

THE HINDU ANALYSIS



5TH JULY

BY PRASHANT MAVANI



IN ENGLISH



A wooden pier extends from the bottom center towards the horizon, flanked by calm water. In the background, a line of trees and distant mountains are visible under a soft, hazy sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**Independence is
happiness.**

Susan B. Anthony



How to rule Delhi

The SC decision on elected government cannot be dismissed as a technicality. It is a landmark judgment that will have far-reaching implications for the future of the city.

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Flood of despair

Manish Kapadia's story is a sad one. It is a story of a man who has lost everything and is now struggling to survive.

Freedom from being 'India-locked'

After his visit to China, Nepali Prime Minister Oli continues to ride a populist wave.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding the issue of the flood of despair in the city of Delhi. I am a resident of the city and I have seen the impact of the flood on the lives of the people.

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The paradox of job growth

Besides the missing informal sector, over-estimation of output growth also offers clues



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1. Flood of despair: Mumbai's capacity to deal with nature's challenges is falling with every passing year

2. How to rule Delhi: The SC clarifies an elected government cannot be undermined by an unelected administrator

3. The paradox of job growth: Besides the missing informal sector, over-estimation of output growth also offers clues

4. Freedom from being 'India-locked': After his visit to China, Nepali Prime Minister Oli continues to ride a populist wave

5. Fuel: getting the mix right: The government must roll back taxes on fuel and increase ethanol supply

6. Opening up the world: More needs to be done to internationalise higher education

7. Insecurity in cyberspace: Dispelling anxieties or sharing data online is a key challenge in India

Fuel: getting the mix right

The government must roll back taxes on fuel and increase ethanol supply



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Opening up the world

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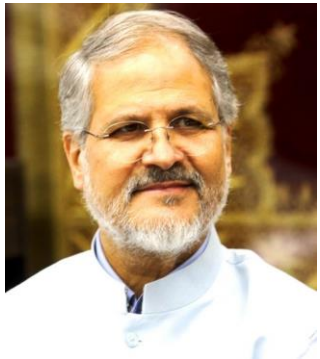
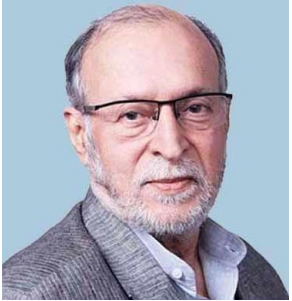
Flood of despair

- Mumbai is an efficient city in some ways, but this reputation depends on fair weather.
- Collapse of a pedestrian bridge on a crucial railway line in Andheri
- Not even a year has passed since the ghastly stampede on a foot overbridge at Elphinstone Road station, that took over 20 lives.
- July 2005 flooding caused by 99.4 cm of rain in a 24-hour period.
- The city continues to attract a large number of people looking for opportunity – the population rose from 11.9 million in 2001 to 18.4 million a decade later.
- The recurrent disasters involving infrastructure are proof of the indifference among policymakers to the city's needs.
- According to one estimate, the city's Mithi river, blocked by debris and garbage, has lost about 60% of its catchment to development.
- World Bank found that half of the poor did not consider moving out of flood-prone areas
- It is welcome that a joint safety audit with the IIT will be conducted on public infrastructure, in the wake of the bridge collapse.

How to rule Delhi



- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi has no independent decision-making power.
- Lieutenant Governor has to act mainly on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers
- Supreme Court has restored the primary role played by the “representative government” in the National Capital Territory.



Delhi

- Seen as a Union Territory
- It was created as a separate category, with an elected Assembly
- With powers to enact laws in all matters falling under the State and Concurrent lists
- Exception: public order, police and land

Status higher than other UTs

- Until now, the situation was tilted in favour of the Centre.
- Lt. Governor's claim that he had the authority to refer any matter to the President.
- SC has retained the Lt. Governor's powers to refer matters to the President for a decision.
- The power to refer "any matter" to the President no longer means "every matter".
- Overall, the verdict is an appeal to a sense of constitutional morality and constitutional trust among high functionaries.
- It has ruled out Mr. Kejriwal's demand of full statehood
- The basic message is that an elected government cannot be undermined by an unelected administrator.


Bottom line

A Supreme Court Constitution Bench unanimously ruled in favour of the **Arvind Kejriwal** government and said the real powers of governance of Delhi rests with **the elected representatives**. Key points of the order:



DIPAK MISRA

CJI, for himself and Justices A.K. Sikri and A.M. Khanwilkar

 ***'Aid and advise' in Article 239AA(4) has to be construed to mean that the L-G is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers... the L-G has not been entrusted with any independent decision-making power***




JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD

 ***The L-G must, by a process of dialogue and discussion, seek to resolve any difference of opinion with a Minister and if it is not possible to have it so resolved, to attempt it through the Council of Ministers***

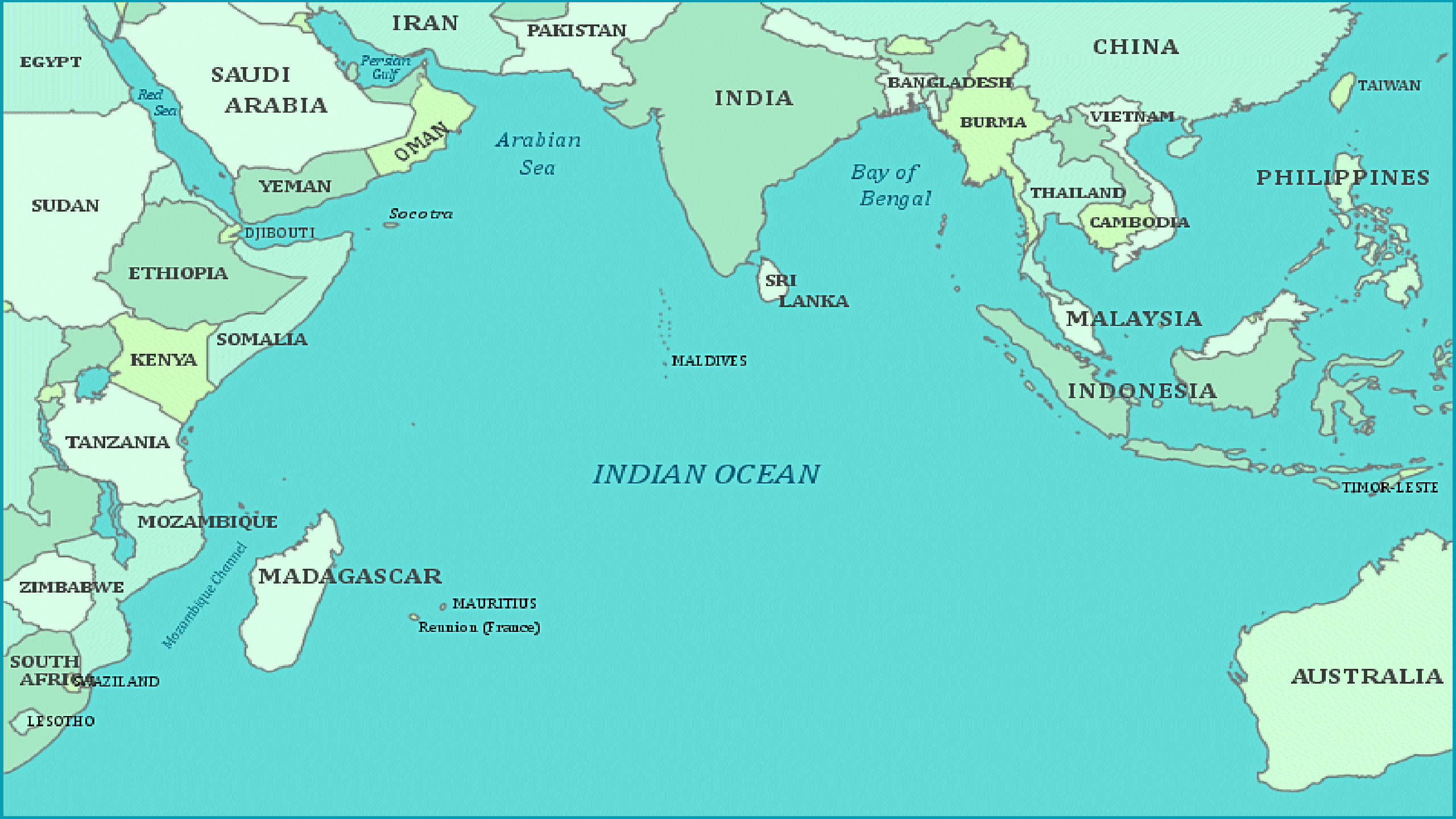


JUSTICE ASHOK BHUSHAN

 ***The 'aid and advice' given by the Council of Ministers is binding on the L-G, unless he decides to exercise his power under the proviso to refer any matter to the President for a decision***

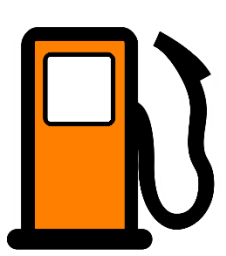
Freedom from being 'India-locked'

- Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli returned from China last month.
- Mr. Oli had made his first visit as Prime Minister to China in 2016.
- 2015: major earthquake
- 2016: Nepal was just recovering from the Indian blockade that had paralysed lives.
- Nepal has historically remained 'India-locked', rather than being termed landlocked.
- Being landlocked is not much of an issue as one can get sea-locked, like the Maldives.
- Nepal-China: trade and transit agreement
- Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): Nepal continues to remain the best conduit for Indian markets for China.
- *When one is tired of bad service at a restaurant, it is obvious that one will start looking for alternatives.*
- India needs to also realise the new reality that its monopoly over geopolitics in Nepal is over





Fuel: getting the mix right



- The entire country is reeling from a fuel price shock, nothing major has been done to reduce toxic emissions and ease fuel prices.
- National Policy on Biofuels (NPB)
- 2003: Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme (EBP) focussed on 5% blending of molasses-based ethanol with petrol.
- 2008: blending target to be 10%.
- National Biodiesel Mission: two-phase strategy for biodiesel production from Jatropha seeds to achieve a 10% blending mandate with diesel by 2012.
- 2009: NPB proposed a revised target of 20% blending for ethanol and biodiesel by 2017.
- Fuel blending with ethanol varies from 85% (E85) in Australia to vehicles run on 100% (E100) ethanol in Brazil, where the ethanol blending mandate is 27% (E27).

Government's priorities in implementing the NPB

- Solution to air pollution
- Maintain affordable transportation fuel prices
 - Promote clean and sustainable fuels
 - Move towards energy self-sufficiency
- Reduce dependence on crude oil imports

- National Policy on Biofuels 2018: promising the moon and delivering little.
- World Health Organisation: 14 Indian cities are world's most polluted
- The policy is totally silent on octane.
- It assists in proper combustion of fuels, thereby affecting vehicular emissions.
- Today petrol is blended with cancer-causing imported aromatics to boost octane rating. This has negative consequences on health.
- So far, there's an investment of ₹10,000 crore to set up 12 2G biorefineries across 11 States.
- Biggest irony: spend thousands of crores on building statues but not on clean energy.
- Import ethanol for time being but supply should not get affected.
- Ethanol has an octane rating of 113, while the mandated octane rating for fuel is 91.

Opening up to the world



- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), implemented in 2016, is India's first government-supported ranking of colleges and universities.
- It may in the future guide government financial support for higher education.
- Two additional initiatives build on the idea of creating elite, globally competitive world-class universities in India
 1. Institutions of Eminence (IoE) project: recognise 20 universities, 10 public and 10 private, and provide significant government funds to the public institutions (no extra money to the privates) and give enhanced autonomy for them.
 2. Graded Autonomy project: considerable freedom for academic, financial and administrative innovation
- The Graded Autonomy programme makes it easier to hire international faculty, traditionally very difficult to do.

- India and France to mutually recognise academic qualifications.
- Internationalisation is central to academic success in the 21st century – and India has been notably weak.
- The national ranking initiative needs to be extended throughout the higher education system and requires simplification.
- Are Indian universities finally awakening to the challenges of the 21st century? At least several innovative programmes, backed by government, are in the works.
- Implementing them effectively remains the key challenge.

Insecurity in cyberspace

- “No CCTV surveillance. Here, it is the watchfulness of concerned citizens that protects the property.” art décor store in Fort Kochi, Kerala
- Anxiety about data theft and tampering has become a reality for social media, Internet and digital service users.
- Breach Level Index, released by digital security firm Gemalto, reported a 783% increase in cases of data theft in India in 2017.
- Reserve Bank of India reported a 35% increase (from 8,765 cases to 11,997) in ATM credit, debit card and net banking related fraud cases between 2012-13 and 2015-16
- With India’s Internet users expected to hit the 500 million mark this year, dispelling data anxieties remains a key challenge.

Money matters

The government has increased the Minimum Support Price so that farmers will get 50% more than their 'production costs'

The government considers 'A2+FL' as production cost

where A2 = actual paid out cost on seeds, irrigation, etc., and FL= unpaid family labour



But some experts and activists want comprehensive cost (C2) to be considered for MSP

Where C2 = A2 + FL+ rentals or interest foregone on owned land and fixed capital

MSP based on C2 cost will be far higher than the proposed figure

Crop	Govt. MSP in ₹/quintal (A2+FL+50%)	C2+50% in ₹/quintal	Gap in ₹/quintal
Paddy	1,750	2,340	-590
Cotton	5,150	6,771	-1,621

SOURCE: CACP

TOEING GERMANY & SOUTH KOREA

Ministry Weighs Legislation on Right to be Skilled

Move will give legal backing to PM's flagship programme Skill India Mission

Yogima.Sharma
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Skill development ministry is mulling a rights-based legislation for skills training in the country much in line with Germany and South Korea, a move that will give a legal backing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship programme – Skill India Mission.

A senior government official told **ET** that the next step in skills would be to back it with an Act that entitle millions of youth entering the workforce a right to be skilled.

"This will make skill training enforceable which in turn will significantly improve the employability of Indian workforce," the official added.

According to the official, every country with a fully developed vocational education training (VET) system has a law guiding that system.

"We definitely need a law to regulate such a diversified skilling ecosystem in the country. However, we waited all this while because we wanted the system of skilling to mature a bit before it gets covered under a law," the official quoted above said, requesting anonymity as the ministry is still

are unemployable because of poor skillsets, which is why skills enhancement is a key thrust area for the government.

After coming into power in 2014, the NDA government had formed a dedicated ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship. This was followed by the launch of Skill India mission in 2015 under which the government had targeted training more than 400 million people in different skills by 2022.

However, barely 40 million have been trained by different stakeholders since then, 25 million people out of them by the minis-

BIG AIM

Launched in 2015, Skill India mission targeted training more than 400 million people in different skills by 2022

try of skill development and entrepreneurship.

The idea of a right-based legislation for skills development was first mooted by the high-level sub-group of chief ministers, headed by the then Punjab chief minister Prakash Singh Badal, under the NITI Aayog.

The sub-group was of the view that a right-based legislation backed by robust implementation will generate greater demand, remove the low esteem attached to vocational education and encourage more young people to seek

Answers-

1. Which state has launched India's first Integrated Control and Command Centre (ICCC) for its smart cities?
A) Madhya Pradesh
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Maharashtra
D) Bihar
2. India got what rank in the 2018 Business Optimism Index?
A) 6th
B) 8th
C) 7th
D) 5th

Questions-

1. Which nation would be getting a grant from the World Bank to meet the basic needs of the Rohingyas?
 - A) Bangladesh
 - B) Philippines
 - C) Myanmar
 - D) India

2. Which nation moved its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, despite concerns from the international community?
 - A) North Korea
 - B) US
 - C) Russia
 - D) China

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