



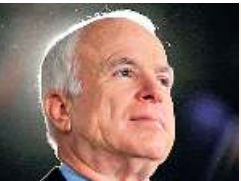
Congress not involved in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, says Amarinder

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Sen feels the 'intensity' of Left campaigns has diminished

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U.S. Senator and former presidential candidate John McCain dies

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Serena seeks record-equalling 24th Grand Slam

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NEARBY



Stalin files nomination for DMK chief post

CHENNAI
DMK working president M.K. Stalin on Sunday filed his nomination papers for the post of the party president, which fell vacant following the death of M. Karunanidhi. The election will be held when the general council of the party meets on August 28.

TAMIL NADU ► PAGE 4

9 more resorts in buffer zone of reserve sealed

UDHAGAMANDALAM
Nine more illegal resorts operating in the buffer zone of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve were sealed by Revenue Department officials on Sunday. Action was also taken against two resorts in Bokkapuram. The two establishments had commercial licences for 11 buildings, but had 25 buildings on their premises.

TAMIL NADU ► PAGE 5

Main runway to be closed for six hours a day

CHENNAI
The main runway of Chennai airport will be shut from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. till October for infrastructure work, but flight services will not be affected, according to officials. The secondary runway will handle all aircraft. In case of an emergency, the work will be stopped and the main runway will be made available.

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METROPOLIS ► 8 PAGES

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Economy has come a long way: Jaitley

Cites IMF report for major progress

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

The Indian economy has come a long way in the last four years, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley wrote in a blog post on Sunday, saying that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) report on India in 2018 had noted improvements in indicators such as inflation, fiscal deficit, current account deficit, infrastructure, power sector, and allocation of natural resources.

"An analysis of what the IMF had to say in 2014 as against 2018 is very clear – high inflation, high fiscal deficit, high current account deficit, a standstill infrastructure, power sector, allocation of natural resources," Mr. Jaitley wrote. "The last four years have seen a series



Arun Jaitley

of reforms, both legislative and otherwise...

"The system has been substantially cleaned up and made more transparent. Decisiveness has led to easier decision making and made the economy stand out before several other countries."

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Spare Nehru memorial: Manmohan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former PM Manmohan Singh has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that the historic Teen Murti complex, dedicated to the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru, should be left undisturbed. "Jawaharlal Nehru belongs not just to the Congress but to the entire nation. It is in that spirit that I have written to you," Dr. Singh's letter said.

It comes in the wake of reports that the Centre wants to create a museum dedicated to all Prime Ministers in the complex.

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Loco pilots turn saviours as jumbos cross track

Siliguri-bound passenger train stops barely 250 metres from a herd in West Bengal

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Amar Nath Bhagat and Pawan Kumar have done what many train locomotive pilots often cannot – stop the train for as long as elephants take to cross the track.

Mr. Bhagat, a loco pilot of the Bamanhat-Siliguri Jn. passenger train applied the brakes after spotting a herd of elephants close to the track between Sivok and Gumla stations in northern West Bengal on August 24 evening.

The section comes under the Alipurduar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway

(NFR), headquartered in Guwahati's Maligaon.

"My assistant [Mr. Kumar] spotted the elephants at about 5.35 p.m. The elephants were not visible from my side of the locomotive because of a bend in the track. I braked as soon as he shouted out," Mr. Bhagat told *The Hindu*.

The elephants, barely 250 metres away from the locomotive, had taken time because of three adventurous calves. "We waited a little more than 10 minutes for them to cross and disappear into the trees," the loco pilot said. The passenger train,



Phone camera image shows the animals after they crossed the track.

moving at about 25 kmph, stopped 10 metres from the point where the brakes were applied. A loaded goods

train would have stopped closer to the elephants, Mr. Bhagat said. The drivers' decision to stop the train for the elephants has not gone unnoticed. NFR officials said they deserve a commendation.

"Such alert loco pilots help improve the image of the railways, particularly the NFR that has many elephant corridors to contend with," NFR spokesperson Pranav Jyoti Sharma said.

29 elephant corridors

NFR's tracks cut through 29 notified elephant corridors, many of them in the Dooars region of northern West

Bengal, where train hits killed at least 30 elephants in five years till December 2017.

According to 'Rights of Passage', a 2017 study by Wildlife Trust of India, Project Elephant and UK-based NGO Elephant Family, the jumbos regularly use 86% of the corridors of northern West Bengal and 66% of those in the northeast.

The study said the elephant habitat is about 2,200 sq. km. of the forest area of 3,051 sq. km. in northern West Bengal, straddling terai, western and eastern Dooars.

Medal rush

It was a profitable Sunday for India as it collected seven medals at the Asian Games

■ In bridge, India bagged two bronze medals in men's and mixed team events

■ The six-member men's bridge team comprised Jaggy Shivdasani, Rajeshwar Tewari, Ajay Khare, Raju Tolani, Debabrata Majumder and Sumit Mukherjee

■ The mixed team had Kiran Nadar, Hema Deora, Himani Khandelwal, Bachiraju Satyanarayana, Gopinath Manna and Rajeev Khandelwal. The average age of the men's team was 52 while it was 57 for the mixed team

■ G. Lakshmanan won bronze in men's 10,000m but was later disqualified for lane infringement



Mirza at the jumping event
■ AFP

Fouaad Mirza won silver in equestrian men's jumping event to become the first Indian to claim an individual medal in the sport since 1982. Mirza was also part of the Indian eventing team that won silver

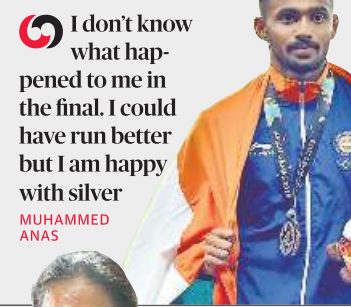
■ Saina Nehwal and P.V. Sindhu reached the semifinals in women's singles badminton, which effectively means that India is assured of at least two bronze medals. This is the first time Indian women singles shuttlers are assured of a medal in the Asian Games. India will have the first singles medals in badminton after the 1982 Asian when Syed Modi won the bronze

Silver trio

Hima Das and Muhammed Anas bagged a silver each in the women's & men's 400m



You surely get nervous. They don't see but only I know how nervous I get
HIMA DAS



I don't know what happened to me in the final. I could have run better but I am happy with silver
MUHAMMED ANAS



In a photo finish, Dutee Chand won the women's 100m silver

REPORTS ON PAGE 17

4 J&K militant recruits arrested in Kupwara

They were headed to PoK for arms training

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Hours after posing with guns on Instagram and Facebook, four fresh recruits planning to enter Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) for arms training were arrested in the frontier district of Kupwara on Sunday during an encounter.

"The four were arrested after a brief gunfight in the upper reaches of Kalaroos in the frontier Kupwara district on Sunday morning. They were attempting to exfiltrate across the Line of Control (LoC)," said Army spokesman Col. Rajesh Kalia.

The pictures of the four – Umar Bashir Sheikh (23) from Chotipora in Handwara, Danish Khazer Sheikh (22), Wassem Ahmad Khan (23) of Chotipora, Handwara and Tahir Habib Bhat of Khuru – went viral on Saturday.

The spokesman said extreme restraint was exercised and opportunity was given to the militants to surrender.

"The four surrendered, while three other militants fled from the spot under cover of fire," he said.

Al-Badr involved

According to him, Al-Badr was behind the plot.

"A search operation is under way to trace those who escaped," the spokesman said.

Official sources said the police had launched a major hunt immediately after see-



The photographs of the four terror recruits from Handwara that appeared on social media.

Spurt in number of locals joining militancy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

Over 100 local youths have joined various terror outfits in J&K this year, the highest since 2010, with a majority of them affiliating themselves to groups ideologically aligned with the Al-Qaeda, officials said here.

According to data compiled till July 31, as many as 131 youths have joined various terror outfits with south Kashmir's Shopian district contributing the

maximum of 35 so far. The number of local recruits last year was 126.

The officials said that many youngsters are joining the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, a group which claims the support of Al-Qaeda and is headed by Zaqir Rashid Bhat alias Zaqir Musa, who hails from a village in the Tral area of Pulwama district.

The acceptance of this group is steadily increasing.

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ing the social media pictures. The dense forest of Nag Dagi of Kalaroos was put under siege on Saturday night "after receiving inputs about the presence of the four Handwara youth." The

operation continued till Sunday morning till the four were nabbed.

One of the four recruits was an MBA student and another had completed a paramedical diploma course.

CB-CID cracks Salem train robbery case

MP gang behind ₹5.75 crore loot

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

In a major breakthrough, the Crime Branch CID of the Tamil Nadu police has cracked the sensational train heist case in which ₹5.75 crore cash assigned to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was looted from a moving train a couple of years ago.

The unprecedented train robbery occurred on the Salem-Chennai Express on the night of August 8, 2016, after a gang broke into the parcel van containing ₹342 crore of soiled but usable currency, and took away ₹5.75 crore.

The stolen money was in ₹500 and ₹1,000 denomination notes that were later demonetised. The gang cut through the roof of the train making an opening measuring 2 ft by 1.5 ft.

Technical evidence

After months of strenuous investigation hit a dead end, a special team of the CBCID that was consistently tracking different leads finally hit upon technical evidence that led to the breakthrough. Sources in the agency told *The Hindu* on Sunday that a gang of criminals from Madhya Pradesh was involved in the heist.

It was technical evidence coupled with months of meticulous investigation that led the police to crack the train robbery and nail the gang in the case.

Going by the mobile phones that were active in the scene of crime, investigators believe that the suspects – four to five men – broke open the roof of the coach to steal the cash as the train moved from Salem to Villupuram.

"We have established



The notorious gang was involved in several grave crimes in north India, a CB-CID official said.

clear technical evidence which confirms their involvement. While analysing suspicious mobile phone numbers that were active at the Salem junction and along the route between Salem and Villupuram, we found certain similarities between some numbers. The users were from Madhya Pradesh and belonged to the same locality there. Enquiries revealed that the notorious gang was involved in several grave crimes in north India," a CB-CID official said, adding that the gang operated on the roof and inside the coach all along since armed guards of the Salem city police escorting the train inspected the parcel van at all scheduled stoppages.

While special teams were coordinating with central intelligence agencies and the Madhya Pradesh police to apprehend the gang, investigators were perusing CCTV footage at the Salem junction and toll plazas along national highways in Salem and Villupuram districts to zero in on visuals of the suspects.

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