

August 30th news:

National:

SC allows rights activists to remain under house arrest

The Supreme Court on 29th August ordered the Pune police to place the five well-known rights activists they detained in a countrywide crackdown on 28th August under house arrest, and that too, in their own homes. The court was hearing a petition filed by five eminent persons — Romila Thapar, Devaki Jain, Prabhat Patnaik, Satish Deshpande and Maja Dharuwala.

A three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, lashed out at the “sweeping round of arrests,” observing that democracy could not survive without dissenting voices. “Dissent is the safety valve of democracy. If dissent is not allowed, democracy will burst under pressure,” Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, on the Bench, said.

Poet Varavara Rao was picked up in Hyderabad, Sudha Bharadwaj in Faridabad, Vernon Gonsalves in Mumbai, Arun Ferreira in Chhattisgarh and Gautam Navalakha in Delhi.

Ms. Bharadwaj and Mr. Navalakha are already under house arrest in pursuance of an order of the High Court concerned. The Supreme Court extended their house arrest till September 6, the next date of hearing. In its interim order, the Bench, also comprising Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, directed that Mr. Rao, Mr. Gonsalves and Mr. Ferreira, if arrested, should be placed under house arrest in their homes.

Bilateral:

First SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum begins in Kathmandu

The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum began in Kathmandu.

The theme of three-day Forum is the 'Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' Cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia'.

It is being co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Asian Farmers' Association with the support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The Forum brings together representatives both from the government and non-governmental entities from the Member States of SAARC as well as from regional and international organizations.

Economy:

RBI expects India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4%

The Reserve Bank expects India's economic growth rate to grow at 7.4 per cent in the current financial year on pick up in industrial activity and good monsoon.

RBI releasing its annual report in Mumbai said due to the evolving economic conditions, real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4 per cent from 6.7 percent in the previous year.

The RBI said its monetary policy will continue to be guided by the objective of achieving the medium term target for retail inflation of four per cent. Agricultural production is likely to remain strong, growth in industry are strengthening and all other major sectors are reporting robust sales and improvement in profitability.

The prevailing negative credit-to-GDP gap indicates that there is sufficient scope for credit absorption and expansion in bank lending on a sustained basis

O-SMART

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science or the O-SMART, for implementation during 2017-18 to 2019-20 at an overall cost of Rs.1623 crore.

The scheme encompasses a total of 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as Services, Technology, Resources, Observations and Science. It will directly benefit people in coastal areas, particularly fishermen.

Cabinet clears Rs. 1,600 cr. mission to map coasts

India is set to get more disaster warning systems along its coasts. While it already has a tsunami warning system in place, the new systems will keep an eye out for "tsunamis and storm surges,"

The system is part of a programme called O-SMART (Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science) that is being piloted by the Union earth sciences ministry. It was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 29th August, at an outlay of Rs. 1,623 crore.

O-SMART will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, namely, fisheries, offshore industry, coastal States, defence, shipping, ports, etc.

Other key missions under O-SMART include, according to the press release, strengthening of Ocean Observations and Modelling, strengthening of Ocean Services for fishermen, setting up marine observatories for monitoring marine pollution, setting up Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant (OTEC) in Kavaratti, acquiring two coastal research vessels, continuation of ocean survey and exploration of minerals and living resources, technology development for Deep Ocean Mining and manned submersibles and the setting up six desalination plants in Lakshadweep.

Sports:

Two more Golds for India; total tally now 54 medals

Two more gold medals for India on 11th day of Asian Games; Arpinder Singh wins men's triple jump; Swapna Barman wins Heptathlon gold; India also wins a silver and a bronze; India's total tally now 54 medals.

Arpinder Singh bagged the gold in Mens triple jump after 48 years while Swapna Burman became the first women to win a Heptathlon gold medal.

Chak De India moment for Womens hockey at the Asian games as Indian eves continued their unbeaten run to reach the final of womens hockey at the Asian games.

Persons in news:

Satya Tripathi: UN Secretary General António Guterres has appointed veteran Indian development economist and UN official Satya S Tripathi as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Tripathi, who will succeed Elliott Harris of Trinidad and Tobago, has since 2017 served as Senior Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at UNEP.

A development economist and lawyer with over 35 years of experience, Tripathi has worked for the United Nations since 1998 in Europe, Asia and Africa on strategic assignments in sustainable development, human rights, democratic governance and legal affairs

Tripathi was previously the Director and Executive Head of the United Nations Office for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries Coordination in Indonesia, as well as for the United Nations Recovery Coordinator for the USD 7 billion post-tsunami and post-conflict recovery efforts in Aceh and Nias.

He participated as Chair of the Committees on Laws and Treaties for the United Nations-mediated Cyprus unification talks in 2004.

Earlier in his career he acted as a Senior Distinguished Fellow on Natural Resources Governance with the World Agroforestry Centre and on the World Economic Forum's Global Advisory Council on Forests.

Tripathi holds honours, bachelor's and master's degrees in commerce; and bachelor's and master's degrees in law from Berhampur University, India.

UN Environment is the leading agency at the world body focussed on environment. It works with governments, the private sector, the civil society and with other UN entities and international organisations across the world.

Obituary

Hari Krishna: Nandamuri Harikrishna, fourth son of former Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh late N.T. Rama Rao, died when the SUV he was driving crashed into the median at Anneparthi, Nalgonda district. The actor-turned politician had served as a minister in United AP and also as a Rajya Sabha member.

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