

### Arrested Kashmiri militant sent to JIC, grilled by security agencies

JAMMU, AUG 9/-/ Kashmiri terrorist Irfan Hussain Wani was sent to the Joint Interrogation Centre (JIC) and grilled by security agencies, including the Delhi Police, in connection with a terror plot of Al-Qaida linked Anwar Ghazwatul-Hind (AGUH) to disturb the Independence Day celebrations in Delhi.

Wani was arrested on Sunday night here and seized grenades were found in his possession. Sources in the security establishment said he was sent to the JIC at Miran Sahib here and was being interrogated about terror plots and sleeping cells.

They said two officers from the Delhi Police had also joined the interrogation and they wanted to take Wani to Delhi for further investigation.

As per the sources, Wani was in touch with top AGUH terrorists and his mobile, which was seized by the police, was sent for decoding to the national capital.

They said he had given some leads about the person to whom he was supposed to deliver the bag containing grenades.

He was reportedly staying in a hotel in Jammu and was given the bag and some cash by member of the sleeper cell, whom the security agencies were tracking, they said. (PTI)

### Need to ensure fruits of development reach poor: Naidu

NEW DELHI, AUG 9/-/ Paying tributes to freedom fighters on the 76th anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement', Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu today said it was now time to join hands to ensure that challenges being faced by the people also quit India forever.

He said there is a need to ensure fruits of development also reach the poor.

On August 9, 1942, the 'Quit India Movement' was launched under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi which resulted in freedom of the country from British rule five years later on August 15, 1947.

"The Quit India Movement achieved its objectives long back. It is now time for all of us to join hands together to ensure that challenges being faced by the people also quit India forever," Naidu said.

Noting that the Indian economy has emerged as the sixth largest in the world, the Chairman said there is a need to ensure that "fruits of development also reach those who are living on the margins of society". Naidu said the country has come a long way since Independence and highlighted many achievements India has gained.

"Amidst all these achievements, however, our failures are also stark. We have many social and economic problems that adversely affect our growth as a nation. We need to make concerted efforts to overcome these challenges," he said.

The House paid homage to martyrs who gave their lives and also to those who suffered for the cause of India's freedom. (PTI)

### Maha Cong attacks Centre on Quit India movement anniversary

MUMBAI, AUG 9/-/ On the occasion of Quit India movement anniversary, the Maharashtra Congress today attacked the Central government over "growing" incidents of mob lynchings and "attack" on the freedom of media.

Congress leaders, including state unit president Ashok Chavan, took out a "Triranga yatra" from the August Kranti Maidan to Mani Bhavan in South Mumbai, to mark the 76th anniversary of the movement.

Gowalia Tank Maidan is a park in central Mumbai where Mahatma Gandhi had delivered the Quit India speech on August 8, 1942 decreeing that the British must leave India immediately or else mass agitations would take place. Mani Bhavan,

located in Gamdevi in south Mumbai, had served as the Mumbai headquarters of the Mahatma from 1917 to 1934.

Chavan said the current situation in the country is reminiscent of the British era before 1942. "Just like in 1942, unrest is currently prevailing in the country. Incidents like mob lynchings are on the rise. The freedom of press is being gagged. Farmers are committing suicides; the backward classes are being attacked," Chavan said. He said the BJP-led NDA government should 'quit'.



Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee Affairs in-charge Oommen Chandy with Congress Seva Dal workers participating at Tiranga Yatra on the occasion of 76th Quit India Movement anniversary, in Vijayawada on Thursday.

### Quit India day: Martyrs remembered at August Kranti Maidan

MUMBAI, AUG 9/-/ Rich tributes were paid to the martyrs of the freedom struggle today at an event held at the August Kranti Maidan here to mark the 76th anniversary of the Quit India Movement.

Various initiatives were organised to mark the anniversary of Quit India movement, a major milestone in the history of India's struggle for independence from the British rule.

Floral tributes were paid to freedom fighters and those who laid down their lives in the struggle for India's Independence at an event held at the August Kranti

Maidan. This is the same ground from where Mahatma Gandhi gave the clarion call of do-or-die for independence.

"My tributes to the martyrs for the supreme sacrifice of life for the freedom of our country, Bharat," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis tweeted.

"The sacrifice of freedom fighters of the Quit India movement gave us independence from the oppressive British."

Today, on August Kranti Din, as we shape the foundation of New India, it is time we come together as one and overcome the hurdles in our path to

### Kathua case witnesses threatened Crime Branch tells district police to file cases

JAMMU, AUG 9/-/ Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch has asked Kathua police to file FIRs based on the complaints of two witnesses in the rape and murder case of an eight-year-old who have alleged they are being threatened by the family members and friends of the accused, officials said today.

The Crime Branch has also asked the district police in Kathua to provide protection to the two witnesses who made written complaints. They said they were being harassed and threatened by the friends and relatives of the accused and were under pressure to change their statements before the district and sessions court in Pathankot, Punjab, which is hearing the case. "Legal action is being taken in accordance with the law," a senior police official from Kathua said.

"The Crime Branch has forwarded the complaints to the Kathua district police and said the witnesses should be provided protection and FIRs should be registered against those Members of the Kathua Bar Association official added. The names of the two witnesses were not immediately known. The Crime Branch cited last month's Supreme Court order directing protection of witnesses in the case of the child from a minority nomadic community who was allegedly kidnapped on January 10 in a village in Kathua and sexually assaulted before

being killed. Her body was found on January 17.

The witnesses include a government official whose testimony was recorded by the Crime Branch during its investigation into the case that shook the nation with its brutality. The Crime Branch has named 221 witnesses in its first charge sheet and more than 100 in its supplementary charge sheet filed on July 30. It has arrested eight people - Sanji Ram, custodian of the temple where the child was allegedly confined, his son Vishal, his nephew (a juvenile), friend Parvesh Kumar, two special police officers Deepak Khajuria alias 'Dipu' and Suresh and two police officials, sub-inspector Arvind Datta and head constable Tilak Raj.

The two police officials were arrested for destroying evidence and have been dismissed from service. The Crime Branch will also bring the issue before the court in Pathankot where the case was transferred on directions of the Supreme Court, officials said. Members of the Kathua Bar Association had physically prevented Crime Branch officials from submitting a charge sheet on April 9 in Kathua. Defence lawyers had argued in court that the accused should be given advance information about witnesses appearing before the court. The court last week agreed that names of those not facing threats could be shared with the

defence. The Crime Branch submitted an application before the Pathankot court giving reasons for non-disclosure of names of witnesses in advance due to security reasons. It said some vested groups in Hiranagar and Kathua area had started a well-organised campaign against the investigating agency and were resorting to large scale propaganda on electronic, print and social media to "mislead the masses".

One such instance where a material witness in the case was influenced by some groups has already been brought to the notice of the honourable court, the application said. It asserted that the case has acquired "communal overtones" with some political leaders backing the accused in the case.

The role of state BJP MLA Choudhary Lal Singh was brought before the judge along with the newspaper cuttings. "...former minister and BJP MLA from Basohli assembly constituency, Choudhary Lal Singh, who hails from Kathua district has reportedly floated an organisation named 'Dogra Swabhimani Sangathan' on July 22. The purpose of this organisation, has among other objectives, been formulated to defend the accused in the case as well as discredit the investigating agency." A number of rallies have already been held to mobilise and unite a particular community, the application said. (PTI)

### AAP stays away from voting for RS deputy chairman election, slams Cong

NEW DELHI, AUG 9/-/ The Rajya Sabha members of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) stayed away from voting for the election of the deputy chairman of the Upper House today, slamming by the Congress as the "biggest" hurdle in the way of opposition unity.

"We stayed away from voting for the deputy chairman's election. We attended the House proceedings after that," AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh told PTI.

The party has three MPs in the Rajya Sabha from Delhi. Bitter over not being asked by the Congress to vote in favour of Opposition candidate B K Hariprasad, Singh said, "The Congress is the biggest hurdle to opposition unity. How will he (Congress chief Rahul Gandhi) ensure the victory of his candidate, if he cannot ask for votes."

The AAP had yesterday said its MPs would vote for Hariprasad if Gandhi asked party chief Arvind Kejriwal for it.

Singh lashed out at the Congress for keeping a distance from the AAP saying they had unconditionally supported the Gandhi-led party in the elections of president, vice-president and on several other occasions.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had called Kejriwal yesterday seeking support for NDA candidate and JD(U) MP Harivansh, he said, adding that the AAP supremo refused to oblige. "If Nitish could ask for support for his candidate, why not Rahul," Singh wondered. He also alleged that the Congress wanted to weaken the AAP in Delhi. (PTI)

### Harivansh: A first time MP who became RS Dy Chairman

NEW DELHI, AUG 9/-/ Newly elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh preferred the struggle of journalism to a cushy government job in his early days and did well in his chosen field while also maintaining good ties with politicians. The 62-year-old first time MP from Nitish Kumar (JD(U)) had briefly worked as an adviser to the former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar but went back to journalism after that government fell.

A candidate of the ruling NDA, he was elected to the deputy chairman's post today securing 125 votes against 105 for Congress MP B K Hariprasad, who was a joint opposition candidate. Born in Barilias in Uttar Pradesh, Harivansh's close aides say he was a meritorious student and went to M.A. in Economics and Diplomacy from Journalism from Banars Hindu University.

He comes from the same region where socialist leader and anti-Emergency crusader Jai Prakash Narayan was born. While he landed a government job as a bank officer, he chose to work as a journalist and rose to become the Chief Editor of Hindi daily Prabhat Khabar. He has authored and edited several books in Hindi, especially on Bihar and Jharkhand. His biodes on the Rajya Sabha website say he has been honoured for his outstanding contribution to Hindi.

Considered to be close to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Harivansh was chosen as one of nominees of the party for the Upper House in 2014. That time, Harivansh was candidate of a party whose allies included the BJP and the Congress. Many believe his affable and low profile personality coupled with friendship across political divides will come handy for him in conducting the business at the Rajya Sabha. (PTI)



Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Arjun Munda in traditional attire beating the traditional drum "Nagada" during a procession on the occasion of "World Tribal Day" in Ranchi on Thursday

### Need to promote medicinal plants grown by tribal people: Jual Oram

NEW DELHI, AUG 9/-/ Union minister Jual Oram today said that not much attention has been paid to the harnessing of "forest wealth" and there is a need to promote medicinal plants grown by tribal people to help them "achieve the true remuneration".

The Union Tribal Affairs Minister made the remarks during the signing of an MoU between the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and the National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush, to promote "medicinal forest produce for livelihood development of tribal people". Oram said, "Till now, the focus had been on mining of minerals, but it is iron ore, coal... which is non-renewable. But there is another wealth - minor forest produce - and not much attention has been paid to it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has



stressed on it. It is renewable and eco-friendly." "We used to sell around 20 kg of mahua (a tribal drink) for 25 paise. Today, if we consider the minimum support price, the same amount will cost Rs 150-200," the minister said, underscoring the need for marketing of tribal products and medicinal plants grown by them.

To drive home his point, Oram said, "Maharishi Patanjali wrote about yoga and Ayurveda thousands of years ago, but the idea could not be

propagated. Ramdev promoted yoga and Ayurveda and showed it can cure cancer and several other diseases." People have not been able to explore the forest wealth, he said. "Tribal people have been growing medicinal plants, but they are as yet unaware of the actual value of their produce. This MoU will help them realise the true potential of their products and achieve the true remuneration," he said. "TRIFED has a lot of land and it can be utilised for this purpose. We have given a free hand to the officers to implement it... with full force... at the earliest," he added.

The minister said that after some time, forest products will attract the second maximum investment after mining. Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Suresh Babu said the MoU is a step towards achieving the vision of the prime minister of doubling farmers' income. (PTI)

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### Jaitley attends RS for first time after kidney transplant

NEW DELHI, AUG 9/-/ Union Minister Arun Jaitley today attended the proceedings in the Rajya Sabha for the first time after undergoing a kidney transplant in May. Jaitley, who has been recuperating after surgery, came to the House on a day when Rajya Sabha voted to elect JD (U) member Harivansh as Deputy Chairman.

Rajya Sabha MPs, including Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, welcomed him back in the House. He is Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi too expressed happiness on Jaitley's presence in the House.

Jaitley, who had kept away from public appearance for almost four months, acknowledged the greetings. Jaitley was holding the charge of Finance and Corporate Affairs ministries before the

### Madhya Pradesh HC upholds death for man who raped, killed 4-year-old girl

JABALPUR, AUG 9/-/ The Madhya Pradesh High Court has upheld a lower court's order awarding death sentence to a man for raping and killing a four-year-old girl, observing that "humanity is more in danger in the hands of persons like the appellant. Therefore, we find that the capital punishment awarded to the appellant is one of the rarest of rare cases where the extreme punishment is warranted," the bench said. The court said it had the social responsibility to make the citizens of the country know that law could not come to the rescue of such a person on the basis of humanity.

The appellant was a young married boy aged 22 years at the time of commission of the offence, but he breached the trust of a girl child of four years when he tempted her by offering biscuits to accompany him to meet her father," the court said. He believed the appellant to be her well-wisher, to accompany him, it observed. "Humanity is

more in danger in the hands of persons like the appellant. Therefore, we find that the capital punishment awarded to the appellant is one of the rarest of rare cases where the extreme punishment is warranted," the bench said. The court said it had the social responsibility to make the citizens of the country know that law could not come to the rescue of such a person on the basis of humanity. The appellant was a young married boy aged 22 years at the time of commission of the offence, but he breached the trust of a girl child of four years when he tempted her by offering biscuits to accompany him to meet her father," the court said. He believed the appellant to be her well-wisher, to accompany him, it observed. "Humanity is