

1848

End of the June Days Uprising in **Paris**.

1857

The first investiture of the Victoria Cross in **Hyde Park, London**.

1870

The Christian holiday of **Christmas** is declared a federal holiday in the United States.



1886

Henri Moissan isolated elemental Fluorine for the first time.



Mr Johnson has risen to the top as a direct result of Brexit, the issue that will make or break his prospective tenure in 10 Downing Street. His supporters can only hope that, by sheer force of will, he will be able to smash through the obstacles.

that a majority of MPs could not block a no-deal exit.

Short of that extreme measure, the next prime minister will have a nuclear option of calling a general election, with the objective of gaining a majority for a hard exit from the EU.

Under the intense pressure of Brexit, the country's two-party system appears to have shattered.

An opinion poll released last week showed a four-way tie at low levels. The Brexit Party on 23 per cent, the Liberal Democrats back from the political dead at 21 per cent and both Conservative and Labour on 20 per cent.

Apparently, Mr Johnson declared his wish to rule the world as a boy. His will to succeed is palpable and the position of UK prime minister is now finally within his grasp.

The only thing that matters is how he would choose to tackle Brexit, should he become the nation's leader. Mr Johnson's record suggests he will want to get out of the EU and hope for the best.

The alternative is that he reworks that flying buttress idea, in the hope Europe will not kick over Britain's bucket.

of a clean break from the EU by the October deadline is a huge challenge.

A prime minister seeking to honour that commitment must override parliament to force a no-deal outcome, in which Britain leaves in open conflict with Brussels.

The alternative is equally bleak – essentially gaining approval for the withdrawal agreement that Mrs May failed to pass three times.

Dominic Raab, one of the failed leadership candidates, suggested suspending parliament to ensure

extension.

There is little evidence that Mr Hunt would do the job any better than Mr Johnson. It is true that Mr Hunt, who followed Mr Johnson as foreign secretary, has achieved a level of respect that his predecessor never managed.

On Brexit, however, he is promising much the same as Mr Johnson. He also suffers from the perception that, as a leader, he would be little more than a "Theresa in trousers".

Delivering the promises made to Conservative party members

Plight of Idlib's people



The failure of the ceasefire, and the ensuing tit-for-tat shelling between Turkish forces and Syrian government troops, have highlighted the intractability and sensitivity of the Syrian war's endgame.

forces in Syria – or, indeed, to the regime itself, which has proven adept at playing its allies against each other.

The reality is that international actors have almost perfected their ability to fight for diametrically opposed goals and agendas inside Syria, without significant clashes that risk a broader regional war. The skirmishes between the Syrian government and Turkish forces are unlikely to develop beyond that, with Syria's foreign minister declaring that the regime does not intend to do battle with Ankara.

The firepower will instead be directed at hospitals and civilians in the rest of Idlib, once again guaranteeing that only Syrian civilians

pay the price for the sins of the foreign powers that pretend to be their friends.

Finally, we are no closer to a solution that, at the very least, ends the fighting in Syria. If the regime proceeds with its planned military offensive, a course that it appears set on pursuing for the time being, a bloodbath and the worst humanitarian disaster of the war will follow.

But the status quo is also awful. Nearly 3 million people are living a destitute existence that could be shattered at any moment by warplanes, artillery or poison gas. They have nowhere else to go and are condemned to live under the totalitarianism of Hayat Tahrir Al Sham militants, who rule by force of arms, or the secular totalitarianism of the Assad regime across the frontlines.

There is no clear way out of this morass. The international community is exhausted by Syria, and has delegated peacemaking to regional and global powers, who are determined to act in their own perceived national security interests.

What Idlib has shown us with the on-again, off-again ceasefire is that Syrians will have no say in how the conflict is resolved, but will always be made to pay the price for it.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



I will never forget the shock I felt when I was told I was diabetic. But I will be forever grateful to all those who taught me how to manage my condition and reduce the impact it has on my life.

@theresa_may

02



The American people deserve freedom—true freedom. And you are not truly free when you graduate college with hundreds of thousands of dollars in student debt.

#CancelStudentDebt

@BernieSanders

03



Swami Satyamitranand Giri Ji epitomised spirituality and wisdom. He devoted his life towards empowering the poor, marginalised and downtrodden. He was extremely proud of India's rich history and culture. My tributes to this divine soul. Om Shanti.

@narendramodi

04



Today is the anniversary of the #Emergency declared in 1975. For the last five years, the country went through a 'Super Emergency'. We must learn our lessons from history and fight to safeguard the democratic institutions in the country

@MamataOfficial

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Wide Angle

International migration: Where are we going?



JOEL INDRUPATI

If you ask me, I would say that we were, we are, and we will always be migrants.

Over the centuries, man has always sought food for himself and his family and moved towards environs conducive for his search.

To farm and to fish, he stayed on river banks or lived in seaside towns and villages.

To trade and to earn, he led his caravans of camels across hot desert sands, or he caught the trade-winds in his boats' sails, and crisscrossed the high seas.

Even if he was rooted to his birthplace for generations, he often visited distant lands, for greater education or for wider experience.

When threatened by political power, when frustrated by military might, or when depressed by economic difficulties, in order to protect and provide for his family, man often left his roots, for greener pastures.

And, when he painfully realised, that grass is not as green on the other side as he thought it was, or when he understood that he had only seen a fleeting mirage, he just moved on. He still moves on.

But can we grudge him his desire to move? I don't.

These days – with fenced-or-walled-or-patrolled national borders, with multi-lateral immigration treaties, and with customs and immigration laws – it is just not 'legally' possible to move as freely as birds or animals do.

Today, it is only when a migrant worker fails to appreciate and accept the destination country's cultural and religious practices – and only when the migrant worker makes unreasonable demands from the

host country and threatens it with needless terror – that he might face resistance.

And, can we grudge the host country, its right to resist unreasonable entrants?

I don't think we can. But, the fact of the matter is that generalisations of religions, nationalities and cultures are subverting rational thinking in immigration policies.

I admit I do not have a strong power-point to bring down my gavel on the table now. But I am still inclined to share some statistics we cannot ignore.

A United Nations report, "Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision" gives us interesting data.

The number of international migrants – persons living in a country other than where they were born – reached 244 million in 2015 for the world as a whole.

It's a staggering 41 per cent increase compared to 2000, and the new figure includes 20 million refugees.

But, we can see that only 8 per cent of all migrants are refugees. Which means, that 92 per cent had changed countries, for real work -- which host countries had offered them.

Interestingly, the number of international migrants has grown faster than the world's population. "As a result, the share of migrants in the global population reached 3.3 per cent in 2015, up from 2.8 per cent in 2000."

International migration, therefore, is a reality we must learn to accept. And respect.

"India, has the largest diaspora in the world, followed by Mexico and Russia", the report says.

In 2015, 16 million people from India were living outside of their country, compared to 12 million from Mexico. Other countries with large diasporas included the Russian Federation, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Ukraine.

In 1970, there were only 70 million international migrants. Today, at 244 million, the rise is astounding.

The demand for knowledge workers and skilled labour, from overseas, rises when domestic supplies are in deficit. And some countries find it easier to import these, from abroad.

International migration is real, and it is rising rapidly. And countries which close their borders might do so at their own peril.