISRO, said at a media briefing after the event.

Around 9 a.m., a precise LOI [Lunar Orbit Insertion] manoeuvre was carried out for about 30 minutes to inject Chandrayaan-2 perfectly into the defined orbit," Dr. Sivan said. The spacecraft now goes around the moon in a pole-to-pole ellipse of 114 km x 18,072 km. Now that the orbiter is in place, the focus will shift to the Vikram lander riding on top with the small rover inside its belly.

Dr. Sivan said, "We will



The orbiter goes around the moon in a pole-to-pole ellipse of 114 km x 18,072 km.

now have four lunar burns starting tomorrow [Wednesday] at 1 p.m., followed by subsequent burns on August 28, August 30 and September 1. The orbit of Chandrayaan-2 will be reduced gradually from the present 18,072 km to make it orbit moon in a circle from a distance of around 100 km by September 1."

He said the next major event was slated for September 2. On that day the lander is due to separate from the orbiter and start descending towards the lunar surface – like "a bridegroom separating from his parental home and entering the bride's home."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

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