







Double life term for Kevin murder case



China's Communist

Nagal goes down fighting to Federer in the US Open first round

Snared by wire: A chartered trainer aircraft crashed in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday after

Process begins to free J&K

political leaders in phases

Those who pose least threat to peace will be released first

one of its wheels got stuck in high-tension wires as it landed at the Dhanipur airstrip. The

police said all six passengers are safe. • PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 9)



Road Project: Fadnavis

all 10 found guilty in



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Party mobilises against Hong Kong protests

Wings clipped

page 20



Delhi govt. to expand ambit of free coaching

The Delhi government will expand the ambit of its free entrance coaching programme, which currently applies only to Scheduled Caste students, to also cover students belonging to Scheduled Tribe, OBC and EWS quota of general categories, said sources.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Hawkers kill teacher for not buying headphones

NEW DELHI A 27-year-old madrasa teacher was beaten to death by two hawkers outside the Old Delhi railway station after he refused to buy a pair of headphones, the police said on Tuesday. The incident happened on Monday night when Mohammad Owais from Uttar Pradesh's Kandhla arrived at the railway station.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3



OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 15

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Facing criticism over its

stand in the Supreme Court

that reasonable restrictions

on free speech were accep-

table when national interest

was at stake, the Press

Council of India (PCI) on

Tuesday decided to tell the

court that it opposes any

restrictions on the media in

to intervene in the petition

filed by Kashmir Times ex-

ecutive editor Anuradha

Bhasin, who challenged the

restrictions on communica-

tions in the State imposed

since August 5, when the go-

vernment revoked the

State's special constitutional

status and split it into two

Phone and Internet ser-

vices have remained sus-

Union Territories.

Last week, the PCI sought

Jammu and Kashmir.

⁺ Press Council criticises

Body to bat for press freedom in SC

media curbs in J&K

Questions on RBI's credibility outlandish, says Nirmala

Finance Minister slams criticism on transfer of surplus to exchequer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Any suggestions on the credibility of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are "outlandish", Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday, responding to criticism over the transfer of ₹1.76 lakh crore surplus from the central bank to the exchequer.

Speaking a day after the Central government's windfall from the RBI, she said the government was yet to decide on the deployment of

"I cannot comment right now on how these funds would be deployed. We will inform [the media] only after we have taken a decision," she said at a press briefing here.

Ms. Sitharaman and Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur were in the city for a meeting with tax officials, traders, entrepreneurs and industry experts on the issues related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Refutes Rahul

The Minister slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks accusing the Narendra Modi government of "stealing" money from the RBI. "Whenever Congress MP Rahul Gandhi

N. Ram: action

unjustified

The action of the PCI

chairman backing the

unjustified, N. Ram,

curbs on communication

Chairman of The Hindu

Group Publishing Private

Limited, said. ▶ PAGE 13

er areas of the State.

in Jammu and Kashmir was



Stout defence: Nirmala Sitharaman and Anurag Thakur addressing a press conference in Pune on Tuesday. •PTI

has used words like chori and chor (thievery) [pertaining to the NDA government], a thing that comes to my mind is that though he tried his best to malign us using such words, the public has given him and his party a fitting reply," she said, and added that the Congress had no right to tarnish the RBI's reputation.

"Rahul Gandhi should first ask the erstwhile Finance Ministers and senior leaders of the Congress before hurling allegations of theft from the RBI at us ..., but it appears he has become an expert at using words like chor and chori,' the Finance Minister said.

Making it clear that she was not responding to any specific criticism, Ms. Sitharaman said that the Bimal Ialan committee on the eco-

Formula from panel

vernment.

nomic capital framework

included eminent experts,

and it was constituted by the

RBI itself and not by the go-

"It is worrying that a committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India is being questioned. The committee has had several sittings and has come out with a formula. It was appointed by the RBI, it had experts and they gave a formula, based on which the amount was arrived at," the Minister said.

"Now, any suggestions about the credibility of the RBI, therefore, for me seems a bit outlandish, considering that the committee was ap-

Jalan panel for periodic review

The Bimal Jalan Committee, set up to review the RBI's economic capital framework, has suggested that the framework be reviewed after every five years. "But if there is a change in the RBI's risks and operating environment, an intermediate review may be considered," it said. ▶ PAGE 16

pointed by the Reserve Bank itself," she said.

Ms. Sitharaman further said the committee members themselves had given an explanation through the media that issues such as fiscal financial stability and the surplus to meet any emergency and contingency had all been factored in by the committee while coming up with its formula.

Responding to questions on the auto industry's demands for a GST rate cut, she said the GST rates were not in the Finance Ministry's domain, but that of the GST

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12 **RAHUL ACCUSES GOVT. OF 'STEALING' FROM RBL > PAGE 12** GIFT FROM RBI ▶ EDITORIAL

regional political parties, including those from the National Conference (NC), the Peoples Conference (PC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in phases in the coming days. Sources said the Union Home Ministry had passed No work: Shopkeepers outside their closed shops in on directions to the police to

the tourist resort of Gulmarg on Tuesday. • NISSAR AHMAD

'SC's caution not followed in Chidambaram case'

Singhvi recalls ADM Jabalpur case

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

A 44-year-old caution from the Supreme Court, probably the only silver lining in one of the most controversial decisions of the court during the Emergency era, was ignored when the Delhi High Court refused to protect former Union Minister P. Chidambaram from arrest in the INX Media case on August 20.

Senior advocate Abhpended in the Kashmir Valishek Manu Singhvi recalled ley since then, while mobile the stricture in the Supreme internet remains cut in oth-Court on Tuesday while arguing Mr. Chidambaram's In a letter to all PCI memappeal against arrest by the

bers, PCI secretary Anupa-Enforcement Directorate. ma Bhatnagar said Ms. Bha-He referred to the "infasin's petition was expected mous" Constitution Bench to come up in the court on verdict in the ADM Jabalpur Wednesday. case of 1975, which upheld the State's right to suspend 'FOR PRESS FREEDOM' ▶ PAGE 13 personal liberty under the

Family presses for proof

P. Chidambaram's family on Tuesday dared the Centre to produce evidence of any undisclosed bank account, property or shell companies and accused it of demonising the former Union Minister. ▶ PAGE 12

draconian Maintenance of Internal Security Act during the Emergency. But still, Mr. Singhvi said, the Bench had warned the High Courts against tasting the "forbidden fruit" of sealed cover missives handed by probe agencies behind the back of the accused.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Jawan kills havildar, self in Chennai camp

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Upset at being punished for dereliction of duty, a jawan shot his superior and killed himself at a camp in Pallavaram on the outskirts of Chennai.

The deceased were identified as rifleman Jagseer Singh, 23, and havildar Praveen Kumar Joshi, 36, attached to the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles unit.

According to the police, on Monday night, there was an altercation between Singh, who was was on quarter guard duty at the camp, and Joshi. Sources said Singh was pulled up for being careless as he reported late for duty. He was punished and ordered to somersaults.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Muharram procession PC leader Imran Ansari, also

next week.

PEERZADA ASHIQ

The Jammu and Kashmir go-

vernment has initiated a

process to release at least 173

incarcerated leaders of the

finalise the names for re-

lease in the first phase.

Those who "pose the least

threat to the law and order

situation" will taste freedom

SRINAGAR

a former Minister in the PDP-BJP government, will be among the first to be released as he has complained "ill-health". Mr. Ansari, a prominent Shia priest, will be allowed to attend the 'Shia tazia' (commemoration) gathering on Muharram, the Islamic calendar's

The police report suggests there are fears that the Muharram procession "may turn into an anti-India protest this time". Mr. Ansari would be key to preventing such a situation.

first month, which starts

Many Shia priests will be voke the State's special stacalled in the coming days "to tus. The Hindu has been seek their assurances on the able to access official data on law and order situation." Police sources said prominent "ailing and ageing leaders" of the regional parties might be considered first for release. NC's Ali Muhammad Sagar, a former legislator and

Minister, and PDP's Nayeem Akhtar, also a former legislator and Minister, were being considered for release in the first batch. However, former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah of the NC and Mehbooba Mufti of the PDP are unlikely to be released in the first phase "on account of fears of eruption of protests". More than 173 main-

stream leaders and activists have been arrested in the clampdown, coinciding with the August 5 decision to re-

the detention of legislators, former Ministers and party leaders. Around 70 leaders from the NC, 79 from the PDP, 12 from the PC and 12 from the Congress are under detention in the Valley. Around 30 are lodged in Centaur Hotel, declared a sub-jail, and many remain detained in their houses. Authorities lifted restric-

tions from 12 more police station areas, taking the number to 81 out of 109, even as the shutdown continued for the 23rd day. "Ten more will be added by Wednesday," said Information Director Syed Sehrish As-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12 POSTERS EMERGE ▶ PAGE 13

Rare tarantula sighted in Villupuram district

The known habitat of Peacock Parachute Spider is in degraded forests near Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh

S. PRASAD VILLUPURAM

In an interesting find, researchers have sighted a critically endangered species of tarantula for the first time beyond its known habitat in the Eastern Ghats.

The spider belonging to the genus Poecilotheria, commonly known as the Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula was spotted by a team of researchers of the Puducherry-based Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF) in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee in Villupuram district.

Chance spotting The team of wildlife



reserve forests near Gingee. • P. ARAVIND AATHI researchers was involved in

field work in the reserve forests recently when they sighted a Gooty Tarantula (Poecilotheria metallica) resting in a cave. The species was later cross-

matched with photographic evidence published by the Zoo Outreach Organisation and Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society. The species, known to be endemic to India, was

found at different locations in the reserve forests. The International Union

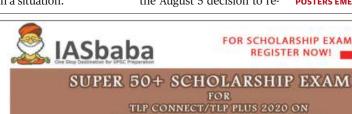
for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorised it as Critically Endangered. According to K. Raman,

founder of IBF, "The spider was sighted way back in 1899 by Reginald Innes Pocock on the basis of a single female specimen in Gooty. About 102 years later this species has been recorded at degraded forest between Nandyal and Giddalur in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh.

IUCN says on its website that it could not be said to occur naturally in Gooty, since it could have come from the Eastern Ghats at least 100 km away. S. Vimalraj, a wildlife

researcher said the species had so far not been sighted in any other part of India or Sri Lanka except its known habitat in Andhra Pradesh.

Not surveyed before According to Zeeshan A. Mirza, Researcher at National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, "This is an interesting find as this area has never been surveyed before. Species of this genus can be identified based on the banding patterns on the underside of the legs. Tarantulas are biological pest controllers and there is a huge demand for them by collectors in the pet trade. There is an urgent need to protect them."



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1st September (Sunday): Slot 3- 11 AM- 12:45 PM, Slot 4- 7 PM - 8:45 PM

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