

NEWSIN brief

Indian man crashes car into Wagah border

BBC ONLINE

Security has been stepped up at India and Pakistan's Attari Wagah international border after a man crashed his car into the gates. Surinder Singh Kang, a Canadian of Indian origin, broke through four security barriers before being stopped. He said he wanted to visit Sikh religious sites in Pakistan. Kang, 42, appeared to be suffering from a psychiatric disorder, officials said.

Hadi returns to Aden from exile

AFP, Aden

Yemen's president returned from exile to southern city Aden yesterday as his troops and allies in a Saudi-led coalition press one of their most important offensives yet against Iran-backed Huthi rebels. The UN says that some 5,000 people, more than half of them civilians, have been killed in Yemen since the intervention began.

Rahul Gandhi British!

THE HINDU ONLINE

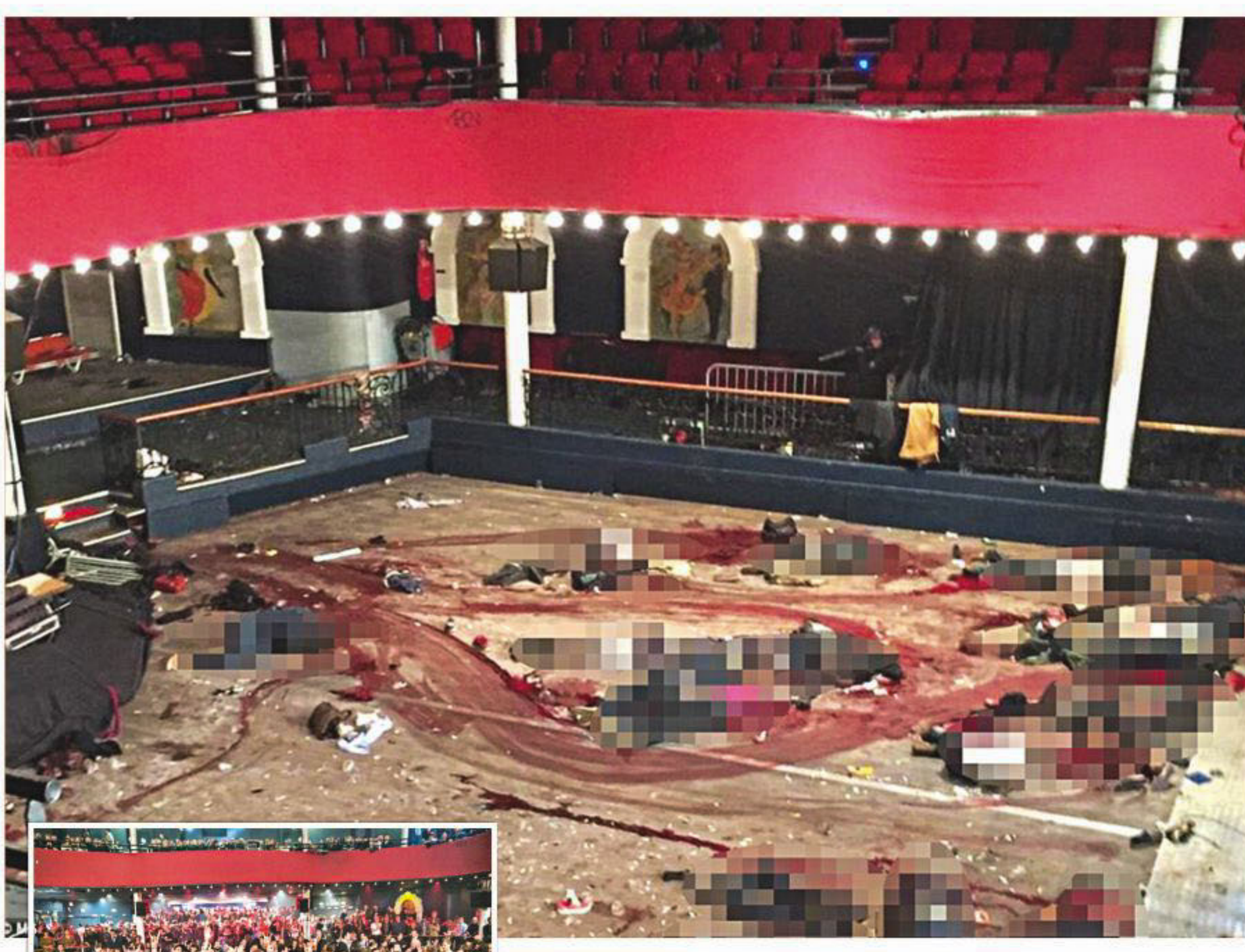
BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Monday accused Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi of declaring himself as a British national in 2005, while holding the post of director in a UK private firm, Backops Limited, a charge fiercely denied by the Congress. However, the documents accessed by The Hindu via official database of the British government show that Gandhi had specifically declared his nationality as Indian at the time the company was founded.



Charlie Sheen says he is HIV-positive

AFP, Washington

US actor Charlie Sheen, as well known for his on-screen work as his off-screen debauchery with drugs, alcohol and prostitutes, revealed yesterday that he is HIV. "I am here to admit that I am in fact HIV-positive," the 50-year-old Sheen said on the NBC morning talk show "Today." Sheen, said to have been America's highest paid TV actor at one point, said that he has known of this condition for about four years but does not know how he contracted the virus. He said he has paid "upwards of \$10 million" to people who knew about his condition to keep them quiet. Sheen said that since getting his diagnosis he has told all of his sexual partners of it before having intercourse. He also said he was certain that he had not passed on the virus to any of his partners.



A photograph of the Bataclan theatre hall reveals the bloody horror that unfolded when terrorists opened fire on concertgoers on last Friday. Inset, Cheerful crowds moments before the attack. Right, Eiffel Tower is illuminated with the colours of the French national flag in tribute to the victims. The final moments of the Bataclan siege were fully revealed for the first time yesterday as survivors said the IS terror squad promised to murder a hostage every five minutes. The siege killed at least 89 people who were enjoying a heavy metal concert by an American band group.



PHOTO: AFP, MIRROR

'India alert to threat posed by Islamic state'

TNN, New Delhi

India is alert to the threat posed by the Islamic State (ISIS), Home Minister Rajnath Singh said yesterday, a day after his ministry warned of a possible attack in the country by the terror group whose gunmen killed nearly 130 people in Paris last Friday. "IS is not a threat for any particular country, but for the entire world. India is alert about IS," Rajnath told reporters in New Delhi.

The Indian security establishment suggests that around 20-odd Indians are currently fighting for ISIS in Iraq-Syria.

Last year, a youth from Kalyan had returned home after spending about six-months with ISIS. He was arrested upon his arrival in Mumbai. Among the six Indians who fought alongside ISIS and were killed were three Indian Mujahideen, including Sultan Ajmer Shah and Bada Sajid, who joined its ranks after being in Pakistan, two men from Maharashtra and one from Telangana.

'You can't make me hate'

Husband of Paris victim tells ISIS

TNN, Paris

"You will not have my hatred", writes a Parisian man to the terrorists who killed his wife in the attacks on Paris last week.

Antoine Leiris' wife was killed in the massacre at the Bataclan theatre in Paris on Friday night, where 88 other people were also killed while attending a concert.

In the incredibly touching and brave post, he writes about his wife: "I saw her this morning. Finally, after nights and days of waiting. She was just as beautiful as she was when she left on Friday evening, as beautiful as when I fell madly in love with her more than 12 years ago."

Leiris and his wife have a 17-month-old son.

"We are two, my son and I, but we are stronger than all the armies of the world," Leiris said. "If this God for which you kill indiscriminately made us in his own image, every bullet in the body of my wife will have been a wound in his heart."

The Parisian says he refuses to give the killers a feeling of victory by hating them.

"No I won't make you this gift of hating you ... Of course I'm devastated with grief, I admit this small victory, but it will be short-lived."

Leiris adds that he refuses to be afraid, either. "You have it coming, but to respond to hatred with anger would be giving in to the same ignorance that made you what you are. You want me to be afraid, to look at my fellow citizens suspiciously, to sacrifice my freedom for security. You lose. ... we will play like every other day and all his life this little boy will dare to be happy and free. Because No, you won't have his hatred either."

'Crime against culture too'

UN expert on cultural rights blasts Paris attacks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, has denounced in the strongest possible terms the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris.

"These attacks may constitute a crime against humanity and certainly one which viciously and deliberately targeted sites of arts and leisure where people come together to enjoy their cultural rights," she said in a statement issued in Geneva yesterday.

"The language used in the reported claim of responsibility for the 13 November attacks by the so-called 'Islamic State', labeling the rock fans at Bataclan as 'pagans' and the city of Paris as the 'capital of prostitution and vice' demonstrates the hateful worldview motivating this violence," Bennouna stressed.

For the human rights expert, shouting 'Allahu Akbar' (God is Great) when beginning the Bataclan massacre, as has been reported, "grossly misuses a religious pronouncement sacred to hundreds of millions of Muslim believers around the world who abhor such bloodshed, and increases the likelihood of hate and discrimination against them in response," she said.

DEADLIEST TERROR GROUP BOKO HARAM, NOT ISIS

Boko Haram has overtaken Islamic State as the world's most deadly terrorist organisation, according to a new report. The Nigerian-based terror group was responsible for 6,644 deaths in 2014. In comparison, IS is believed to have killed 6,073 people in the same period. Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the group, also known as the Islamic State, in March of this year. Over the past year Nigerian witnessed a 300 per cent rise in fatalities from terror acts to 7,512. The Institute for Economics and Peace also said the number of people killed globally in terrorist attacks jumped 80 percent last year to the highest level ever recorded. The Global Terrorism Index found that 32,658 people were killed by terrorists in 2014, up from the 18,111 fatalities of the previous year, the largest increase on record.

AGENCIES

The expert also called on the international community to urgently take all steps needed to assist French authorities in ensuring that any perpetrators still at large are brought to justice in accordance with international law.

"We must all cooperate to protect those around the world who face similar attacks from such gangs of death simply for participating in cultural life," she noted.

Bennouna appealed to civil society around the world "to unite in exposing and opposing the fundamentalist ideology motivating such atrocities, as

many have done in Muslim majority countries for years, and to support those resisting such fundamentalist assaults on cultural life on the frontlines from West Africa to South Asia and beyond."

The Special Rapporteur also expressed her deep personal concern about other recent terrorist attacks such as that in Beirut on November 12 or the crash of the Russian plane in Egypt last month, which raise grave human rights issues largely beyond the scope of her mandate.



Pakistani passengers walk past damaged carriages following the derailment of a passenger train in Bolan district in Baluchistan yesterday. At least 16 people were killed and more than 100 injured in the accident occurred near Quetta city after the train's brakes failed as it sped down the side of a mountain, administration and railway officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

FIGHTING IS Obama rules out US troops on ground

REUTERS, Belek

US President Barack Obama ruled out a shift in strategy in the fight against Islamic State on Monday despite the deadly attacks in Paris, saying putting more US troops on the ground as sought by his political critics "would be a mistake."

Speaking after a G20 summit in Turkey, Obama described the attacks in France as "a terrible and sickening setback" and vowed to redouble efforts to destroy IS even as the group threatened to strike Washington.

Mindful of the difficulties that the US had in controlling Iraq after its invasion in 2003, Obama is very reluctant to commit American ground forces to Middle East conflict zones.

"We are going to continue the strategy that has the best chance of working," he told a news conference, adding, there would be "an intensification" of the effort against IS.

Obama has been criticised for his administration's handling of the current turmoil in Syria and Iraq, with some Republicans calling for a more aggressive approach that would include more US troops on the ground in the region.



Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush called on Monday for more US troops in leadership positions and as advisers to Iraqi and Kurdish units. He also sought a no-fly zone in Syria, a move Obama resisted, in part because IS has no air force.

Obama pushed back against the Republicans and said some were only recommending what the administration had already done against Islamic State while others seemed to think if he were "just more bellicose ... that would make a difference."

A majority of Americans want the United States to intensify its assault on Islamic State following the Paris attacks, but most remain opposed to sending troops to Iraq or Syria, where the militant group is based, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found.

Don't make them scapegoats

UN warns Europe against 'backtracking' on commitments

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday urged states not to "backtrack" on pledges made to host migrants and refugees, including from Syria, in the wake of the attacks in Paris.

Multiple UN agencies issued a warning to European leaders who might use the tragedy to advance anti-migrant policies, stressing that many of those seeking refuge in Europe have also been the victims of extremists.

Of the estimated 1.1 million migrants who have landed in Europe via the Mediterranean since 2013, less than six "have raised questions in terms of possible links to extremism," said International Organization for Migration spokesman Joel Millman.

Millman noted that the IOM, which received that information from individual governments, has no evidence that any of those people were ever involved in acts of violence.

French sources have said that a passport found near the body of one of the Stade de France suicide bombers may have belonged to a Syrian -- possibly an ex-government soldier -- who registered on the Greek island of Leros on October 3.

Using that information as a pretext to curb migration by vulnerable people into Europe could prove disastrous, UN representatives said.

"We are concerned about the reactions from some states to end programmes being put in place, backtracking from commitments made to manage the refugee crisis," said UN refugee agency (UNHCR) spokeswoman Melissa Fleming.

"Refugees should not be turned into scapegoats and must not become the secondary victims of these most tragic events," Fleming added.

Earlier this year, European leaders agreed to share 160,000 migrants around the continent via quotas.

REFUGEE CRISIS

Floods in India, Sri Lanka kill dozens

BBC ONLINE

More than 70 people have been killed as incessant rains continue to batter the southern Indian city of Chennai, media reports said yesterday.

Most of the main streets are waterlogged, bringing the city to a standstill.

Many offices, schools and colleges have been shut due to rains in the past week.

The rains have also affected at least 80,000 people in northern parts of neighbouring Sri Lanka.

A depression formed in the Bay of Bengal has triggered rains in coastal areas of India's Tamil Nadu state and Sri Lanka.

Government officials said around 10,000 people had been evacuated from their homes in Chennai, the Reuters news agency said.

The National Disaster Response Force and the army are also helping in ongoing rescue work.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, J Jayalalitha, has announced a 5bn-rupee relief fund for flood-affected areas.

"The rain that was meant to be spread out over the monsoon months has poured in just a few days," she said.

Lion S.S. Nizamuddin Ahmed's 50 years association with lionism observed



Lions Past International Director Ln. Sk. Kabir Hossain is seen honouring distinguished banker Past Dist. Governor Ln. S. S. Nizamuddin Ahmed with a gold medal at a function arranged by Lions Club of Dhaka Grand Capital at L.G.E.D. auditorium on 14 Nov. Begum Rashida Nizam, PID Ln. Moslem Ali Khan, ID Endorsee Ln. Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, Ln. Nazmul Huq and Ln. Rabiul Huq was present at the function.

Lions Club of Dhaka Grand Capital