



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

IN PAKISTAN, IT'S COURT VS KHAN
BY KHALED AHMED
PAGE 14

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NAVY DAY

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Chennai techie helps NASA find lander: 'Every white spot was Vikram for me'

'Tracked images released by NASA, pixel by pixel, started with a single dot that was different in new images'

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 3

NEARLY THREE months after ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 made a "hard landing" on the lunar surface, NASA tweeted Tuesday that it had spotted the remains of the Vikram lander and credited an unexpected source for the discovery — a software programmer in Chennai.

And all it took for Shanmuga Subramanian (33) to find what the world was looking for was perseverance, a corner of his



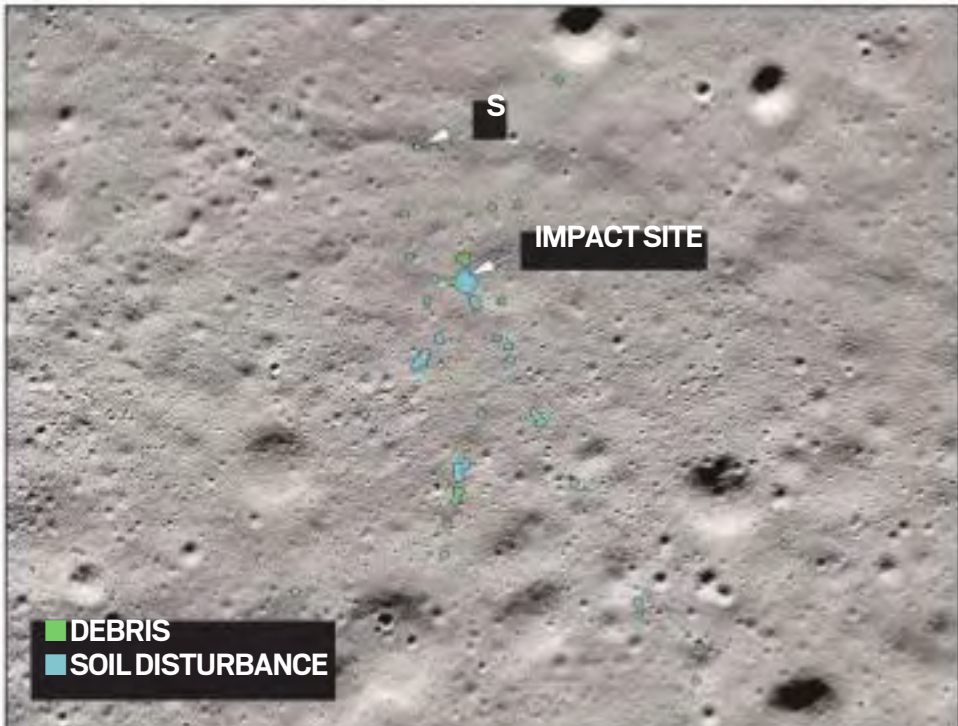
Shanmuga Subramanian

apartment in Besant Nagar and a basic image viewer on his personal laptop. May be that's why, facing a crowd of media cameras, the man himself says "it's not a big deal".

"Anyone could have traced it... ISRO or NASA or any individual with an interest. It's just that I happened to trace it first. I was new to this, and probably my enthusiasm helped me over others who have been using advanced technologies to trace the lander," he said.

After the early hours of September 7, when ISRO said that the lander had made "a hard landing", Subramanian started trying to trace it from photographs available in the public domain, primarily NASA's website.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



NASA image shows Vikram's impact site and debris. PTI

LETTER SENT TO STATES

GST Council rings first alarm bells on revenue

'May not be able to compensate states, cess collections a matter of concern'

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

IN ITS first admission of strain on tax collections and the Centre's inability to compensate states for loss of revenue, the GST Council has written to states telling them that the GST and compensation cess collections in the last few months has become a "matter of concern" and that the compensation requirements are "unlikely to be met".

The GST Council is a Constitutional body chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprises the Minister of State

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED Backs to the wall

AT A time when growth is faltering, the delays in paying compensation to states as guaranteed by the GST Act will make it more difficult for them to meet their own finances. As it is, a shortfall in Centre's tax receipts hurts states more since the absolute amount they receive as per the devolution formula takes a hit.

BELGIAN AUDITOR'S REPORT TO PNB

Nirav-PNB rot deeper: LoUs worth Rs 25,000 cr were issued fraudulently

RITUSARIN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

ALMOST TWO years after the Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported the scandal involving diamantaire Nirav Modi, an exhaustive forensic audit commissioned by the bank has come to light, revealing the depth and extent of the rot and the ease with which fraudulent practices were carried out systematically by his chain of companies, remaining undetected for years.

Belgian auditor BDO, commissioned by PNB in February 2018, days after it complained to the CBI, looked at information supplied until June 2018 and found that a total of 1,561 Letters



329-page draft report by auditor on his firms

of Undertaking (LoUs), valued at Rs 28,000 crore, were issued by PNB to the Nirav Modi group.

Of these, 1,381 LoUs valued at Rs 25,000 crore have been described by the auditor as being "fraudulently issued". It also found that 21 of 23 exporters in whose names the LoUs had been issued were "controlled" by Nirav Modi and subsequently, 193 LoUs of the value of Rs 6,000 crore were "mis-utilized" for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Citizenship Bill coming, ensure you are present in House, BJP directs its MPs

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

SIGNALLING ITS intent on the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill that proposes to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Bangladesh, Pakistan and

Afghanistan, the BJP Tuesday asked its MPs to be present in the House in large numbers in the coming days, and said the Bill is as important as the legislation that did away with Article 370.

Sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while addressing the weekly meeting of BJP MPs, indicated that the Bill

could come up in Parliament next week and the government expects it to be passed before December 10. "The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is coming soon. It is very important to get it passed," sources quoted Singh telling the MPs.

Sources said the Bill, which is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

China ship was in Andaman waters, its presence on rise in region: Navy Chief

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

CONFIRMING REPORTS that a Chinese vessel was forced to retreat after it entered India's Exclusive Economic Zone near the Andaman and Nicobar



Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh

Islands in September, Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir

Singh said Tuesday, "our stand is that if you have to do anything in our region, you notify us or take our permission".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DIP IN NAVY BUDGET
PAGE 12

Have asked CM Uddhav to withdraw Bhima Koregaon cases: Cong, NCP leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3

SOME SENIOR leaders of the Congress and NCP — both allies of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government in Maharashtra — have sought the withdrawal of cases related to the January 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence.

"We are of the belief that the

cases which were slapped on Dalits after the Bhima Koregaon violence should be taken back. We have requested Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to ensure that these cases are withdrawn," said Nitin Raut, senior Congress minister. "Cases against innocent people should be withdrawn... Most of them are students... I have asked for details," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INDIAN NAVY DAY

Saluting the Sentinels of Our Seas

AS565 MBe Panther helicopter

AIRBUS

