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National News

Modi offers assistance for PoK flood relief

- In a humanitarian gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on offered all possible assistance to Pakistan for carrying out relief operations in the flood-ravaged Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- Making the offer after undertaking a visit to flood-hit Jammu and Kashmir for a first-hand assessment of the situation, Mr. Modi expressed his anguish at the loss that has been caused in PoK.

Government of India can print Re 1 note: Law Ministry

- Putting to rest the debate on printing of one rupee notes, the Law Ministry has opined that the Government of India has all the powers to print currency notes of this denomination.
- While the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has the authority to issue bank notes of denominational values of Rs. 2, Rs. 5, Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 50, Rs. 100, Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000, the one rupee note was printed and issued by the central government.
- The Government of India also has the sole right to mint coins of all denominations.
- However, since the RBI was of the view that with the repeal of Section 2 of the Currency Ordinance, the Government of India is not empowered to issue note of denominational value of one rupee, the law ministry opinion was taken.
- The Law Ministry in its opinion stated that the Coinage Act of 2011, which consolidates the laws relating to coinage and the mints, does not bar the Government of India from printing one rupee notes.
- Section 4 of the Act provides that the central government may authorise minting of coin of denomination not higher than Rs. 1,000, it said, adding that the definition of coin in the Act makes it clear that Government of India one rupee note is included in the definition of coin.
- The Act defines a coin as "made of any metal or any other material stamped by the Government or any other authority empowered by the Government in this behalf and which is a legal tender including commemorative coin and Government of India one rupee note," the ministry said in its opinion. "Further, apart from the metal, the coin may be made of any other material," it said.
- The ministry said while repealing the Currency Ordinance, 1940, "necessary provisions for inclusion of Government of India one rupee note within the meaning of 'Coin' have been consciously incorporated in the Coinage Act, 2011. Further, the RBI, as per Section 24(1) of the RBI Act, 1934, is not empowered to issue bank note of denomination of value of one rupee."
- "Central government is not precluded to issue one rupee Government of India note under the Coinage Act, 2011. The dimension, design, material and standard weight of such One Rupee Note have to be prescribed by the Central Government in terms of Section 4 and 5 of the Coinage Act, 2011," the opinion said.
- The printing of notes in the denominations of Re. 1 and Rs. 2 has been discontinued

as these denominations have been coined. However, such notes issued earlier are still in circulation.

N-deal highlights growing energy ties

- Australia boosted its credentials as India's core energy partner by signing a deal for uranium supplies, and imparted urgency to the transfer of coal for thermal power plants, facing severe shortage of the resource.
- Visiting Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbot unveiled Canberra's aspirations by pointing out that Canberra could become an "utterly reliable source of energy, resource and food security for India."
- Analysts point out that the deeper engagement in energy and food security could pave the way for a broader strategic relationship between the two countries, which could include a significant defence component.
- A joint statement on defence cooperation signed last year had emphasised joint forays specifically in the Asia-Pacific region — an area of growing tensions because of rival claims on South China Sea resources between China and other littoral States — as well as the Indian Ocean region.

India suicide capital of Southeast Asia, says WHO

- India recorded the highest number of suicides in Southeast Asia in 2012, says a report released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva.
- The number of victims was 2,58,075 — 1,58,098 men and 99,977 women — that year. Globally, the number was 8,04,000.
- Suicide by pesticide ingestion is among the most common methods employed globally and is of particular concern in rural areas in Southeast Asia.

SC moots dual citizenship for surrogate children

- The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the government to clarify its stand on the citizenship of children born to surrogate mothers in India, but whose biological mother was a foreign national.
- "Under the Constitution, a child born here from an Indian surrogate mother is entitled to Indian citizenship. But what happens if the biological mother is a foreign citizen and the child applies for citizenship of that country," a Bench led by Justice Ranjan Gogoi asked.
- Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Tushar Mehta acknowledged the problem, adding that in countries such as Germany, surrogacy was banned by law.
- The Bench was looking into the larger issue on the need for a "comprehensive legislation" dealing with all issues and situations, including the citizenship of a surrogate child, created by new reproductive technology.
- The problem of citizenship of a surrogate child was highlighted in the case of twin babies born to an Indian surrogate mother and a German father, Jan Balaz, in 2008.
- The two boys, Balaz Nikolas and Balaz Leonard, were conceived by an Indian woman in Gujarat's Anand district in January 2008.
- Justice Gogoi suggested that the government could consider dual citizenship for surrogate children born in such circumstances.

India, Australia to sign civil nuclear deal

- India is set to win another endorsement for its status as a peaceful nuclear power, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart, Tony Abbott, expected to sign an India-Australia civil nuclear cooperation agreement here.
- The agreement, which will enable Australia to export uranium to India in return for safeguards from India on its use, will bolster India's plans to increase nuclear energy production.
- India offers the potential to double Australia's uranium exports to more than a billion dollars by 2018, say experts.

'Protect rights of minorities'

- The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has asked the government to send out a clear message to minorities reassuring them that their Constitutional rights would be preserved and protected.
- The Commission sent a communication to this effect to the Home and the Minority Affairs Ministries after discussing the complaint against BJP member Yogi Adityanath for a "hate speech" he is said to have delivered.
- According to sources, the Commission has taken a serious view of such speeches; particularly by prominent persons.

Audit of community policing scheme

- After a successful stint of over six years, the Janamaithri Suraksha Project (Community Policing) initiative of the Kerala Police is set for a professional audit on its effectiveness in bridging the gap between the police and the community.
- An external agency will study the project in detail and its effect in over 250 police stations across Kerala.
- The Kozhikode city and rural police officers who head the scheme in various stations will share their experience with the professional agency appointed by the government to review the progress of the scheme.

Axe 72 obsolete laws urgently: Law Commission

- Even as the Union government prepares to bring in a comprehensive law during the winter session of Parliament to weed out obsolete laws, the Law Commission identified 72 outdated laws which required urgent repealing.
- The oldest among them is the Bengal District Act, 1836, which relates to the administration and development of local areas.
- Second in line is the Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association Act, 1838, which mandates that only "residents of the presidency of Fort William in Bengal can be directors of the Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association and that the association can sell property only to the East India Company."
- The Sheriffs Fees Act, 1852, is another antique law which needs to be axed. The Act deals with payment to the sheriffs of the "presidency towns of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras."
- The 72 laws are part of the 261 statutes that "prima facie require repeal as they are inconsistent with modern times" as recommended in an interim report handed over

by the Law Commission to the government.

- Other laws identified have been enacted from 1838 to 1898.
- The commission said it found during its research that 34 repealed laws still remained on the government website.

'3 p.c. quota for disabled covers all employees'

- The Supreme Court clarified that the three per cent reservation for disabled persons in government jobs covered all classes of employees, including appointments and promotions to the Indian Administrative Services.
- Although 19 years had passed since the passage of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act of 1995, the disabled were struggling for their rights, a Bench headed by Chief Justice R.M. Lodha said.

RajdeepSardesai to join TV

- Former IBN 18 Editor-in-Chief RajdeepSardesai will join the India Today group as Consulting Editor .
- Mr. Sardesai quit IBN 18, in July after the MukeshAmbani-led Reliance Industries Limited bought a controlling stake in Network 18 and its subsidiaries.
- He founded Cable News Network- Indian Broadcasting Network (CNN-IBN) in 2005, after quitting New Delhi Television (NDTV).
- Recently, India Today group's former Editor-in-Chief Shekhar Gupta was re-designated as Editorial Advisor — just two months after he moved over from the Express Group.
- Nalin Mehta, Managing Editor of India Today's English news channel Headlines Today, also quit in May.

'Right to sell liquor no fundamental right'

- The Kerala government submitted before a Bench of the Supreme Court that the right to sell liquor was not a fundamental right.
- Government counsel KapilSibal, arguing against a petition challenging the decision to close 730 bars in the State, said the decision to close the bars was a policy decision. Bar licences could be cancelled any time.
- In an urgent mentioning to stop the State from enforcing the policy, a battery of senior counsel appearing for the bar owners termed the policy "discriminatory."

Bihar tops in growth: CSO

- Bihar is the fastest growing State while Tamil Nadu is the worst performer, the latest data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) has revealed.
- Bihar's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew 10.73 per cent during 2012-13 — the only State that clocked a double-digit growth rate during the year.
- The growth rate was 10.29 per cent in 2011-12 and 15.03 per cent in 2010-11.
- Tamil Nadu recorded the slowest growth rate — 3.39 per cent — slower than the national average of 4.5 per cent in 2012-13.

- The second-best performing State is Madhya Pradesh, which grew at 9.89 per cent. Delhi is third with a growth rate of 9.33 per cent.
- The CSO-verified growth rate for 2012-13, however, is lower than that reported by Bihar's Statistics Directorate. The State government had reported a growth rate of 15.05 per cent.
- All major industrial States lag behind Bihar. Growing at 7.96 per cent, Gujarat is ranked sixth and Maharashtra ninth with 6.18 per cent.
- As the growth rate for the bulk of the States is higher than the national GDP, the economic slowdown is not reflected in the data. Normally, the States' GDP adds up to about 90 per cent of the national GDP. The difference is the output of the sectors that do not belong to any State such as the Bombay High.
- Over the years, discrepancies have been increasing between the GSDP data in the States' reports and the figures that finally come out after discussions with the CSO and validation.

India inks free trade agreement with ASEAN

- India has formally signed a free trade agreement for services and investments with ASEAN. Philippines, now the only ASEAN country yet to sign the pact, is also expected to do so soon.
- All ASEAN members — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — are expected to get the agreement ratified by their Parliaments after which it will be formally adopted during the next India-ASEAN summit later this year.
- The services agreement will open up opportunities of movement of both manpower and investments.
- The pact will allow India to leverage its competitive edge in the areas of finance, education, health, IT, telecommunications and transport.
- This will be especially helpful for balancing India's deficit with ASEAN countries in trade of goods.
- The India-ASEAN Agreement on trade in goods was operationalised in 2010.
- Key to India's interests is a brief annex in the agreement on the movement of natural persons that defines business visitors, intra corporate transferees (managers, executives and specialists) and contractual service suppliers.

Global biodiversity prize for Indian

- R. Kamal Bawa, president, the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), India, and Distinguished Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston, is among the three winners of the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity, 2014.
- The winners were announced in Tokyo and Montreal.
- The other two who bagged the prize are Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, Chair, Ghana National Biodiversity Committee, and Bibiana Vila, principal researcher, National Research Council and Director, Vicunas, Camelids and Environment (VICAM), Argentina.
- The MIDORI prize is a biennial international prize given by the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to

honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at global, regional or local levels.

- According to a press release, each recipient will be given a wooden plaque, a commemorative gift and \$100,000 to support their work in safeguarding biodiversity.
- They will be honoured at an award ceremony in Pyeongchang in South Korea on October 15

Data glitches stall rollout of Food Security Act

- Technological and procedural delays in identifying the intended beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) has seen the agencies involved — the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), the nodal agency to provide enumeration devices and data entry operators, and state officials — indulge in a blame game.
- For the Socio-Economic Caste Census survey, proposed as the basis of the identification process, enumerators used scanned images of handwritten data from the National Population Register (NPR) to verify household members' basic details.
- They were accompanied by data entry operators (DEOs) who entered the responses into a tablet computer.

L.K. Advani as the chairman of the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha.

- Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan appointed BJP veteran L.K. Advani as the chairman of the prestigious Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha.
- Manikrao Gavit of Congress was heading the Committee in the last Lok Sabha.
- Other members of the Committee are A Arunmozhi Thevan, Ninong Ering, Sher Singh Ghubaya, Hemant Tukaram Godse, Pralhad Joshi, Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Kariya Munda, Jayshreeben Patel, Malla Reddy, Sumedhanand Saraswati and Bhola Singh.
- The 86-year-old Advani is a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings headed by Shanta Kumar (BJP) and Committee on Information Technology headed by young BJP MP Anurag Thakur.
- Another BJP veteran Murlimanohar Joshi is heading the Committee on Estimates. Party senior Maj Gen B C Khanduri is heading the Committee on Defence.
- The Ethics Committee examines every complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member referred to it.

BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar) corridor

- India has warmed to the idea of the BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar) corridor that could prove to be a game-changer in regional linkages among the four countries.
- The BCIM corridor, long promoted by China, is intended to link Kunming to Kolkata, Mandalay (Myanmar), Dhaka and Chittagong.
- It is intended to advance multi-modal connectivity, harness economic complementarities, promote investment and trade and facilitate people-to-people contacts.

Key to Xi Jinping's visit to India

- 20 MoUs and agreements are expected to be signed by the two countries on issues related to infrastructure development, cultural ties among others during Mr. Xi's visit.
- Beijing is expected to push its new-generation APC1000 nuclear reactors. The two leaders are expected to discuss the possibility of a civil nuclear cooperation agreement.
- Is the Gujarat model, the way forward for India-China ties? Gujarat has been among the biggest destinations for Chinese investment in India, with Beijing looking to take forward plans to set up industrial parks in India, in part based on its experience in Gujarat.
- India has warmed up to the idea of the BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar) corridor. Long promoted by China, BCIM is intended to link Kunming to Kolkata, Mandalay (Myanmar), Dhaka and Chittagong. It is intended to advance multi-modal connectivity, harness economic complementarities, promote investment and trade, and facilitate people-to-people contacts.
- China has amplified the pitch on its vision of the Maritime Silk Road (MSR) amid the repositioning of American forces in the Asia-Pacific and an emerging trade deal between Washington and its traditional regional allies.
- Over \$10 billion investment is expected from China during Mr. Xi's visit. Currently, Chinese investment in India stands at \$400 million.
- 'Progress has been made in the negotiations on the boundary question, and the two sides have worked together to maintain peace in the border area,' wrote the Chinese Premier in connection with the decades-old border issues that have marred Sino-Indo ties for long.
- President Xi's visit may provide Narendra Modi a rare chance to seize the moment by stating India's political intent on solving the border row between the two countries, beginning with measurable steps to clarify the Line of Actual Control, and to root out border incidents.
- With India and China deciding to mark 2014 as a "year of friendly exchanges", talks on the issue of stapled visas might figure in the meeting.

India host the Third Meeting of SAARC Cultural Ministers

- India will host the Third Meeting of SAARC Cultural Ministers in New Delhi from September 24-26.
- Of the seven states invited to the event, six — Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan — have already confirmed that they will attend the meet.

India Newborn Action Plan

- The Centre launched a programme to reduce infant mortality and bring down the number of deaths to a single digit by 2030 from the current 29 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- The 'India Newborn Action Plan (INAP),' inaugurated by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, is the first step towards arresting infant deaths.
- Asserting that India can reduce the deaths through "simple, cost-effective

interventions" before and immediately after delivery, Dr. Vardhan said of the 2.8 million who die at birth worldwide, India contributes seven lakh.

- The programme will be implemented under the existing Reproductive, Maternal, Child Health and Adolescents Plus (RMNCHA+) framework.

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International News

Another American journalist 'beheaded'

- An Internet video posted purported to show the beheading of another U.S. journalist, Steven Sotloff, by Islamic State, which called it "retribution" for U.S. airstrikes.

U.N. troops' captors set demands

- Al-Qaeda-linked Syria rebels who are holding more than 40 United Nations peacekeepers hostage in the Golan Heights are demanding they be expunged from a U.N. terror blacklist, Fiji revealed.
- The Pacific nation's Army chief Mosese Tikoitoga said the rebels also wanted humanitarian aid sent to a small town which is an Al-Nusra Front stronghold just outside Damascus. They are also seeking compensation for three of their fighters who were wounded in recent days.

UNICEF helps Sierra Leone combat Ebola

- With funds from the World Bank, UNICEF has facilitated the delivery of medicines and other supplies worth over \$825,000 for the treatment of people who have contracted Ebola in Sierra Leone.
- A chartered UN cargo aircraft landed at the Lungi International Airport with the drugs and medical supplies, Xinhua reported.
- The supplies include latex gloves, intravenous fluids, assorted antibiotics and personal protective equipment, all of which are urgently needed to fight the Ebola epidemic.
- "The World Bank is committed to improving the health of the people in Sierra Leone and eliminating Ebola," said Ato Brown, World Bank's country manager in Sierra Leone.
- The funding from the World Bank comes from its \$200 million pledge last month to help Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to contain the spread of Ebola, help their communities cope with the economic impact of the crisis, and improve public health systems in West Africa.
- The supplies have been transferred to the Central Medical Store in Freetown for immediate dispatch to different Ebola treatment centres.
- The Ebola outbreak has claimed over 2,000 lives in West African countries this year.

South Africa 'refuses' Dalai Lama visa for Nobel summit

- South Africa has refused to grant a visa for the Dalai Lama to attend the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Cape Town next month, his representative said.
- The government "conveyed by phone to me they will not be able to grant the visa for the reason that it would disturb relations between China and South Africa," Nangsa Choedon told AFP.
- The refusal could provoke a boycott of the 14th annual peace summit, according to a spokesman for South African laureate and former Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Asian Games contingent referred to the PMO

- Unable to declare the pruned list of athletes and officials for the Asian Games, the Union Sports Ministry opted to send the file to the Prime Minister, even as it faced considerable pressure from all sides.
- It was learnt that the Sports Authority of India (SAI) had recommended a list of nearly 400 athletes, as against an overall list of 950 members, including 24 per cent officials.
- The argument was to keep a possible proportion of a medal for every three sportspersons.
- The SAI was pleased with the improved strike rate of a medal for every 3.41 athletes in the recent Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

Need to examine 'MH370 objects'

- The Australia-led search team for the missing Malaysian flight MH370 has discovered 58 hard objects inconsistent with the Indian Ocean seabed, raising hopes of solving the over six months-long aviation mystery.
- Transport Minister LiowTiong Lai said the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) which is leading the search for the plane is currently in the midst of retrieving the objects to be analysed.

16th Amendment to the Constitution

- The JatiyaSangsad — national Parliament of Bangladesh — has passed a Constitution amendment bill empowering it to remove Supreme Court judges for misconduct and incapacity.
- In a unanimous vote, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution was passed.
- The amendment was passed amid objection from senior lawyers and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which had stayed off the general election and is now out of Parliament.
- The Parliament got back this power after nearly four decades.
- The bill, placed by Law Minister AnisulHuq, was passed in the night session with Speaker ShirinSharminChaudhury in the chair.
- According to Deadline.com, the awards, which honour the individuals who have devoted their careers to advancing the entertainment arts, would be hosted by Rob Brydon on October 30 at the Beverly Hilton.

Obama to nominate Verma to the post of Ambassador to India

- The White House confirmed that U.S. President Barack Obama intends to nominate Richard Rahul Verma to the post of Ambassador to India, said an official .
- If confirmed, Mr. Verma will be the second Indian-American in a top State Department role directly responsible for Washington's diplomatic engagement with India, alongside NishaBiswal, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs.

Alex Salmond resigned as first minister and leader of his political party

- Scotland's pro-independence leader Alex Salmond resigned as first minister and leader of his political party, hours after Scots voted to remain in the United Kingdom.
- Salmond's impassioned plea to launch a new nation fell short, with Scots choosing instead the security of remaining in union with England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The referendum's result prevented a rupture of a 307-year union with England, bringing a huge sigh of relief to Britain's economic and political establishment.

Citizenship to some Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar

- Myanmar gave citizenship to 209 Muslims displaced by sectarian violence, after the first phase of a project aimed at determining the status of about a million Rohingya whose claims to nationality have been rejected in the past.
- Meanwhile Myanmar government's chief negotiator said that efforts to secure a historic ceasefire agreement with ethnic armed groups are "at a crucial moment" at the start of a fresh round of negotiations
- The Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine State need permission to move from their villages or from camps, where almost 140,000 remain after being displaced in deadly clashes with ethnic Rakhine Buddhists in 2012.
- Some of the 209 who received citizenship were members of the Kaman Muslim minority, who are recognised by the government as indigenous to Myanmar, but there were also Rohingya.

Climate gathering: focus will be on "Right to grow"

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the UN Climate Summit on 23rd september, as world leaders and several business executives gathered to announce their commitments to reduce the effects of climate change.
- The summit is not part of the negotiations that are taking place in the build up to a 2015 summit in Paris in 2015, in which a comprehensive deal is set to be decided. Mr. Ban has instead convened the event to build political momentum in favour of an agreement.
- The UN chief called on governments and private institutions to invest in climate solutions designed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. He also urged the implementation of carbon taxes.

US responsible for the delay in India Japan nuclear deal

- India's nuclear deal with Japan is not going to happen in a hurry. Neither will its nuclear agreement with Australia which was signed just weeks ago. The reason lies in Washington.
- India and the US are yet to complete the last bit of their nuclear deal, known as "administrative arrangements." This is necessary to operationalize the deal, but has been hanging fire.
- India says the US is responsible for the delay, but US officials say they are holding firm on their demand for end-user verification visits to Indian nuclear plants and more important, to track externally sourced fuel through Indian plants.
- This demand is at the heart of Japanese refusal to sign the nuclear agreement with India. Before Modi's visit, MEA had put a lot of pressure on the Japanese side to complete the deal.

- Japan has indicated clearly that it would wait for India to complete administrative arrangements with the US before they would consider the Indian deal.

PM announces lifelong visas for Indian Diaspora

- Amid cheers from thousands of Indian-Americans, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced several measures to ease travel to their motherland including life-long visas.
- “There is even more to come,” he said smilingly as he announced that People of Indian Origin (PIOs) in staying in India for long would not have to report to police. “There is no need for them to do that anymore.”
- Currently PIO cards, given to those who themselves, their parents or grandparents or their spouse, were one-time Indian citizens, allow for visa-free travel to and from India. However, a PIO card is only valid for 15 years.
- On the other hand, the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card given to only those who themselves or their parents were one time citizens, has lifelong visa-free travel and does not require the holder to register with any office regardless of the length of their stay.
- Eventually the PIO and OCI schemes will be combined in a new scheme and also cover spouses.

Ashraf Ghani as the next Afghan President

- Former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani was declared Afghanistan’s next President on Sunday, hours after signing a power-sharing deal with his rival Abdullah Abdullah that ended a prolonged standoff over the disputed result.
- Mr. Abdullah will now nominate his choice for the new post of “Chief Executive Officer” (CEO), which will be similar to Prime Minister — setting up a tricky balance of power as Afghanistan enters a new era.
- The White House welcomed Sunday’s power-sharing deal, which it said “helps bring closure to Afghanistan’s political crisis”. “We look forward to... the conclusion of the Bilateral Security Agreement,” it added in a statement. Gaza truce talks with Hamas on September 23rd
- Israel said it would send a delegation to attend indirect Gaza truce talks with Hamas in Cairo next week, although a Minister said they would likely achieve nothing.
- Egypt, which has played a key role in the talks, had initially invited both sides to resume talks on September 17 but it was pulled forward

India And The World

India, Japan should jointly work on heritage cities: Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India and Japan faced a common challenge in preserving and building smart heritage cities.
- After meeting Kyoto's Mayor Daisaku Kadokawa, the Prime Minister said that he had learnt how the city was dealing with civic issues.

Developed nations back India's stand at WTO

- India said it has won the support of major developed countries, including the U.K. and Germany, as also the European Commission, for its stand at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) demanding that the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) be kept pending unless its apprehensions on the issue of food security are addressed.
- Finance Secretary Arvind Mayaram was leading the Indian delegation as Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is indisposed.
- "Many countries like the United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden and the European Commission emphasised on the need for expressing deep concern on non-implementation of TFA without mentioning India's concern on the issue of food security," the release said.
- He also garnered the support of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Russia for India's standpoint, it added.
- India is not opposed to the TFA as it increases the ease of doing business but wants its adoption postponed till there is "satisfactory" progress on finding a permanent protection for its minimum support prices to farmers against the WTO's agriculture subsidy caps that are benchmarked to food prices of the 1980s.
- At the WTO's General Council meeting in Geneva on July 31, India stalled the ratification of the TFA owing to these concerns.
- India got a reference to BRICS and disappointment with poor progress on the IMF quota reforms also included in the ASEM communiqué.
- The communiqué talks about enhanced cooperation between countries of Asia and Europe to create sustainable and profitable growth.

20 agreements, MoUs to be signed during Xi's India visit

- Ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India next week, China's Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao told journalists in Beijing that President Xi's visit will mark the beginning of "another era in Sino-Indian ties", embedded with strong "strategic" resonance.
- India and China are expected to sign as many as 20 agreements and MoUs in Delhi, on issues related to infrastructure development, cultural ties among others.
- Chief amongst the agreements will be the setting up of two 'industrial cities' near Gandhinagar and Pune on the lines of the Chinese manufacturing hub Shenzhen.

- The two leaders, who are meeting for the second time since Mr Modi took office, are expected to discuss the road ahead in the Sino-Indian border negotiations. However, the two countries are still to appoint their Special Representatives for the border talks.
- In Delhi on September 18, President Xi will receive the official welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan and will outline his vision for India-China ties at a speech which will be broadcast live in China.
- Before he leaves India on September 19, he will present Friendship awards to the family of the Dr. Kotnis, revered for his service in China during the Sino-Japanese war. President Xi will also meet Congress party president Sonia Gandhi.

Negotiated resolution of the border issue

- China has called for a negotiated resolution of the border issue with India, shifting the focus on the root cause of the problem, following the latest incidents in Chumar and Demchok, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- In dealing with a complex relationship, with areas of agreement and differences, the Chinese appear to have pitched for a wide-ranging dialogue with India in the hope of building consensus.
- In response to a question on the Maritime Silk Road (MSR) — an initiative, which many of its critics say has an element of Beijing's alleged India-containment strategy — the spokesman said China and India should build consensus on this subject, based on dialogue.
- Chinese officials say the latest initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century MSR will carry forward the earlier spirit of the peaceful exchanges between China and its neighbours along the ancient super-highway, linking Asia with Europe.

Mars mission success "pride of Asia", says China

- China has hailed India's success in positioning a satellite in the Martian orbit, calling the interplanetary triumph of the Mangalyaan as "the pride of Asia".
- With the success of Mangalyaan, India has boosted its credentials as a potential launch pad for its resource-strapped neighbors.
- Among India's neighbours, it is becoming a symbol of national pride to launch satellites independently rather than hire transponders from other nations. The previous government had highlighted the ISRO's relative lack of initiative.

Bamiyan (Afghanistan) will be SAARC cultural capital for 2015

- Bamiyan, the Afghan town which shot into prominence when the Taliban blew up two ancient statues of the Buddha in 2001, has been selected to be the SAARC cultural capital for a year beginning April 2015. Dhaka will be the SAARC cultural capital in 2016-17.
- This was decided at the SAARC Culture Ministers Conference. Finalising the cultural capitals for the next two years was part of the Delhi Resolution which was adopted

at the conference while preparing a road map on cultural ties till 2017. The year 2016-17 will also be declared the SAARC Year of Cultural Heritage.

- The SAARC countries also agreed to formulate proposals for transnational nominations for the World Heritage List and a regional list of heritage sites. India's Project Mausam got a fillip as the Delhi Resolution agrees to recognise the impact and contribution of maritime routes and the monsoon as also other inland relations through centuries of trade, migration and colonialism.
- In a measure aimed at promoting literature produced in local languages of the region, the Ministers decided to make them accessible to readers across the world through translations in not just English but SAARC languages.

Business and Economy

United Bank of India declares Vijay Mallyawilful defaulter

- United Bank of India (UBI) has declared Vijay Mallya and three directors of Kingfisher Airlines (KFA) as wilful defaulters. The development was confirmed by the bank's executive director Deepak Narang.
- Besides Mr. Mallya, three other directors — A.K. Ganguly, SubhashGupte and Ravi Nedungadi — have also been declared as wilful defaulters, Mr. Narang .
- The bank has an exposure of between Rs.350 crore and Rs.400 crore to KFA, which was given by the Bangalore branch of UBI.
- It may be mentioned that UBI filed a caveat in the Supreme Court against KFA on August 29, 2014, after the Division Bench of the High Court dismissed a KFA appeal against UBI.
- Earlier, UBI had identified Mr. Mallya as a wilful defaulter, and asked him to appear before the bank's panel to hear him out before declaring him as a wilful defaulter.
- Mr. Mallya later moved the court seeking exemption of his appearance before the panel.

Flipkart invests in ngpay

- e-commerce firm Flipkart has made a strategic investment in mobile payments firm ngpay. Terms of the deal are not disclosed.
- ngpay was founded in 2008 by Sourabh Jain. Meanwhile, Flipkart also said it would phase out its own payment product Payzippy launched last year.

Basel III capital norms revised

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised and final guidelines for raising non-equity regulatory capital instruments by banks under the stringent Basel III framework under which lenders can issue Tier-2 capital with a minimum original maturity of five years as against 10 years now.
- It further said banks could issue Tier-2 debt capital instruments to retail investors, subject to board approval.

TCS opens Saudi Arabia's first all-women BPO centre

- India's largest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Sunday said it has opened Saudi Arabia's first all-female business process centre, which will provide employment to up to 3,000 women in three years.
- Saudi Aramco and GE are the centre's first customers, TCS said in a statement in Mumbai.
- Both the clients have already surpassed their target of recruiting 100 women each, while the total number of those employed at the centre stands at 300, it said.
- The Riyadh-based 3,200-sq mt facility will offer customers specialised finance and accounting, human resources, materials supply and office services to improve their

operational efficiency, it said.

Global auto makers seek friendly policy

- As India moves towards becoming a hub for production and exports for global car manufacturers, the latter said India needed to make more business-friendly policies if the country wanted foreign companies to invest here.
- Chairman of Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) Fumihiko Ike, who is also the Chairman of Japan's Honda Motor Co, added another major challenge was to improve the business environment for investing into India.

Protection to auto industry cannot be forever: Commerce Secretary

- In a veiled warning to the domestic auto sector, the Commerce Ministry, said it could not continue providing protection to the industry while duty barriers were coming down all over the world.
- India is protecting the domestic auto industry from overseas competition while signing free trade agreements with different nations and groups.

New VP for Renault India

- Renault India Pvt. Ltd., a fully-owned subsidiary of Renault s.a.s, has appointed Rafael Treguer as Vice-President (Sales and Marketing).
- He has worked in varied roles at different locations with the Renault group. — Special Correspondent

Bajaj Auto launches two supersport KTM bikes

- Bajaj Auto, launched two supersport motorcycles from the KTM stable — KTM RC390 and KTM RC 200.
- KTM bikes have won more than 240 World Championship titles.
- According to a company statement, the KTM RC390 is priced at Rs.2.05 lakh while the KTM RC 200 is priced at Rs. 1.60 lakh (both ex-showroom Delhi).
- Both bikes will be backed by KTM's 140 exclusive dealer network across the country and will be available from September 10 with dealers.

Microsoft unveils new look for MSN in India

- Aiming to offer a comprehensive and seamless experience to users to access content via its website and apps across screens (PCs as well as mobiles) and operating platforms, software giant Microsoft unveiled the new look of its MSN website in India.
- The preview in India had been made live for users starting Monday and Microsoft was inviting people to try out the new web experience, he said, adding they could also leave feedback on the site.

Lupin tied up with Merck Serono

- Lupin has tied up with Merck Serono, the biopharmaceutical division of Merck, to

support the expansion of Merck Serono's general medicines portfolio in emerging markets.

- A statement from Lupin said the tie-up would address the local needs for affordable, high-quality medicines.
- While no financial details of the tie-up were available, Lupin said it had an established working relationship with Merck and the agreement could add up to 20 new products to the current portfolio.
- Lupin will receive an upfront and milestone based licensing fee. The first launches are expected in 2016.

Infosys global partnership with Huawei

- Infosys announced a global partnership with Huawei to offer enterprise customers big data and communication solutions besides expansion of its existing engagement with Microsoft and Hitachi Data Systems.
- Providing details, in separate press releases, Infosys said the IT solutions to be developed with Chinese multi-national ICT firm Huawei would be for enterprise customers looking to modernise operations with cloud infrastructure.
- Both the companies will build reference architectures and standardised solutions for big data platforms on Huawei hardware infrastructure.

Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) partnered Snapdeal

- Ahead of the launch of its new generation Scorpio, Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) has partnered online marketplace Snapdeal for booking the sport utility vehicle (SUV).
- Scorpio has been Mahindra's one of the highest selling SUVs and the homegrown auto giant is to launch the refreshed version on September 25.
- According to the details made available to users, the new generation Scorpio will be available in six variants.

Reserve Bank of India unlikely to cut policy rate

- While the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to maintain its policy rate at current levels, the financial markets expect that the central bank would reduce the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) further.
- In the last bi-monthly policy review on August 5, amidst uncertainty over the progress of the monsoon, the RBI had kept the short term indicative lending rate (repo) at the current level of 8 per cent and the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) unchanged at 4 per cent. However, SLR was reduced from 22.5 per cent to 22 per cent with effect from August 9. In the June bi-monthly policy also, the central bank had cut SLR by 50 basis points from 23 per cent to 22.5 per cent.
- SLR is the portion of deposits banks are required to maintain in the form of gold or government securities, before providing credit to customers. CRR is the portion of total deposits of customers, which commercial banks have to hold as reserves either in cash or as deposits with the central bank and the repo rate is the rate at which the central bank lends money to banks.
- In the last policy review, Dr. Rajan said that "The idea behind the SLR cut is that if government finances are improving and the government is on a fiscal consolidation mode, we can afford to liberate more access to government financing and make it

possible for the private sector and public sector firms to get access to that financing.”

India support exchange information on black money

- India will support the proposed international automatic exchange of tax and banking information that is expected to aid unearthing and retrieving black money stashed offshore.
- Forty-six countries, including India, have agreed to set rolling by 2017 the automatic exchange of information on tax evaders.
- At present, countries exchange information on the basis of requests and that too only on suspected tax evasion and other financial crimes.
- The proposed global standard would facilitate a systematic and periodic transmission of bulk taxpayer information by the source country of income to the country of residence of the taxpayer.
- The implementation of these standards by developing countries could also improve domestic tax compliance as substantial amount of data received from financial institutions by the tax administration could be used for domestic tax purposes also.

Government decided to give boost to inland waterways

- The Union Government has decided to give a boost to inland waterways in a big way to reduce the cost of transportation as well as to curb pollution. This was stated by Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Rural Development and Drinking Water & Sanitation NitinGadkari.
- He said that the ministry had also been focusing on the ports sector. He said for road development the government was considering to use cement instead of bitumen to bring down construction cost.
- The Minister also said private sector was shying away from public private partnership (PPP) projects primarily because of high interest rates and reluctance of banks to fund such projects.

MCX-SX is going to change name

- The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved a new name for MCX Stock Exchange (MCX-SX) which will now be known as 'Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Ltd', abbreviated as 'mSXI'.
- The exchange is in the process of making an application to Registrar of Companies (RoC) for registration of the new name,” MCX-SX said in a statement



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Science and Technology

INS Sumitra to be commissioned tomorrow

- INS Sumitra , a new-generation naval offshore patrol vessel (NOPV) built by Goa Shipyard Ltd., will be commissioned by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Robin K. Dhowan, in Chennai.
- The state-of-the-art warship will join the Eastern Naval Command in Chennai for maritime surveillance and coastal security.
- This largest offshore patrol vessel of the Navy will be the fourth in its class, built on an in-house design of the shipyard.
- The ship carries most sophisticated weapons such as guns, heavy-calibre super rapid gun mount, rapid-fire Russian AK630 guns, Kavach chaff launchers and the Sanket electronic warfare system and electronic sensors.

Toyota launches 'Innova Limited Edition 2014'

- Toyota Kirloskar Motor launched 'Innova Limited Edition 2014' for the festive season. Only 1,500 units of the new Innova LE, in an exclusive brand new colour — Bronze Mica Metallic — besides Silver Mica Metallic, will be available till November.
- It is based on the existing Gx Grade and comes with the options of seven and eight seater in both Euro III and Euro IV engines, a release from the company said.
- Available in the diesel variant, the price starts from Rs.12,90,947 to Rs.13,00,710 (ex-showroom New Delhi).
- Innova LE will be available at Toyota showrooms at select cities whereas in other cities, Innova Limited Edition accessory package will be available.

MH17 hit by high speed objects: report

- A Malaysian passenger jet blew up in mid-air over eastern Ukraine after being hit by numerous "high speed objects," according to an interim report published on the disaster that claimed 298 lives.
- Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 "broke up in the air probably as the result of structural damage caused by a large number of high-energy objects that penetrated the aircraft from outside," said a highly anticipated report by the Dutch Safety Board.
- The findings appear to back up claims that the Boeing 777, which crashed in July as it was flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was hit by shrapnel from a missile.
- "There are no indications that the MH17 crash was caused by a technical fault or by actions of the crew," the report said.
- Kiev and the West have accused pro-Russian separatists of shooting down the plane with a surface-to-air BUK missile supplied by Moscow. But Russia blamed government forces for the attack.

NASA to send first 3D printer into space station

- NASA is all set to send the fourth SpaceX Cargo Mission, that would carry among

other equipments a 3D printer to the International Space Station (ISS) from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on September 20.

- Space Exploration Technologies Corp' (SpaceX) Falcon-9 rocket will launch a Dragon cargo spacecraft loaded with more than 5,000 pounds of scientific equipment and supplies, the U.S. space agency said in a statement.
- It will also carry a small flowering plant related to cabbage that would allow scientists to study plant growth and adaptations in space.
- It will be the fifth trip by a Dragon spacecraft to the orbiting laboratory.
- The spacecraft's 2.5 tonnes of supplies and materials are critical for the implementation of 255 science and research investigations that will occur during the station's Expeditions 41 and 42.
- Besides, the spacecraft will carry science payloads like the ISS-Rapid Scatterometer to monitor ocean surface wind speed and direction.

Web portal on Ganga rejuvenation launched

- As part of its efforts to make the Ganga rejuvenation programme a mass movement, the Ministry of Water Resource launched a web portal to connect with the public on the ambitious project of the NDA Government.
- The bilingual website has a provision to receive feedback from the public, where suggestions can be given about the Ganga Rejuvenation Plan.
- The public can also upload files up to the size of 4 MB along with their suggestions, a press release issued in Delhi said.
- Launching the website, Union Minister for Water Resource Uma Bharti said the launch of the website was an important tool to connect the public with the gigantic task of Ganga rejuvenation.
- Environment Minister launches online portal for zoos
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched an online portal for grant of recognition to zoos and monitoring of zoos.
- He also launched an E- archival and retrieval management system for the Central Zoo Authority and a book on "Zoos in India 2014," an official statement said.
- The portal for grant of recognition and monitoring of zoos envisages maintaining and providing real-time information about the recognition and evaluation process.
- The portal aims to reduce the bottlenecks of manual recognition system and fully automates the recognition process, the statement said.

First water clouds found outside solar system

- Scientists have discovered the first evidence of water ice clouds on an object outside of our own solar system, about 7.3 light-years away from Earth.
- Water ice clouds exist on our own gas giant planets — Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune — but have not been seen outside of the planets orbiting our Sun until now.
- The findings were published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters* .— **PTI**

INS Sindhurakshak

- The second Board of Inquiry (BOI) constituted by the Defence Ministry to probe the

feasibility of reusing INS Sindhurakshak has recommended decommissioning of the kilo-class submarine.

- The submarine was finally retrieved from the waters in June 2014 and handed over to the Navy. Since then it has been anchored at the Naval Dockyard in south Mumbai.

ISRO: Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)

- India created history on 24th September becoming the first country to successfully get a spacecraft into the Martian orbit on its maiden attempt.
- Indian Space Research Organization's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) spacecraft started orbiting the red planet at 7.47am, but it was only 12 minutes later —because of a time delay in radio signals travelling the 680 million km — that scientists at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bangalore, could erupt in joy as Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood a happy witness.
- Through its journey since November 5, 2013 when PSLV-C25 lifted off from Sriharikota with the spacecraft in its nosecone, MOM has had a perfect journey.

New brain cell discovered

- Researchers have discovered a strange new type of brain cell that sends signals by bypassing the cell body altogether.
- Neurons come in different shapes and sizes but the basic blueprint consists of a cell body, from which protrudes spindly appendages called dendrites and axons.
- Dendrites are branchlike structures that receive signals from other nerve cells and deliver them to the cell body. The neuron then processes the signals and zaps along information to the next cell via a long projection called the axon.
- The newly discovered cells, however, have a different, and until now, unknown process. In these cells, the signals skip the cell body altogether, instead travelling along an axon that project directly from one of the dendrites.
- The new cells were discovered in the hippocampus of a mouse. Humans have the same general brain structure and types of hippocampus cells as mice. The hippocampus is home to extensively branched neurons called pyramidal cells because of their triangular cell bodies.

After Mars mission GSLV-MkIII is ISRO's next project

- The flush of the successful Indian Mars manoeuvre will take a while to wear off. Team ISRO has, meanwhile, got down to brass tacks and expects to get one of its biggest projects off the mark this calendar year — GSLV-Mark III.
- The first flight of the new vehicle is being considered for October-end if good weather holds, said ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan. The stages of the vehicle are being put together at Sriharikota.
- The date of its launch depends on an earlier flight of the PSLV-C26, which will put into orbit the third regional navigation spacecraft, the IRNSS-1C. If the PSLV is flown in the week starting October 9 as planned, GSLV-MkIII can follow on the second launch pad a fortnight after it, Dr. Radhakrishnan said. The C-26 vehicle is also getting assembled at Sriharikota.

Earth's water is older than the solar system

- Up to half the water on Earth is likely older than the solar system, raising the likelihood that life exists elsewhere in the galaxy, according to a study.
- The research in the journal Science found that “a significant fraction” of the water on Earth was inherited from interstellar space, and was there before the Sun was formed some 4.6 billion years ago.
- Researchers can tell where the water comes from by examining the ratio of hydrogen to deuterium, a heavy isotope of hydrogen, in water molecules. Water or ice that comes from interstellar space has a high ratio of deuterium to hydrogen, because it forms at such low temperatures.
- But scientists have not known how much deuterium was removed in the process of the Sun's birth, or how much deuterium-rich water-ice the solar system would have produced when it was first born.
- Scientists simulated the origin of a planet under conditions where all the deuterium from space ice has already been eliminated.

Sports

India end England tour with narrow T20 defeat

- India's long tour of England ended on a heartbreaking note as England held their nerves to pull off a thrilling three-run victory in the only T20 International in Birmingham.
- Chasing a competitive 181 for seven, India needed 17 runs in the final over of the match but captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni could not steer the team home in a contest that went down to the wire at Edgbaston.
- India ended at 177 for five after England posted 180 for seven, thanks to captain Eoin Morgan's 71 runs off 31 balls.

National TSD Rally

- The Rally of Coimbatore, the fourth round of the third FMSCI Indian National TSD Rally Championship for four wheelers will be held.
- Organised by the Coimbatore Auto Sports Club, the rally has attracted over 40 competitors.
- An open TSD event will also be held concurrently with the championship event.
- It includes a novice and all-ladies class.

Pals Serena Williams, Caroline Wozniacki to meet in U.S. Open final

- Serena Williams overwhelmed 17th-seeded Ekaterina Makarova of Russia 6-1, 6-3 in the semifinals to extend her U.S. Open winning streak to 20 matches.
- If Williams can make that 21 in a row by beating Caroline Wozniacki in Sunday's final, the 32-year-old American will become the first woman since Chris Evert in the 1970s to win three consecutive titles at the tournament.

Fenesta National tennis championship: Prize money doubled for Nationals

- The prize money for the Fenesta National tennis championship has been doubled for this year to a total prize purse of Rs. 18 lakh.
- Making the announcement in a press conference here, the Chairman and Senior Managing Director of DCM Shriram Limited, Ajay Shriram, said that the initiative was to celebrate the organisation's long association with the game, dating back to the first edition in 1992.
- Welcoming the move, the president of the All India Tennis Association (AITA), Anil Khanna, responded by announcing a wild card each to the men's and women's winners of the event for the Delhi Open.

Anand fifth in World rankings

- An inactive Viswanathan Anand moved up two places to be fifth in the latest World rankings after USA's Hikaru Nakamura and Russia's Sergey Karjakin slipped a few

rungs following their below par performances in the Chess Olympiad in Norway last month.

- World champion Magnus Carlsen held on to the top spot despite losing seven rating points. Levon Aronian was the other player to hold a published rating in excess of 2800.
- The lists: World (top-10): 1. Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 2870), 2. Levon Aronian (Arm, 2804), 3. Fabiano Caruana (Ita, 2801), 4. Alexander Grischuk (Rus, 2789), 5. Viswanathan Anand (2785), 6. Veselin Topalov (2784), 7. Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 2782), 8. Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 2777), 9. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2768), 10. Vladimir Kramnik (Rus, 2760).
- India (top-10): 1. Viswanathan Anand (2785), 2. P. Hari Krishna (2725), 3. K. Sasikiran (2680), 4. Parimarjan Negi (2669), 5. Abhijeet Gupta (2642), 6. Vidit Gujarathi (2621), 7-8. B. Adhiban (2619), Sandipan Chanda (2619), 9. Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2614), 10. S. P. Sethuraman (2613).
- India women (top-10): 1. K. Humpy (2598), 2. D. Harika (2523), 3. Tania Sachdev (2404), 4. Eesha Karavade (2389), 5. Mary Ann Gomes (2355), 6. Padmini Rout (2354), 7. Soumya Swaminathan (2352), 8. Bhakti Kulkarni (2328), 9. S. Vijayalakshmi (2314), 10. N. Raghavi (2253).

Davis Cup: Doubles win takes France into final

- Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Richard Gasquet put France back in the Davis Cup final by winning the doubles and ending the two—year reign of the Czech Republic.
- France makes the final for the first time since 2010. It won the last of its nine cups in 2001.
- The defending champions Czechs needed to win the doubles to keep alive their chances of reaching a third straight final.

Honour for Bopanna

- Rohan Bopanna has received the Davis Cup Commitment Award, an honour accorded to players who have competed in at least 20 ties.
- The 34-year-old from Karnataka is the ninth Indian to receive the award.

Shuttler Prannoy wins Indonesian Masters

- H. S. Prannoy clinched the maiden title of his career after winning the USD 1,25,000 Indonesian Masters Grand Prix Gold.
- Young Indian shuttler H. S. Prannoy clinched the maiden title of his career after winning the USD 1,25,000 Indonesian Masters Grand Prix Gold, following his straight-game victory over local favourite Firman Abdul Kholik in the finals in Indonesia.
- Field Marshal wins Maharaja's Cup
- Field Marshal (Ranjeet Singh up) won the Maharaja's Cup (1,600m), the chief event of the races .
- The winner is owned by M/s Harresh N. Mehta and Manav H. Mehta rep. Rohan Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd. and trained by S. Padmanabhan.

Rohan Bopanna to receive Davis Cup Commitment Award

- Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna will be awarded the Davis Cup Commitment Award in Bangalore on the sidelines of the ongoing World Group play-off tie against Serbia, it was announced by International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- The ITF through its national associations, will present Davis Cup Commitment Awards during this weekend's 2014 Davis Cup by BNP Paribas World Group and zone group ties.
- This new award was conceived as part of the ITF's 2013 Centenary celebrations, and is presented to Davis Cup players who have shown long-standing dedication to representing their country in this prestigious competition.
- Each award recipient will have competed in a minimum of 20 home-and-away ties or 50 ties at any level of the competition (including week-long zone group events) over their career.
- Besides Bopanna, former Grand Slam tennis champions Lleyton Hewitt of Australia and Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil will also be presented the award after their respective games.

Karun Chandhok set for Formula E debut

- Twenty drivers, including India's Karun Chandhok, representing 10 teams will kick-start the historic FIA Formula E championship, the world's first fully-electric racing series, when the 270bhp machines will run on a purpose-built circuit around the iconic Bird's Nest stadium that was built for the 2012 Olympics.
- The 30-year-old Chandhok, only the second Indian after Narain Karthikeyan to race in Formula One, will be driving for Mahindra Racing Formula E team with Brazilian Bruno Senna, also a former F1 racer, as his partner.
- The grid is brimming with ex-F1 drivers besides two female participants in Italy's Michela Cerruti and Britain's Katherine Legge, one of the FIA's Women in Motorsport Ambassadors.
- The championship comprises 10 rounds over nine months in Europe and the US with a grand finale in London June 27, 2015.

10-wicket win for West Indies

- Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim completed his third Test century but could not prevent West Indies from romping to a 10-wicket victory early on day five of the opening Test at Arncliffe Sports Complex.
- Mushfiqur was last man out for 116 as Bangladesh, 256 for five overnight, was bowled out for 314 in its second innings.
- The pint-sized wicketkeeper hit 15 fours and one six off 243 balls in five and a half hours.
- Kemar Roach was the best of the host's bowlers with four for 64, while fellow pacer Shannon Gabriel grabbed two for 25 and left-arm spinner Sulieman Benn, two for 44.
- West Indies, needing just 13 for victory, eased to the target before the lunch interval.

Munawar and Arathi crowned champions again

- Kozhikode's Mohammed Munawar and Ernakulam's Arathi Sara Sunil retained the men's and women's singles titles in the 45th Seshasayee Kerala State senior badminton championship at the FACT Udyogamandal Club, Eloor .
- Munawar, unseeded as he had lost early in the lone State-ranking tourney he had played this season, defeated Ernakulam's fourth-seeded Alwin Francis in straight sets while Arathi, a former international, defeated Thiruvananthapuram's J.K. Malavika in a repeat of last year's final.
- The seasoned pair of Rupesh Kumar and Sanave Thomas brushed aside the top-seeded Dilshad Kamaludheen and Ram C. Vijay while Kozhikode's Agna Anto and M.H. Haritha took the women's doubles title.

New owner for Mumbai franchise

- Hockey India announced DoIT Sports Management (India) Pvt. Ltd as the new owner of the Mumbai franchise, taking the total number of teams back to the original six in the Hockey India League (HIL).
- The Mumbai franchise, originally owned by Dabur, was dismantled recently due to financial issues. Along with Ranchi Rhinos, the pullout had reduced the number of original owners in the HIL to four before Pune came on board as one of the new teams two days back.
- However, the present batch of players contracted to the Mumbai team would not be retained and would be part of the min-auction to be held towards end of October.

Asian Games

- 17th Asian Games began with a lovely show of colour, light and vibrant music at the Incheon Asiad Main Stadium.
- Nepal led the athletes' march, following the Korean alphabetical order, and loud cheers were reserved for Japan, China, Afghanistan and, of course, the host team.
- Each team had been allowed only 130 athletes for the march past but China, a powerhouse in the sporting world, came up with a contingent which was almost double that number or more.
- The Indian team, which had hockey team captain Sardar Singh as its flag-bearer, looked smart with the men in navy blazers and blue trousers while the women wore green sarees with blazers on top.
- Saudi Arabia turned up with an all-men team, a bit disappointing considering the progress the country had made by fielding women at the 2012 London Olympics for the first time, but all was forgotten in the dance, music and lights.
- A lovely display of ring gymnastics by children and later, the treat offered by Korean pop stars Exo, JYJ and Psy lit up the night.
- South Korean President Park Geun-Hye opened the Games with the simple one-

liner as is the custom and a little later, it was time to party.

Abhinav Bindra plans to quit shooting

- India's Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra plans to leave full-time shooting after competing in his favourite 10m air rifle event in the Asian Games.

- “Tomorrow will mark the end of my professional shooting life!,” “I will however still shoot, compete as a hobby shooter training twice a week.” Bindra, tweeted.
- Despite giving up serious shooting, Bindra still hopes to qualify for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.
- Bindra, who won the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this year, failed to make the final at the world championships in Spain.

SauravGhosal missed out on winning the gold medal for India

- It was Indian squash’s biggest moment at the Asian Games. SauravGhosal, who has been leading the charge here, was just a point away from winning a historic men’s singles gold. But the top seed slipped at the doorstep of victory as Kuwaiti Abdullah Al Muzayen grabbed the gold with a fighting 3-2 verdict at the Yeorumul courts.
- After winning the first two games in contrasting style, the 28-year-old Ghosal was on match ball at 10-8 but still could not pull it off. Abdullah grabbed the chance with both hands, took risks, raised his game impressively and raced to victory after that.

Sawarn Singh wins bronze in rowing

- Young rower Sawarn Singh brought some cheers back to the Indian contingent as he clinched the bronze medal in men’s single sculls final at the 17th Asian Games in Incheon.
- The 24-year-old Singh finished behind Iran’s Mohsen Shadinaghadh, who won the gold medal and silver medallist Kim Dongyong of hosts South Korea.
- Another rower Dushyant Singh was the only athlete to manage a podium finish for India as he grabbed a bronze in the men’s lightweight single sculls.

Lifetime Achievement award for KapilDev

- Indian cricket legend KapilDev has been honoured with a Lifetime Achievement award at a ceremony in the House of Lords in London.
- The award, constituted by the Indo-European Business Forum (IEBF), was presented to the former India World Cup-winning captain for his contribution to the sport and for his work in the field of upliftment of poor and destitute communities through the Khushii society.

SandeepSejwal’s bronze in 50m breaststroke

- SandeepSejwal won a rare swimming medal for India at the Asian Games, with his coach insisting that better facilities at home would have fetched him the gold.
- Sejwal won the bronze in the 50m breaststroke with a timing of 28.26s, and it was only the third Asiad medal in the pool by an Indian in the last 28 years.
- Khajan Singh clinched a silver in 200m butterfly at Seoul in 1986 and VirdhawalKhade bagged a bronze in the 50m butterfly event in Guangzhou four years ago.

In The News(Person)

GopalSubramaniam

- Former Solicitor-General GopalSubramaniam has withdrawn his letter to the Supreme Court opting out as amicus curiae in the PadmanabhaSwamy temple case.
- Mr. Subramaniam has already swung into action and left for Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala to inspect the temple premises and prepare an additional report on the administration of the temple.
- Supreme Court sources said the case files had been sent back to him and he was expected to appear in the case in November. They said he decided to withdraw his letter after the court asked him to reconsider his decision.
- Early this month, he had written to Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha, expressing his decision to bow out as amicus curiae. He had also returned the files concerning the case to the Supreme Court Registry.
- Mr. Subramaniam's report on the condition of the temple and its assets in Thiruvananthapuram had created a storm.
- The report had complained of corruption and disregard of ethics in the temple's administration.

Akkineni

- Legendary actor AkkineniNageswaraRao will be the first Indian actor to be honoured with a postage stamp by the U.S. Post Service (USPS).
- The Akkineni Foundation of America (AFA) has said that the stamp will be issued on the birth anniversary of NageshwaraRao, who died of cancer early this year.
- A special release ceremony is being planned by AFA on September 20 in Dallas, Texas.
- The AFA is also planning to release the stamp in India on December 17 at the first International Akkineni Awards Ceremony being planned at ANR College, Gudivada in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.

Versatile Bapu

- The man whose pencil etched what was universally accepted as the epitome of beauty is no more.
- Artist, cartoonist, film director, designer and painter, Bapu (born SathirajuLakshminarayana) leaves behind a legacy as one of the finest filmmakers on the firmament of Indian cinema.
- The director was conferred with Padma Shri last year. He has won the National Film awards twice and the Andhra Pradesh State government's Nandi awards for 6 of his films in addition to receiving awards from several other institutions.

H.L. Dattu

- President Pranab Mukherjee has cleared the appointment of Justice H.L. Dattu, the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court, as the 42nd Chief Justice of India.

- Justice Dattu could become the last Chief Justice of India to be appointed under the collegium system of judicial appointments.
- If the States ratify the National Judicial Appointments Commission, a constitutional body, the collegium system will come to an end and the executive will get an equal role in appointments to the highest judiciary.
- Justice Dattu will become the Chief Justice of India after the retirement of CJI R.M. Lodha on September 27, 2014. He will hold the post for a little over a year until his retirement on December 2, 2015.

David Haines

Islamic State (IS) extremists released a video showing the beheading of British aid worker David Haines, who was abducted in Syria last year.

IS militants recently beheaded two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and posted the videos online after the U.S. began launching airstrikes and humanitarian missions in August to aid waning Iraqi and Kurdish security forces in northern Iraq.

Ian Paisley

Former Northern Irish First Minister Ian Paisley, the firebrand Protestant leader, died at the age of 88.

A towering figure during the Troubles in Northern Ireland, he was known for his decades of intransigence and impassioned rhetoric.

He did what even he once considered unthinkable in May 2007 and entered office with Sinn Féin — the political wing of Irish Republican Army — and as a result restored stable, devolved government to the province.

In a feat few could match, Paisley co-founded both a church and a political party, leading the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster and the Protestant, conservative Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). — AFP

Neel Mukherjee

Kolkata-born British author Neel Mukherjee's latest novel *The Lives of Others*, set in troubled Bengal of the 1960s and centred around a dysfunctional family, has been shortlisted for the prestigious Booker Prize 2014, in its debut as a global literary award.

Mr. Mukherjee, who studied at Oxford and Cambridge, was also the only Indian-origin author to be longlisted earlier this year.

Mr. Mukherjee, now a British citizen, reviews fiction for the *Times* and the *Sunday Telegraph* and his first novel, *A Life Apart* was a joint winner of the Vodafone-Crossword Award in India.

Previously, the prize was open only to authors from the U.K. and Commonwealth, Republic of Ireland and Zimbabwe.

For the first time in its 46-year history, the £50,000-prize has been opened up to writers of all nationalities, writing originally in English and published in the U.K.— PTI

SudarshanVenu

In a significant move, the board of TVS Motor Company has appointed Sudarshan Venu, son of Venu Srinivasan, as the Joint Managing Director of the company.

As a whole-time director, Mr. Venu has already been very active in the affairs of the company.

In view of this, the board has chosen to elevate him to the position of Joint Managing Director.

VijayanRajes

VijayanRajes has been elected President of United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI) for 2014-15.

Mr. Vijayan owns MSP Plantations, Yercaud, and has been serving on the Executive Committee of UPASI since 2002-03.

N. Dharmaraj has been elected Vice-President, an UPASI release said. — PTI

Subhash Chandra Garg

Senior IAS officer Subhash Chandra Garg was appointed as Executive Director in World Bank.

Mr. Garg, a 1983-batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, will have a tenure of 3 years from the date of assuming charge of the post, said an order issued by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet. — PTI

Firoza Begum

Hundreds of people paid their last respects to NazrulSangeet legend Firoza Begum who died at the age of 84.

The body of the eminent singer, who had mesmerised Bengalis with her voice for seven decades, was brought to the Central ShaheedMinar in the capital where people from all walks of life paid homage. The singer had been ailing for a long time.

Born in 1930, Firoza Begum was educated in Calcutta in undivided India and was closely linked with rebel poet KaziNazrul Islam, who is now Bangladesh's national poet.

Jiten Paul

Jiten Paul, a veteran journalist and freedom fighter, passed away at a hospital in Agartala, at age of 101.

With his demise, a brilliant legacy of journalism and social movement in northeast India came to an end.

He launched Tripura's first Bengali daily Jagaran in 1953 and had been a guiding force for journalists, intellectuals and social activists for decades.

He tirelessly worked towards rehabilitation of Bengali migrants from East Pakistan after partition of India and later for people displaced internally due to ethnic strife and insurgency problem in Tripura.

Before settling down in Tripura, he took part in India's independence movement in Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh, where he was born in 1914.

The nonagenarian was actively involved welfare activities and rights movements of

journalists till his last days.

Yamaguchi

- Japanese actress and singer Yoshiko “Shirley” Yamaguchi, who was nearly executed in China at the end of World War II, has died at the age of 94 after a life as dramatic as any of her films.
- Yamaguchi, who was born to Japanese parents in pre-war Manchuria, where her father worked for the railway, entertained Chinese and Japanese audiences posing as a Chinese under her assumed identity Rikoran or Li Xianglan.
- Some of her movies at this time were seen as pro-Japanese propaganda, including China Nights (1940), in which she starred with Japanese heartthrob Kazuo Hasegawa, and she later expressed regret over them.
- Arrested after the war as a collaborator, she narrowly avoided execution for treason by revealing her Japanese identity to the Chinese court.
- Her hit songs included “Fragrance of the Night” and “Suzhou Serenade”, which was banned in mainland China after the war.
- Following her deportation from China in 1946, she re-launched her career in Japan under her birth name, Yoshiko Yamaguchi, and went on to star in Akira Kurosawa’s Scandal and other films.
- She also played a leading role in U.S. movies and musicals in the 1950s as Shirley Yamaguchi, including Samuel Fuller’s A House of Bamboo (1955). She married Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi in 1951 but their marriage lasted just four years.

Shahid Afridi

- The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) named flamboyant all-rounder Shahid Afridi as its new national Twenty20 captain until the 2016 World T20 while Misbahul Haq was retained as the Test and ODI skipper until the 2015 ODI World Cup.
- Afridi has played 381 ODIs and 74 T20 internationals.
- Afridi, 34, who captained Pakistan in ODIs and T20 matches in 2010 and 2011 before being removed by the board said he was delighted to get back the responsibility.

Lalitha Kumarmangalam

- BJP’s national executive member Lalitha Kumarmangalam was appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW).
- Kumarmangalam is from Tamil Nadu and runs an NGO called Prakriti.

Adil Zainulbhai

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed former McKinsey India chairman Adil Zainulbhai as the chief of the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- Zainulbhai, who is currently serving as a senior adviser with McKinsey India, is also on the boards of Reliance Industries, the American India Foundation, Saifee Hospital, Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust, Network 18 as well as on the advisory board of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

AbhishekGanguly

- Rajiv Mehta, who was previously managing the reins of Puma India as the managing director for nine years, announced his exit from the company.
- Puma India said that it had appointed AbhishekGanguly as its new Managing Director, taking over the reins of the brand that recently launched the Forever Faster campaign.
- Mr. Abhishek previously had been spearheading the sales and retail functions for the brand and had joined Puma right at its inception in 2005 as a founding director.

AlokShetty

- A 28-year-old Bangalore-based architect has been named “young leader of tomorrow” by Time magazine for his pioneering work in designing affordable flood-proof houses for slum dwellers.
- AlokShetty is among “leaders of tomorrow” who are “working hard to change their worlds today,”
- Time said as it named six inspirational young persons in its first class of “next generation leaders.”
- Mr. Shetty, who studied Master’s in architecture at Columbia University, “came at the problem with an approach he brings to all of his projects — marrying smart design with a commitment to sustainability.”
- Mr. Shetty, working with the Bangalore-based nonprofit Parinaam Foundation, is designing homes for hundreds of slum dwellers whose makeshift houses flood during the heavy rains and become breeding grounds for diseases like malaria.

John Key

- New Zealand’s conservative Prime Minister John Key swept to a historic election victory on, securing a third term as voters ignored campaign allegations of dirty tricks and mass spying.
- The resounding win makes Mr. Key the first New Zealand leader able to govern in his own right since proportional voting was introduced in 1996 and means his centre-right National Party has increased its vote in all three elections he has contested.
- National won 61 of 121 parliamentary seats, up from 59 at the last election in 2011, while the main opposition Labour Party managed only 32, down two, its worst performance since the 1920s.

Mandolin U. Shrinivas

- The Carnatic music fraternity is in a state of shock over the untimely death of Mandolin U. Shrinivas .
- He was reportedly being treated for liver failure at the Apollo Hospital .
- He had lately received a liver transplant and had recovered, but a lung infection proved fatal.

Educationist Kireet Joshi passes away

- Eminent educationist and former education adviser to the Union government Kireet Joshi passed away after battling cancer. He was 83.

- Mr. Joshi was selected for the Indian Administrative Services in 1955 and posted as Assistant Collector of Surat, Gujarat in 1956.
- However, he resigned his job the same year in order to study and practise the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo at Puducherry. He was appointed as the Registrar of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education in 1958.
- In 1976 the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi appointed him as the educational adviser to the Government of India.
- He was instrumental in redesigning and redrafting of the Bill for VishwaBharati University, Shantiniketan.
- He is also credited with seeding the idea of the Indira Gandhi National Open University as also of Pondicherry University.
- In 1981 Mr. Joshi was appointed Secretary of Auroville International Advisory Council.
- He served as the Educational Adviser to the Gujarat Chief Minister from 2008 to 2010.

Rizwan Akhtar

- Lieutenant General RizwanAkhtar was appointed the new chief of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in commander-level promotions announced in the country's powerful Army.
- Announcement comes as current ISI chief Lt. Gen. Zaheerul Islam and five other lieutenant generals are scheduled to retire from service in the first week of October.
- Lt. Gen. Akhtar is a graduate of the Command and Staff College in Quetta, National Defence University and the Army War College, U.S.

BibekDebroy

- The government has set up a panel of experts to suggest ways for restructuring the Railway Board, a long pending issue, to infuse efficiency in the transport behemoth's top decision-making body and run it on professional lines.
- The seven-member committee, headed by economist BibekDebroy, has been tasked to suggest measures to reorganize the Railway Board and its departments so that policy making is separated from day-to-day operations.
- The panel, which has former cabinet secretary K M Chandrasekhar as member, has also been mandated to estimate the financial needs of railways and ensure policies to raise resources, internally and otherwise to meet future demands.

Edward Snowden

- Edward Snowden has been selected among the winners of the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "alternative Nobel," for his disclosures of top secret surveillance programs.
- The award foundation said the former National Security Agency contractor splits the honorary portion of the prize with Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger.
- The 1.5 million kronor (\$210,000) cash award is shared by Pakistani human rights activist Asma Jahangir, Basil Fernando of the Asian Human Rights Commission and U.S. environmentalist Bill McKibben.

- Award foundation director Ole von Uexkull said all winners were invited to the December 1 award ceremony in Stockholm, though he added it's unclear whether Mr. Snowden, who remains exiled in Russia, can attend.

Govind Mishra

- Renowned Hindi author Govind Mishra was conferred the 'SaraswatiSamman' for his novel "DhoolPaudhon Par" published in 2008 at a function in New Delhi.
- Govind Mishra is the second Hindi author who was conferred this honour after it was given to HarivanshRaiBachchan in 1991. Born on August 1, 1939, in Atarra (Banda, Uttar Pradesh), Mishra completed his BA and MA (English) at the University of Allahabad.
- Giving away the award, constituted by the K K Birla Foundation, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said that it has been recognised as the highest literary award in India.

Panneerselvam

- O. Panneerselvam will be the next Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He will assume the office for the second time under similar circumstances.
- In September, 2001, AIADMK general secretary Jayalalithaa had to step down as her appointment as Chief Minister was quashed by the Supreme Court.
- Mr. Panneerselvam, the AIADMK treasurer, met Governor K. Rosaiah at the Raj Bhavan and submitted a letter and resolution passed by the party legislators stating that he had been unanimously elected leader of the AIADMK legislature party.
- He will be the 28th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu since 1920.

"Pottu Amman dead"

Dismissing reports that the LTTE's one-time intelligence chief Pottu Amman had been arrested in Hong Kong, the Sri Lankan Army said he was dead for years.

The Army had sufficient evidence to believe that the senior member of the rebel Tigers — who is on Interpol's wanted list in connection with the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi — was dead, according to spokesman RuwanWanigasooriya.

Though charge-sheeted in India in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, his name, along with that of LTTE chief V. Prabakaran, was removed from the list as the designated court observed that both were killed in the Sri Lankan Army's offensive.

Stress on gender sensitisation in curriculum

- Gender sensitisation and inclusion will be the core of the curriculum for schools and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) will collaborate with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) to ensure the textbooks are free from gender biases.
- The HRD Ministry, which has begun the process of drafting a new education policy, wants curriculum to underline gender issues and has assured that all States and stakeholders will be involved in the process of drafting the new policy.

Academic activities begin at Nalanda varsity

- Academic activities began at Nalanda University at Rajgir, more than eight centuries after the ancient university was destroyed by a medieval ruler.
- Out of the 15 students enrolled in the university so far, nine attended classes on the inaugural day in the departments of environmental studies and history, the two subjects which will be taught here in the first session.
- The students were welcomed by vice-chancellor GopaSabharwal, who also greeted the teachers and staff to the reborn university amidst enthusiasm by those present at the occasion.

First Ajmer literature festival

- The first Ajmer Literature Festival will begin on September 4.
- The three-day festival is being organised by the Ajmer Literary Society and its aim "is to build a civilised, cultured and sensitive society for the promotion of art, literature and culture in the country and the world."
- To be inaugurated by filmmaker Muzaffar Ali, Mira Ali and Justice (retd.) DalvirBhandari, thinkers, writers, art-lovers and journalists will deliberate on the contemporary challenges faced by the society at present.
- Conceived by poet RasBihari Gaur, the event will be the first of its kind in Ajmer and it will be held in Hindi.

Sulabh begins 'toilet for every house' drive from Badaun

- Taking a cue from Prime Minister NarendraModi's Independence Day speech, Sulabh International kick-started its nationwide 'Toilet for Every House' campaign from KatraSadatganj village in Badaun that has been in the news for the killing of two girls when they ventured out of their homes in the dark to relieve themselves.
- A U.N. study in 2010 found that more people in India have access to a mobile phone than to a toilet ... It's a shame.

Modi urged not to visit Renkoji temple

- The Punjab-based NetajiSubhashKrantiManch urged Prime Minister NarendraModi not to visit the Renkoji temple in Tokyo where some believe that the ashes of the late freedom-fighter NetajiSubhash Chandra Bose are buried.
- In a statement here, the Manch observed that if Mr. Modi chose to visit the temple as was reported in a section of the media, it would send wrong signals about the "attitude and intentions" of his government towards Netaji.

Experts divided over posting of ex-CJIs as Governors

- With the former Chief Justice of India (CJI) P. Sathasivam being appointed as Kerala Governor, a new dimension has been added to the debate on judicial autonomy and accountability.
- It is for the first time a former CJI is being appointed to a gubernatorial post.

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