

November 3rd news:

International:

China blocks bid to list Masood Azhar as global terrorist

China on 2nd November blocked another bid by the US, France and the UK to list Pakistan-based Jaish e Mohammad Chief and Pathankot terror attack mastermind Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN. China said it has rejected the move as "there is no consensus". A veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, China has repeatedly blocked India's move to put a ban on the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief under the Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the Council.

China had in August extended by three months its technical hold on the US, France and UK-backed proposal to list Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN after having blocked the move in February this year at the United Nations.

The comment came as the China's technical hold on a proposal by the US, France and Britain to list Azhar as a global terrorist was set to lapse on 2nd November.

National:

Delhi government needs Lieutenant Governor's nod, observes Supreme Court

The Supreme Court 2nd November observed that the Delhi government requires the Lieutenant Governor's nod to govern the national capital. The court indicated that the Lieutenant Governor did appear to have the last word according to the constitution and the elected government would have to operate within this framework. The court however said, the city's administrative head also cannot sit on files beyond a reasonable period.

The observations came on a petition by the AAP government against a court verdict that held the Lieutenant Governor was the national capital's boss.

The five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, and consisting of Justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan said, law is very clear at present that LG partially enjoys delegated powers of President and partially he has to work in aid and advice of council of ministers. If there is a difference of opinion, then he may refer the matter to the President for early resolution.

The AAP government had in February told the Supreme Court that it has exclusive executive powers on matters within the ambit of the Legislative Assembly and neither the Centre nor the President or the Lieutenant Governor can encroach upon these.

It had said that the constitution has given a face and identity to a government in Delhi with Article 239AA and the executive decisions taken and implemented by it cannot be reversed by the Lieutenant Governor. The matter will next be heard on 7th November.

What is Article 239AA:

Under Article 239AA, the National Capital Territory of Delhi has a Legislative Assembly which has the power to make powers for the territory except for three subjects included in the State list. This is different from other Union Territories where the Legislative Assembly is under the Governor.

The special status also states that a Council of Ministers in Delhi under the Chief Minister shall be constituted. With respect to the relation between the Chief Minister, the Legislative Assembly and Lieutenant Governor, the amendment clearly states that There shall be a Council of Ministers consisting of not more than ten percent. Of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws, except in so far as he is, by or under any law, required to act in his discretion.

Economy:

Gender inequality widening after decade of progress: WEF

A decade of slow progress towards better parity between the sexes has screeched to a halt, the World Economic Forum (WEF) said on 2nd November, warning the global gender gap was now widening.

In recent years, women have made significant progress towards equality in a number of areas such as education and health, with the Nordic countries leading the fray.

But the global trend now seems to have made a U-turn, especially in workplaces, where full gender equality is not expected to materialise until 2234, WEF said in a report.

The Geneva-based organisation's annual report tracks the disparities between the sexes in four areas: education, health, economic opportunity and political empowerment. A year ago WEF estimated that it would take 83 years to close the remaining gap.

But since then women's steady advances in the areas of education, health and political representation have plateaued, and for the fourth year running, equality in the workplace has slipped further from view. The present report said that at the current rate of progress, it would now take a full 100 years on average to achieve overall gender equality.

The estimated time needed to ensure full equality in the workplace meanwhile has jumped from 80 years in 2014 to 170 years last year to 217 years now, according to the report.

Even more than in the workplace, political participation stubbornly lagged behind, with women still accounting for just 23 percent of the world's decision makers, according to the report. But political representation is also the area where women have made the most advances in recent years, the report said, estimating it will take 99 years to fully rectify the situation.

The picture is not all bleak: the march towards gender equality in education could reach the finish line within a mere 13 years

And the situation varies greatly in different countries and regions. For instance, while Western European countries could close their gender gaps within 61 years, countries in the Middle East and North Africa will take 157 years, the report estimated.

India slips 21 places on WEF Gender Gap index: India slipped 21 places on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap index to 108, behind neighbours China and Bangladesh, primarily due to less participation of women in the economy and low wages. Moreover, India's latest ranking is 10 notches lower than its reading in 2006 when the WEF started measuring the gender gap.

According to the WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2017, India has closed 67 per cent of its gender gap, less than many of its international peers, and some of its neighbours like Bangladesh ranked 47th while China was placed at 100th.

Globally also, this year's story is a bleak one. For the first time since the WEF began measuring the gap across four pillars — health, education, the workplace and political representation — the global gap has actually widened.

The findings in this year's report, published on 2nd November, showed that an overall 68 per cent of the global gender gap has been closed. This is a slight deterioration from 2016 when the gap closed was 68.3 per cent. At the current rate of progress, the global gender gap will take 100 years to bridge, compared to 83 last year. The case is worse in terms of workplace gender divide, which the report estimates will take 217 years to close.

On a positive note, however, a number of countries are bucking the dismal global trend as over one-half of all 144 countries measured this year have seen their score improve in the past 12 months, the report noted.

At the top of the Global Gender Gap Index is Iceland. The country has closed nearly 88 per cent of its gap. It has been the world's most gender-equal country for nine years. Others in the top 10 include Norway (2nd), Finland (3rd), Rwanda (4) and Sweden (5), Nicaragua (6) and Slovenia (7), Ireland (8), New Zealand (9) and the Philippines (10).

India's greatest challenges lie in the economic participation and opportunity pillar where the country is ranked 139 as well as health and survival pillar where the country is ranked 141

The report attributed much of India's decline in position on the overall Global Gender Gap Index to a widening of its gender gaps in political empowerment as well as healthy life expectancy and basic literacy.

Moreover, the scale of India's gender gap in women's share among legislators, senior officials and managers as well as professional and technical workers highlights that continued efforts will be needed to achieve parity in economic opportunity and participation.

In India, the workplace gender gap is reinforced by extremely low participation of women in the economy (136 out of the total 144 countries covered) and low wages for those who work (136th ranking

for estimated earned income), the WEF said, adding that “on average, 66 per cent of women’s work in India is unpaid, compared to 12 per cent of men’s”.

On a positive note, India succeeded in fully closing its primary and secondary education enrolment gender gaps for the second year running and for the first time has nearly closed its tertiary education gender gap. However, it continues to rank fourth-lowest in the world on health and survival, remaining the world’s least-improved country on this sub-index over the past decade, the WEF stated.

Sports:

India's K Srikanth achieves career-best World No 2 ranking

India's ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth has achieved career-best World Number 2 ranking. Srikanth has been rewarded for his sensational run this season as he grabbed the No. 2 ranking after jumping two places in the latest BWF ranking released on 2nd November.

Srikanth, who reached five finals and clinched four titles this year so far, now has 73,403 points, 4527 points away from World Champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, who heads the ranking list.

Persons in news:

Five Indian women led by ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar, and including Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra, have featured on the list of the world’s 100 most powerful women compiled by Forbes, which was topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Kochhar was ranked 32 on the coveted list, while HCL Corporation CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra took the 57th position, followed by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder-Chair, of Biocon, at 71. Other Indians on the list include Shobhana Bhartia, Chairperson and Editorial Director, HT Media, at the 92nd place, and Priyanka Chopra, “the most successful Bollywood actor to cross over to Hollywood,” at 97. Some of Indian-origin women who made the cut include PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi at the 11th position and Indian American Nikki Haley at 43.

The overall list was topped by Merkel, who retained the top spot for the seventh consecutive year and 12 times in total.

Merkel is followed by UK Prime Minister Theresa May at the second position, who is “leading her country through Brexit, a historic, complex and transformative time for the country and the European Union,” Forbes said.

May is followed by Melinda Gates, Co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who, along with her husband Bill, has donated more than \$40 billion in grants till date and supports organisations across over 100 countries. Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, at the 4th position and General Motors CEO Mary Barra (5th) rounded out the top five.

Awards:

Fake news: It is a term heavily popularised by US President Donald Trump, has been named the word of the year by Collins dictionary due to its widespread use around the world. The UK-based dictionary writer found that the use of this word registered a 365 per cent rise in the last 12 months.

Defined as "false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting", fake news takes over from Brexit - which was named the definitive word last year after the June 2016 referendum in favour of the UK's exit from the European Union.

Other words on 2017 shortlist included "genderfluid", defined as not identifying exclusively with one gender rather than another; "fidget spinner", the toy being twirled by children around the world; and "gig economy" - the term for a system of casual, unstable employment that firms like Uber are associated with.

All new words and meanings from the year will be added to CollinsDictionary.com and considered for inclusion in future print editions of the dictionary.