



BSP chief Mayawati criticises Opposition delegation to J&K

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Britain must pay Brexit divorce bill even if there is no deal: EU

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Stimulus booster helps equities log best day in more than 3 months

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Bumrah and Ishant blow away West Indies, give India a 1-0 lead

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'Final NRC unlikely to be free of errors'

GUWAHATI
The Assam unit of the BJP on Monday said that it does not believe the final National Register of Citizens to be published on August 31 would be error-free. BJP State chief Ranjeet Kumar Dass said the document being prepared excludes genuine Indians and includes foreigners.

NEWS • PAGE 12

Unnao case: CBI gets time till Sept. 9 to finish probe

NEW DELHI
A court here on Monday granted the CBI time till September 9 to complete its investigation and file a status report in the 2017 Unnao gang-rape case, one of the four related cases transferred by the Supreme Court from Uttar Pradesh.

CITY • PAGE 2

Speaker seeks probe into sale of Chinese manjha

NEW DELHI
Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Monday asked Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev to order an inquiry into the sale of Chinese manjha in the Capital, which has caused multiple deaths this month. "The Delhi government has banned Chinese manjha. Despite this, how is it being sold? There should be a probe," the Speaker said.

CITY • PAGE 3

PM rejects scope for third party mediation in Kashmir

Trump: Discussed issue with Modi — India, Pakistan can resolve it on their own

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BIARRITZ
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday categorically rejected any scope for third party mediation between India and Pakistan on Kashmir, saying the two countries could discuss and resolve all issues bilaterally and "we don't want to trouble any third country."

Mr. Modi made these remarks while interacting with the media alongside U.S. President Donald Trump, who ahead of his meeting with the Prime Minister had said he would discuss the Kashmir issue with him on the sidelines of the G7 summit in the French town of Biarritz. "All the issues between India and Pakistan are bilateral in nature, and we don't want to trouble any third country. We can discuss and resolve these issues bilaterally," Mr. Modi said.

"When I had called Prime Minister [Imran] Khan after the elections, I told him that Pakistan has to fight against poverty, India has to also fight against it. Pakistan has to fight against illiteracy and disease, and India has to also fight against them...I told him we should work together for the welfare of our people," he said.



Pat on the hand: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President Donald Trump at a meeting in Biarritz on Monday. • AP

On his part, Mr. Trump said he and Mr. Modi spoke about Kashmir "at great length" on Sunday night and he feels that both India and Pakistan can resolve it on their own. "We spoke about Kashmir, the Prime Minister really feels he has it [situation] under control. They speak with Pakistan and I'm sure that they will be able to do something that will be very good," Mr. Trump said. "I have very good relationship with both the gentlemen [Modi and Khan] and I'm here. I think they can do it [resolve the issue] themselves," he added.

"We are talking about trade, we're talking about

military and many different things. We had some great discussions, we were together for dinner & I learned a lot about India," the U.S. President said. Mr. Modi also thanked Mr. Trump for congratulating him after his recent election victory and said their two countries had "shared democratic values."

Briefing reporters after the talks between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the two leaders had a "very warm, very positive meeting" which lasted 40 minutes.

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PM HIGHLIGHTS WAR ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC • PAGE 13

G7 pledges millions to fight Amazon fires

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BIARRITZ

The G7 has agreed to spend €20 million on the Amazon, mainly to send fire-fighting aircraft to tackle the huge blazes engulfing many parts of the world's biggest rainforest, the Presidents of France and Chile have said.

The G7 — comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — has also agreed to support a medium-term reforestation plan that will be unveiled at the UN in September, France's Emmanuel Macron and Chile's Sebastian Pinera said at the G7 summit here.

Brazil would have to agree to any reforestation plan, as would indigenous communities living in the Amazon.

The initiative was announced after G7 leaders held talks on the environment.

TRADE TALKS ON • PAGE 14

EARTH'S BURNING LUNGS • EDITORIAL

RBI showers ₹1.76 lakh crore bonanza on government

Record surplus transfer to take care of Centre's fiscal stress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), at its board meeting on Monday, decided to transfer ₹1.76 lakh crore to the Centre — including the interim dividend of ₹28,000 crore paid in February — which is likely to address the precarious fiscal situation of the government to a great extent.

The ₹1.76 lakh crore includes the central bank's 2018-19 surplus of ₹1.23 lakh crore and ₹52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework adopted at the board meeting.

The RBI said that as financial resilience was within the desired range, the entire 2018-19 net income of ₹1.23 lakh crore had been transferred.

The RBI had formed a committee, chaired by former Governor Bimal Jalan, to review its economic capital framework and suggest the quantum of excess provision to be transferred to the government. The committee was formed after a demand from the government for more money. The RBI Board has accepted all the recommendations of the Jalan committee.

The panel recommended a clear distinction between

Boost to finances

At a board meeting on Monday, the RBI decided to hand over its entire 2018-19 surplus of ₹1.23 lakh cr. to the govt

In ₹ crore	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Income	64,617	79,256	80,870	61,818	78,281
Expenditure	11,934	13,356	14,990	31,155	28,277
Net surplus	52,683	65,900	65,880	30,663	50,004
Surplus given to centre	52,679	65,896	65,876	30,659	50,000
% of RBI's net profit	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.99	99.99

the two components of economic capital — realized equity and revaluation balances. It was recommended that realized equity could be used for meeting all risks/losses as they were primarily built up from retained earnings, while revaluation balances could be reckoned only as risk buffers against market risks as they represented unrealized valuation gains and hence were not distributable.

The committee also recognised that RBI's provisioning for monetary, financial and external stability risks is the country's savings for a 'rainy day', (a monetary or financial stability crisis), which has been consciously maintained with the RBI in view of its role as the Monetary

Authority and the Lender of Last Resort.

"This risk provisioning made primarily from retained earnings is cumulatively referred to as the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) and has been recommended to be maintained within a range of 6.5% to 5.5% of the RBI's balance sheet comprising 5.5 to 4.5% for monetary and financial stability risks and 1.0% for credit and operational risks," the RBI said in a statement.

The 'Surplus Distribution Policy', as recommended by the committee, says only if realized equity is above its requirement, the entire net income will be transferable to the government.

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Chidambaram's custody extended by four days

He will be confronted with co-accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday extended the CBI remand of former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram for another four days in the INX Media case.

Extending the remand till August 30, special judge Arvind Kumar Kuhar said: "The reasons for grant of police custody have been given in the order on August 28 [when the former Minister was first sent to police custody]."

Seeking further remand for five days, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that the investigation could not be completed.

The accused had been confronted with one co-accused, he said, adding that Mr. Chidambaram was to be confronted with some other accused persons. However, he did not reveal the

name of the co-accused whom Mr. Chidambaram was confronted with.

A sister probe

Mr. Mehta submitted that certain files concerning the transactions of INX Media were shown to the accused. Some information vis-a-vis his role had been received from sister probe agencies which were being scrutinised and required to be put to the accused, he added.

Also, there were numerous e-mails which were to be co-related with other documents. As regards the allegation of payments of \$5 million and \$4.5 lakh to the accused, Letters Rogatory had been issued, Mr. Mehta submitted.

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CHIDAMBARAM GETS RELIEF IN CASE • PAGE 12

A semblance of normalcy



Back on the road: Vehicles plied in Srinagar on Monday with restrictions eased in areas under 69 police stations in the Kashmir Valley. But shops, schools and private offices remained closed for the 22nd day. • NISSAR AHMAD (REPORTS ON PAGE 13)

Manmohan continues to have Z+ security: MHA

CRPF likely to take over his protection

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday said former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh continued to have Z plus security, a day after *The Hindu* reported that the Special Protection Group (SPG) would be withdrawn from his security detail shortly. But the CRPF is likely to take over his security cover. Around 35 commandos will provide him round-the-clock security.

'Threat perception'

An MHA spokesperson said, "The current security cover review is a periodical exercise based on threat perception... purely based on professional assessment by security agencies. Dr. Singh continues to have a Z+ security cover."

Though the Congress did



Manmohan Singh

not formally react to the decision, *The Hindu* has learnt that senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last Friday, asking the government not to withdraw the SPG cover. The SPG, an elite protection force, was set up in 1985 after the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

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Microchipping for native Chippiparai dogs

Initiative of Tamil Nadu veterinary college has put it on par with elite, exotic breeds

B. KOLAPPAN P. SUDHAKAR CHENNAI/TIRUNELVELI

An aquiline snout, a slender and streamlined body with long legs and the tail extending like a snake, Chippiparai, the native breed of Southern Tamil Nadu, is an ace runner and hunter. Even though their prominence faded with the advent of exotic breeds, there is a growing interest in local breeds now and the Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, has embarked on creating a database of the Chippiparai, which has already gained distinction as a universal donor of canine blood.

"We implanted microchips in 100 and collected blood samples



Microchips have been implanted on 100 dogs in Tirunelveli. • SHAIK MOHIDEEN, A

from 151 dogs that attended the master health check-up and free anti-Rabies vaccination camp," said Dr. R. Ramprabhu, Professor and Head, Veterinary Clinical Complex, Tirunelveli.

The camp in Tirunelveli was inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Vice-Chancellor Dr. C.

Balachandran. He also released the Hand book of Indigenous Dog Breeds of Tamil Nadu.

Microchipping is mandatory for dogs that are members of the Kennel Club of India and the initiative of the Tirunelveli College has gained Chippiparai a status on a par with elite exotic dog breeds in the country.

Each microchip costs around ₹600 and the facility has made it easy for the owners to trace missing dogs. "We have come across a lot of police complaints about missing dogs and claim over ownership. Now the microchip with unique identification number will help establish the ownership," Dr. Ramprabhu said.

Manikandan, an owner of

eight Chippiparai dogs, had microchips implanted in them. K. Pandithurai said four of his dogs were microchipped. As hunting is banned, the owners use the dogs only for guarding farms and houses.

Dr. Ramprabhu said he was confident of creating a database blood for Indian breeds and would go a long way in helping dogs that require blood. The blood typing was done by Dr. G.R. Baranidharan and Dr. Tirumurugan of the TANUVAS Canine Research Centre DBT Scheme. "We distributed identity cards to the dog owners. The donor dogs can enjoy many privileges in our hospital. They need not pay for registration and need not wait in queues," he said.

ED chargesheets Hooda, Vora in AJL case

Former CM, Congress leader accused of direct involvement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against Associated Journals Limited, veteran Congress leader Motilal Vora and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda for alleged illegal allotment of a Panchkula plot to the company in 2005.

The chargesheet states that the accused persons were directly involved "in the process or activity connected with acquisition, possession or projection of 'proceeds of crime' i.e. Plot No. C-17, Sector 6, Panchkula to the tune of ₹64.9 crore".

The agency had earlier attached the plot and the order was confirmed by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act Adjudicating Authority. The ED probe revealed that the property was first allotted to AJL in 1982, but it



Bhupinder Singh Hooda (left), and Motilal Vora



was taken back by the Haryana Urban Development Authority Estate Officer on October 30, 1992, as the company did not comply with the allotment conditions.

The resumption order attained finality after dismissal of the revision petition in 1996. However, it is alleged that Mr. Hooda, as the then State Chief Minister and HUDA Chairman, misused his official position to allot the plot to AJL in August 2005 at the original rate, plus interest, in violation of necessary conditions.

"He also did not adhere to the legal opinion of Legal Remembrance, Haryana, and recommendations of HUDA officials and Financial Commissioner of the Town and Country Planning Department. Thus, the Chief Minister caused wrongful loss to HUDA and wrongful gain to AJL," the ED alleged. The agency said Mr. Hooda further favoured AJL by granting it three undue extensions for construction on the plot from May 2008 to May 2012. The construction work was completed in 2014, it said.

Cong. looks to fulfil poll promise in Chhattisgarh

SOBHANA K NAIR NEW DELHI

The Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) or minimum income guarantee scheme, a key promise in the Congress manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, is set to make its first appearance in Chhattisgarh.

Under directions of the party high command, the Chhattisgarh government is likely to launch a pilot project for the scheme.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel last week met Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. K. Raju, who headed the office of former party chief Rahul Gandhi, was in Raipur to brief Mr. Baghel about the scheme.

DETAILS ON • PAGE 9