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Navy is committed to preventing 26/11-type attacks: Rajnath Singh

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Erdogan, Putin agree to remove Syrian Kurdish YPG, start joint patrols

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Ganguly set to take over as BCCI president; CoA's reign ends

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NEARBY



Nine city roads to be redesigned, says Kejriwal

NEW DELHI

Nine prominent stretches across the Capital will be redesigned along the lines of European cities over the coming year, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Tuesday. The pilot project will see around 45 km of roads being revamped.

CITY ► PAGE 4

Kamlesh Tiwari killers arrested: ATS Gujarat

LUCKNOW

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad on Tuesday said it has arrested the two main suspects who allegedly murdered Hindu Samaj Party leader Kamlesh Tiwari in Lucknow on October 18. The two suspects were nabbed from Shamlaji near the Gujarat-Rajasthan border.

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SC grants bail to Chidambaram

It rejected Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's argument that he is a 'flight risk'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in the case registered by the CBI in the INX Media case.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice R. Banumathi, rejected the argument by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that those accused in economic offences should be treated as a "flight risk" and denied bail.

In ED custody

There is, however, no chance of his walking free as of now because the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has already taken him into its custody in the money laundering case related to the INX Media scam.

Justice Banumathi dismissed Mr. Mehta's submission that "flight risk" of economic offenders was a "national phenomenon". Generalisations that all economic offenders would abscond and

Relief at last

The Supreme Court granted bail to P. Chidambaram in the case registered by the CBI in the INX Media case

1 Justice Banumathi said the formula that all economic offenders would flee abroad could not be used to deny bail to a **person eligible for his freedom.** His case cannot be linked to "unconnected cases"

2 The former Union Minister has been in custody for **about two months**, while his co-accused were granted bail. The Congress leader is said to be suffering from **age-related health problems**



go abroad could not be formulated to deny bail to a person who was otherwise eligible for his freedom, Justice Banumathi, who authored the judgment, reasoned.

"The appellant [Chidambaram] is in custody from 21.08.2019 for about two months. The co-accused were already granted bail. The appellant is said to be aged 74 years and is also said to be suffering from

age-related health problems. Considering the above factors and the facts and circumstances of the case, we are of the view that the appellant is entitled to be granted bail," the court ordered.

Surrender passport

The court said Mr. Chidambaram should be released if he was not required in any other case. He had to execute bail bonds for ₹1 lakh.

He should surrender his passport, if not already done, and seek the permission of the special court whenever he wanted to go abroad.

The Bench, which also comprised Justices A.S. Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy, dismissed Mr. Mehta's contention that Mr. Chidambaram has the "wherewithal to flee the country and he remains a flight risk."

On this, the court pointed out that the FIR in the case was registered on May 15, 2017.

The Delhi High Court had given Mr. Chidambaram interim protection, which lasted from May 31 last year to August 20, 2019.

During this time, Mr. Chidambaram had not once applied to go abroad.

The court found merit in Mr. Chidambaram's argument that he has no intention to flee. He intends to fight the case.

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Court to look into govt. plea for access to WhatsApp chats

A terrorist cannot claim privacy, Centre tells SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has decided to examine whether social media intermediaries, such as Facebook and WhatsApp, should facilitate the state to access encrypted and private conversations of citizens, purportedly to fight crime and terror.

A Bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose on Tuesday transferred to itself several cases pending in various High Courts on the issue and scheduled the hearing for the last week of January 2020 before an appropriate Bench.

The court is waiting for the Centre to notify the revised Information Technology Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules by January 15. These Rules, said the government, were born out of the present day need to usher in a stricter regime and more cooperation to combat the spread of por-

Parliament empowered government through Section 69 (1) of the IT Act to intercept information... Intermediaries can't say they can't allow decryption
K.K. VENUGOPAL, Attorney General



The Section only allows the government to lawfully decrypt information and does not entail any obligation on the part of the social intermediary concerned
JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA, Supreme Court

nography, sedition, hate, fake news, "anti-national activities and terror" online.

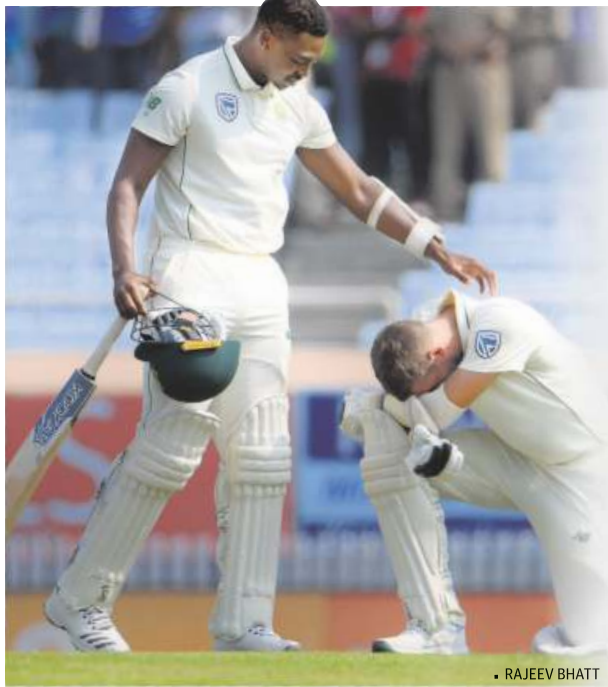
"A terrorist cannot claim privacy," submitted Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, along with Tamil Nadu Advocate General Vijay Narayan and Additional Advocate General Balaji Srinivasan.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta said the government's move to gain more access into social media was not a "ploy" and was triggered by a deep concern

for the sovereignty of the nation. It stemmed out of national interest.

"The government has no intention to invade the privacy of innocents," Mr. Mehta said. Intermediaries should cooperate with the government to secure the nation against terror. "Your Lordships have to find a balance between national interest, sovereignty and police investigation with individual privacy."

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RAJEEV BHATT

India's merry run continues

■ Topper India tallied 240 points (five matches in all) at the end of the three-match series against South Africa to pull further ahead in the World Test Championship (WTC)

■ Rohit Sharma aggregated 529 runs (average 132.25) in the series to emerge 'Man-of-the-Match' of the third and final Test, and also 'Man-of-the-Series'

■ Rohit, Mayank Agarwal and captain Virat Kohli slammed a double century each in the series

■ Ravichandran Ashwin topped the wickets chart for the series with 15 while Ravindra Jadeja (13) lent admirable support

■ Pacers Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav outshone their South African counterparts, picking up 13 and 11 wickets respectively



REPORTS: PAGE 19; EDITORIAL: PAGE 10

Trudeau retains power but loses majority

Liberals win 157 out of 338 seats

REUTERS
MONTREAL

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals held onto power after a closely fought election on Monday, but were reduced to a minority government that will need the support in Parliament of a smaller Left-leaning party.

The vote showed a deeply divided country with the defeated Conservatives winning the popular vote, while a resurgent separatist Bloc Quebecois made strides in the mainly French-speaking

province of Quebec.

The Liberals had won in 157 out of 338 seats, Elections Canada said. That put the Liberals far short of the 170 seats needed for a second straight majority government.

"You did it, my friends. Congratulations," Mr. Trudeau told supporters in Montreal early on Tuesday, speaking as his main opponents were giving concession speeches.

JAGMEET SINGH EMERGES AS 'KINGMAKER' ► PAGE 14

Plea against EC order on Sikkim CM disqualification

Term of debarment was cut short

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought a response from the Centre and the Election Commission (EC) on a petition challenging the EC's decision to reduce the disqualification period of Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang from six years to 13 months. Mr. Tamang was convicted in a graft case.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar also sought the stand of the State govern-

ment and Mr. Tamang on the petition filed by Sikkim Democratic Front general secretary Dek Bahadur Katwal.

Mr. Katwal argued that Section 11 of the Representation of the People Act was unconstitutional as it provided arbitrary powers to the EC to remove or reduce the disqualification period. The petition stated that Mr. Tamang was convicted of the charge of misappropriation of public funds.

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One in every six missing children from Bengal: NCRB

8,178 went missing from State in 2017

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

One in every six children who go missing in the country is from West Bengal, an analysis of the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) points out.

According to the report titled *Crime In India 2017*, released earlier this week, there were 1,19,013 children missing in the country, of which 19,671 (16.5%) were from West Bengal alone.

West Bengal is followed by Madhya Pradesh, which recorded 14,158 cases. In fact, the number of children missing recorded in 2017 is marginally higher than

what was recorded in 2016, both in the case of West Bengal and the country.

According to the report, the total number of missing children in the country in 2016 was 1,11,569, while the number of missing children from West Bengal was pegged at 16,881. For the year 2017 alone, the report highlights that 8,178 children went missing from West Bengal whereas 63,349 went missing from the country. West Bengal accounts for 12.9% of all missing children in the year 2017.

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Telcos likely to get more time to pay ₹42,000 cr. in spectrum dues

This will improve the cash flows of operators: official

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

To provide relief to the debt-ridden telecom sector, the Central government is considering a proposal to allow a two-year moratorium to telecom operators on the pending spectrum payment, which will help them to avoid an outflow of over ₹42,000 crore.

The government is also mulling a reduction in universal service obligation levy to 3% from the present 5%. "We are finalising some proposals to provide relief to



The Centre is also planning to cut the universal service obligation fund levy to 3%.

the telecom sector. One proposal is allowing a two-year moratorium on spectrum auction deferred payment liabilities," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

The official added that this will help improve cash

flows for telecom service providers in the short to medium term by avoiding immediate cash flows of over ₹42,000 crore for the next two financial years (2020-21 and 2021-22).

Total payment same

However, this will not reduce the total payment as the companies will have to pay the deferred amount with applicable interest.

"Discussions are also on for reducing the Universal Service Obligation Fund levy by 2% to 3%," the official said. This reduction, however, is likely to come with some riders.

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Smart watches to make Chennai Metro rides easier

Automatic gates will read info off chips embedded in wrist watches

SUNITHA SEKAR
CHENNAI

Standing in line for a ticket and cumbersome recharge processes for travel/trip cards may soon be a thing of the past for commuters of Chennai Metro Rail.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) and watch manufacturers Titan have come together to make watches that will allow commuters to just flash their wrist watches at the automatic ticketing gates

and walk into the trains.

According to CMRL officials, they have held discussions with Titan recently and are working to finalise the details of this project.

Prototypes ready

"These watches will have a chip inserted underneath the dial so the gates can detect the chip once a commuter shows it. A few prototypes have been



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

shown as examples for both genders. But quite a few issues, like the options for

recharging the chips, need to be sorted out," an official said. The exact details of the technology have also not been revealed.

The cost of these watches is likely to be in the range of ₹1,000-₹1,500, making them affordable to a larger section of people, another official said.

"A set of watches with a host of designs and models will be produced with the chip already inserted in it; it may be available in about six to eight months. But it is unlikely that a chip can be inserted in an existing watch

or new watch that a customer picks up," another source said.

Other issues to be ironed out include the fact that the working of the chip should not be hampered by embellishments on the watch.

Another source said the glitches in the automatic entry system would need to be sorted out before the smart watch plan was rolled out. At present, besides the CMRL travel and trip cards, commuters can use SBI debit-cum-smart cards to swipe and pay at the stations.