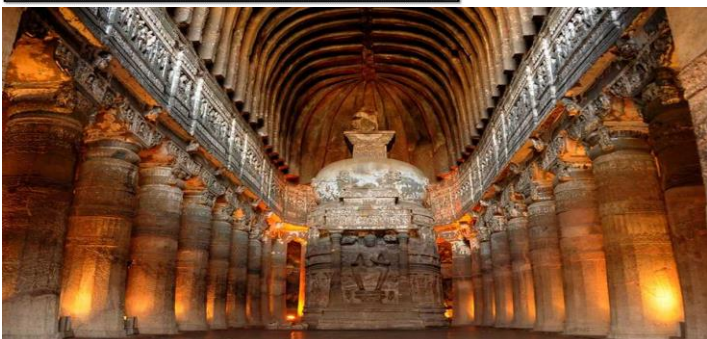




UN World Tourism Org. announced September 27 as **World Tourism Day** in 1980. This year for the **first time** **India** will be hosting **World Tourism Day** which has the theme '**Tourism and Jobs: a better future for all**'.



Around **1.8 million adults** in Kashmir Valley — **45%** of its population — showed symptoms of **mental illness** in **2015**, according to **Doctors Without Borders**.

Kashmir's children have become pawns (बन्धक) in a political game where the government wants to punish those protesting against its authority. Between 1990 and 2005, a total of 46 schools were occupied by the armed forces and more than 400 schools gutted between 1990 and 2005, according to a 2006 report of the Public Commission on Human Rights. Children in Kashmir grow up caged and under the shadow of a gun.

Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian medical non-governmental organisation (NGO) of French origin best known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases.

Founded to save lives and speak out,  
Doctors Without Borders has treated tens of  
millions of people since 1971.



Pakistan and India boycotted each other's statements at a meeting of the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** Foreign Ministers here on Thursday.

**Pakistan** and **India** boycotted each other's statements at a meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (**SAARC**) Foreign Ministers here on Thursday. **Mr. Jaishankar** then made his statement and left the meeting, minutes before the Pakistani Foreign Minister's arrival, ensuring that the two Ministers were not present in the room together at any point.

Pakistan has been protesting India's decision to boycott the **SAARC summit** due to be held in **Islamabad** since **2016**, until cross-border terrorism ends, which has meant that the SAARC summit, which requires all leaders to attend, cannot be held.



**Nobel Peace Prize >**  
Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999

## PMC Bank depositors can withdraw ₹10,000, says RBI

60% of depositors will be able to withdraw full amount



On Thursday, the banking regulators said they will impose restrictions on the city-based cooperative bank to "protect depositors' interests."

The regulators also intend to reduce the bank's ability to create the deposit withdrawing limit (has been granted to the bank) to ease the hardship of the depositors. The Reserve Bank is closely monitoring the position and still continue to take further steps as it is necessary to safeguard the interest of the depositors of the bank," the RBI said.

On Thursday, the central bank also announced that it will take in view of "major national irregularities."

The RBI also has emphasized on account of the poor financial irregularities, failure of internal controls and systems of the bank and wrong handling of cash exposures under various of state surveillance reports to the RBI that came to the Reserve Bank's notice recently.

## PMC Bank depositors can withdraw ₹10,000, says RBI

60% of depositors will be able to withdraw full amount



"...it has been decided to allow the depositors to withdraw a sum not exceeding 100,000 rubles from the bank wherever already withdrawn of the total balance," the RRB said.

On Tuesday, the banking ministry said that various restrictions on the city-based cooperative bank to "protect depositors' interests" have been lifted.

The above restrictions were

reduced because of depositors' demands to increase the deposit withdrawal limit (has been granted), and to reduce the hardship of the depositors. The Reserve Bank is closely monitoring the position and still continue to take further steps as are necessary to safeguard the interest of the depositors of the bank," the RRB said.

On Thursday, the central bank said that the RRB has

taken in view of "major national irregularities," and has decided to insist on account of the poor financial irregularities, failure of internal controls and systems of the bank and without direct reporting of exposures under various of the surveillance reports to the RRB that came to the Reserve Bank's notice recently, as

In a partial relief to the depositors of troubled cooperative lender, **Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank**, RBI has allowed withdrawal of deposits of ₹10,000 compared with the ₹1,000 mandated earlier.

With the relaxation, more than 60% of the depositors of the bank will be able to withdraw their entire account balance, the central bank said.

On Tuesday, the banking regulator imposed various restrictions on the city-based cooperative bank to 'protect depositors' interest.'

On Thursday, **RBI** said the actions were taken in view of 'major financial irregularities.'

Employees protested outside the residence of **Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd** director **Sarang Wadhawan** over loans given by **PMC Bank**.

Described as a multistate cooperative bank, PMC Bank has branches in Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Founded in **1984** in a small room in **Mumbai**, the bank has a network **137** branches and is among India's top 10 cooperative banks.



## Not their business

The OIC achieved little other than pleasing Pakistan through its Kashmir pronouncements

The statement issued by the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation's Kashmir Contact Group calling on India to "rescind its actions revoking Article 370", among other stipulations, may not even be worth the paper it is written on. If it has a dubious relevance, it is one that allows the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to sell the theory back at home that his trip to New York, focused on Kashmir, has met with some success. From the mid-1990s, when this Contact Group was formed, it has issued several statements on behalf of Pakistan, which happens, not surprisingly, to be a



## The top court and a grave of freedom

The corpus of judgments by the highest court is replete with cases where the bogey of security has trumped basic rights



SUBIR PARTHASARATHY

**T**he most powerful court in the world? A protector of fundamental rights? One's heart sinks. There are scores of shibboleths that need dispelling in India, but foremost among them is the notion that the Supreme Court acts, in the words of its second Chief Justice M. Patanjali Sastri, as a "sentinel on the qui vive".

### Rights in Kashmir

If the court's handling of the cases concerning the unending suspension of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir should tell us anything, it is this: freedom of expression is dead. Nothing else can be

critically obtained authority reached its nadir, when it ruled in *ADM Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla* that fundamental rights could be validly negated during a period of the Emergency. But this judgment is scarcely an outlier - it is merely an extreme exposition of the court's default frame of mind.

### Faulty trade-off

Throughout history the court has consistently seen individual liberty as an expendable value. Its corpus of judgments is replete with cases where it has allowed the bogey of security to trump freedom. That such a trade-off is neither constitutionally mandated nor rooted in a logic of the rule of law has barely placed any constraints on the court. This has meant an upholding of a plethora of legislation, including The Preventive Detention Act, 1950, The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 or (AFSPA), Maintenance of Inter-



PHOTO: SHANTANU

communist leader A.K. Gopalan, who had been detained without trial, even after Independence, was incorporated under a freshly minted Preventive Detention Act, a legislation that was passed but on the heels of the Constitution's inauguration. Supporting the statute, the state cited Article 22, which provided, among other things, a set of procedural guarantees to persons detained pre-emptively, but what the government failed to see was that the provision

a widely enacted piece of legislation. To the majority on the court (which included Justice Sastri), the various freedoms that Article 19(1) guaranteed - such as the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and the freedom to move freely throughout India - were simply not available to a person detained under a penal law. Therefore, in its belief, the state had no obligation to show the court that a statute providing for preventive detention was either very reasonable and grounded in one of the constitutionally stated exceptions. The upshot was catastrophic: the court had effectively held that so long as a law providing for preventive detention conformed to the procedural requirements of Article 22, it could mandate confinement without trial on any arbitrary basis.

**A disconnect**  
This idea, that fundamental rights

should hence found little wrong with allowing custodial confessions to be considered admissible evidence. In the latter, the court granted to the government a warrant to extend and apply the legislation with impunity to any area designated as "disturbed" for any unlimited period the government thought fit.

The ritual burying of Gopalan has, therefore, had little practical consequence. Despite the ostensible change in the court, the court has continued to uphold statutes that treat basic civil liberties as a trifling inconvenience merely because they deal with a special class of offences. As Justice R.C. Sahai noted in his dissenting opinion in *Karur Singh*, the court has effectively taken the "sue back" once again to the days of Gopalan.

**Almost a template**  
That the Constitution requires

provision cannot be doubted.

# Running for President

## A second Premadasa is against a second Rajapaksa in race for Sri Lanka's presidency

**I**n fielding Sajith Premadasa, Sri Lanka's United National Party (UNP) has chosen arguably its strongest candidate to take on former Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa in the presidential election to be held on November 16. The party chose to back the claims of Mr. Premadasa, its deputy leader, over those of Ranil Wickremesinghe, its leader and the Prime Minister. The party may have reckoned that Mr. Premadasa, son of the late President Ranasinghe Premadasa, with a lineage not drawn from the urban elite, is its best bet while facing Mr. Gotabaya, a rival from another Sinhala. As Xi comes a-calling, a footprint without traction

Nepal will gain little from China's outreach unless there is a recalibration in its long-term vision of development



SUBIR SHANTA

**E**arlier this week, on September 24, in a two-day event attended by the top brass of the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) which included the Prime Minister, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by the NCP with the Communist Party of China. Signed on the sidelines of the programme, "Communist Party of China's Opinion about Xi Jinping Thought and Ideological Discussion between Nepal Communist Party and Communist Party of China", it was in preparation for the visit of the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, in October, his first since assuming presidency in 2012. The last time a Chinese

with help and relief materials. This made everyone feel that the changes in ties were for real. But months later, India which was disoriented with the Nepal Constitution imposed a blockade that changed the perception about Mr. Modi and India forever. It was an act that alienated a whole generation of Nepal youth, and Nepal leaders played the nationalism card to reach out to China. Chinese interest grew after the earthquake and the blockade. With the announcement of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), exchanges and interactions between the two countries grew. Nepal signed agreements with China to ensure it implemented. It has never been about seeking investments and get into a partnership model such as what Bangladesh has been able to do successfully with both China and India.

With a strong patriarchal and feudal culture embedded in Hinduism, rituals dominate Nepali life. With people from the Indian (Brahmin) community dominating the bulk of leadership in politics and bureaucracy, there is much emphasis on rituals rather than an understanding of the deeper issues. Therefore, there is little expectation about the upcoming vi-



PHOTO: SHANTANU

one in West Bengal has been about multiple factions that keep splitting and coming together rather than it being about one single unified party. At one point in time, people had lost count of how many communist parties in Nepal were overground and underground. Second, the communist movement in both India and Nepal has been about rent-seeking on positions and selling rhetoric and hypocrisy. It has been about talking about Red Books during the day and on other diametric subjects later. This is in stark contrast to the Chinese societal model of hard work and encouraging entrepreneurial pursuits.

Third, Nepal communists, especially the former insurgents, still talk about Mao and the Maoist ideology. In China, Mao is a word best avoided and is jarring for the current leadership. Finally, in China, over the years, when a jockey group within the party de-

underground, received tacit support. With the communist parties in India in disarray now, the Nepali communist leaders are looking for options. With the co-chair of the NCP, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, in line to succeed Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, other leaders such as Madhav Nepal and Jhula Nath Khanal who became Prime Ministers earlier with Indian support are trying to look for options in China. While Chinese engagement in Nepal has increased post the BRI phase and with revamping of outreach policies, those backing the few projects with Chinese investments have not been happy with the government as they now face the same problems that other investors are experiencing. Foreign direct investments to Nepal are low and the way government has functioned does not really encourage large Chinese investors to look at Nepal seriously enough. The increase in Chinese businesses in Nepal has remained mostly low-level.

## A summer of discontent

Six months since the protests in Hong Kong began, young Hongkongers are in no mood to negotiate and Beijing refuses to budge. Ananth Krishnan reports on the hopes and concerns of a deeply divided city in a country with two seemingly irreconcilable systems

**O**n July 1, the 23rd anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China, the city's streets were filled with protesters. They were protesting against the government's proposed extradition bill, which would allow Hong Kong to extradite fugitives to mainland China. The protesters were demanding that the government should not pass the bill, which they saw as a threat to Hong Kong's autonomy. The protesters were also demanding that the government should not pass the bill, which they saw as a threat to Hong Kong's autonomy. The protesters were also demanding that the government should not pass the bill, which they saw as a threat to Hong Kong's autonomy.



city prospects. This, he said, will most certainly "be hanging by the words of way - they will say and say, if I want this, I will do this, if I want that, I will do that. Universal outrage is the only way of compelling the government of Beijing to take a step back and allow Hong Kong to remain a free society. The only way of compelling the government of Beijing to take a step back and allow Hong Kong to remain a free society. The only way of compelling the government of Beijing to take a step back and allow Hong Kong to remain a free society.

I asked him, even if Beijing were to announce that it was not interested in Hong Kong, would that be a relief? He said, "No, because the only way of compelling the government of Beijing to take a step back and allow Hong Kong to remain a free society. The only way of compelling the government of Beijing to take a step back and allow Hong Kong to remain a free society. The only way of compelling the government of Beijing to take a step back and allow Hong Kong to remain a free society.

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## VOCABULARY-I

**Pronouncements (adj-), घोषणाओं, announcement, proclamation.**

**In recent public pronouncements, the treasurer is optimistic of economic recovery.**

**Rescind (n-) रद्द कर देना, revoke or cancel a law or agreement.**

**The policy of charging air travellers for water, has already been rescinded.**

**Raison d'être (n+) उद्देश्य, most important reason or purpose of one's existence.**

**After her husband's death her son is her raison d'être.**

**Fatuous (adj+), बुद्धिहीन, silly, pointless, foolish.**

**She has this very bad habit of passing fatuous comments on her colleagues.**

**Ardent (adj-) उत्साही, very enthusiastic or passionate.**

**My brother is an ardent supporter of Manchester United.**

## VOCABULARY-II

**Lineage (n-), वंशावली, direct descent from an ancestor, descent.**

**She is very proud of her ancient royal lineage.**

**Incumbent (n/adj-), निभर, holder of an office or position, obligatory.**

**She felt it incumbent upon to raise the subject at their meeting.**

**Reinstated (v-) फिर से बहाल, restore to former position or state.**

**A month after being unfairly dismissed, he was reinstated in his job.**

**Stipulations (n-) शर्तों, rule that must be followed, condition.**

**The only stipulation is that candidates must be over the age of 35.**

**Abjures (v+), त्यागना, say publicly that you no longer agree with a belief.**

**Most people in India still abjure the decadence of modern life.**

## PHRASES & IDIOMS / ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

### PHRASAL VERBS- homework.

To back up -	support
Blow over -	subside, without serious consequences.
To bear out -	support someone's claim.
To dispose off -	get rid off.
To close with -	to come near.
To eat away -	eroded.
To grow upon -	to become more liked and appreciated by.
Hear someone out -	listen someone until the person finished speaking.

### Not their business

The OIC achieved little other than pleasing Pakistan through its Kashmir pronouncements

The statement issued by the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation's Kashmir Contact Group calling on India to "rescind its actions revoking Article 370", among other stipulations, may not even be worth the paper it is written on.



- If it has a dubious relevance, it is one that allows the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to sell the theory back at home that his trip to New York, focused on Kashmir, has met with some success.
- From the mid-1990s, when this Contact Group was formed, it has issued several statements on behalf of Pakistan, which happens, not surprisingly, to be a member, as does Turkey, Niger, Azerbaijan and Saudi Arabia.
- The Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman had Imran Khan flown on his private jet to Saudi Arabia for a two-day visit before speeding him on the same plane to New York and the UNGA.
- Further, though it boasts of a membership of 57 countries, its influence on world affairs has always been marginal.
- The United Arab Emirates, for instance,
- conferred the Order of Zayed, its highest civilian award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, more than a week after New Delhi's moves on Article 370, and declared that Kashmir was India's internal matter.
- The organisation, constituted on religious lines, but seeking to fulfil geopolitical interests, needs reforms from within.



**THE HINDU**

**ARTICLE OF THE DAY / 28 September 2019**

**Not their business**

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The statement issued by the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation's Kashmir Contact Group calling on India to "rescind its actions revoking Article 370", among other stipulations, may not even be worth the paper it is written on. If it has a dubious relevance, it is one that allows the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to sell the theory back at home that his trip to New York, focused on Kashmir, has met with some success. From the mid-1990s, when this Contact Group was formed, it has issued several statements on behalf of Pakistan, which happens, not surprisingly, to be a member, as does Turkey, Niger, Azerbaijan and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman had Imran Khan flown on his private jet to Saudi Arabia for a two-day visit before speeding him on the same plane to New York and the UNGA. It is also no coincidence that OIC is headquartered in Jeddah and receives its financial raison d'être from its chief benefactor, Saudi Arabia. Further, though it boasts of a membership of 57 countries, its influence on world affairs has always been marginal. It is also extremely doubtful if the statement issued by the Contact Group reflects faithfully the national positions of the individual member states. The United Arab Emirates, for instance, conferred the Order of Zayed, its highest civilian award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, more than a week after New Delhi's moves on Article 370, and declared that Kashmir was India's internal matter.

The OIC's record of conflict resolution when it comes to issues between OIC member states is poor. In practical terms, its fatuous attempts to meddle in Kashmir, including by appointing a so-called special envoy on Jammu and Kashmir, have amounted to nothing. The organisation, constituted on religious lines, but seeking to fulfil geopolitical interests, needs reforms from within. It could begin by asking Pakistan to change its state policy on terrorism. Imran Khan did admit at various fora that Pakistan had backed entities such as the al-Qaeda, but he should ensure that Pakistan abjures support to Kashmir-centric groups such as the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-e-Taiba. It serves no useful purpose for the OIC to paint Kashmir in communal and religious political colours. India, though not a part of the OIC, has the second largest numbers of Muslims in the world, perhaps more than Pakistan and some of its most ardent backers put together. The OIC would do a lot better if it did something useful to better the lot of its members or mediate between warring Saudi Arabia and Yemen, for instance. In the meanwhile, New Delhi must demonstrate to the world that its new Kashmir policy is in the larger interest of all Kashmiris.

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