



SMRITI MANDHANA IS ICC WOMEN'S CRICKETER AND ODI PLAYER OF THE YEAR 19



MAYAWATI THREATENS TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT TO CONG IN MP & RAJ OVER SC/ST ACT 7

ANTONY: SONIA, RAHUL DIDN'T INTERFERE IN AGUSTAWESTLAND DEAL



This Dec was the chilliest in 13 yrs and colder than Jan

Also Clearest; Lowest Hrs Of Fog Since 1996

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New Delhi: For Delhiites, December is usually a milder prelude to the severe chill of January. But this season, peak winter didn't just arrive

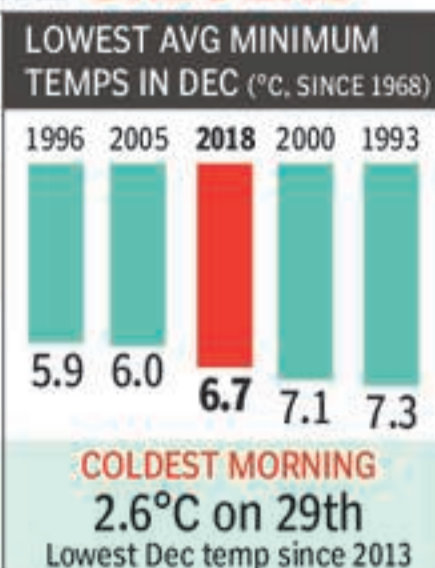
FULL COVERAGE: P 2

early, it has broken temperature records.

The December of 2018 was the coldest in 13 years and the third-coldest in the past 50 years in the capital. The month had six days of below 4 degrees C temperatures, the highest

WHY DELHI GOT THE SHIVERS

- 1 No western disturbances (WDS) since Dec 12, against normal of 4-5 in the month
- 2 WD brings moisture, rain. Its absence made conditions dry and cloudless
- 3 Less fog formed in low moisture, making for sunny days and clear nights
- 4 Clear nights are cold. Sustained northwesterly winds from mountains added to chill



Parking rates hiked in east to curb pollution

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation has temporarily quadrupled parking charges in keeping with a direction issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee. The increased rates for four-wheelers now vary between Rs 80 (for the first hour) and Rs 800 (20 hours). The south and north corporations are mulling a similar step. **P 5**

hest for December since 1973. Minimum temperatures have, in fact, remained below normal for 18 consecutive days (since December 13) now.

The major reason for the sustained chill was the absence of fog. This was the clearest

rest December in at least 22 years, with just 145 hours of fog (of all types) against a normal of 300 hours. The month had just two nights and a total of nine hours of dense fog while the normal is nine nights and 45 hours.

Just as unusually, the average minimum temperature of the month was 6.7 degrees C, lower than the average minimum of last January (7 degrees C). Thus, 2018 was a rare year when December was colder than January.

Triple talaq bill fails to get RS nod

The opposition and government clashed on Monday over the passage of the bill on triple talaq, preventing it from being taken up in the Rajya Sabha as non-NDA benches insisted that it be referred to a select committee. The House was adjourned for the day within the first hour in the post-lunch session as both sides traded charges on the issue. **P 12**

R-Day run-up to hit Delhi flights

Get ready for fewer flights and higher fares on flights to and from Delhi in the run-up to Republic Day from January 18. Over 800 flights are going to be hit, with most of them likely to be cancelled, due to airspace closure in Delhi for 1.5 hours between 10.45am and 12.15pm on seven days—January 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 26. **P 6**

Dealer thrashed, jailed Atiq shifted

Three officials of Deoriajail were suspended on Monday, days after real estate dealer Mohit Jaiswal filed an FIR that he was kidnapped from Lucknow and taken to the jail where he was assaulted by don Atiq Ahmad and his aides, who forced him to transfer his business to them. The don will be shifted to Bareilly district jail. **P 13**

Army foils Pak BAT, kills two

Two intruders who the Indian Army suspects were Pakistani soldiers were killed when the Army foiled a Pakistani border action team's (BAT) attempt to attack an Indian forward post along the LoC in Kashmir's Kupwara on Sunday. This was the Pakistan army's second bid to push intruders, the last time being in February. **P 7**

Cong: Ready for Rafale debate

Responding to Arun Jaitley's comment that Congress was "running away" from a discussion on the Rafale deal, the party said in the Lok Sabha on Monday that it was ready for a debate when the House opened on Wednesday. "Jaitleyji has thrown a challenge... we are ready for a debate on January 2," Congress leader M Kharge said. **P 12**

Lajpat Ngr-Mayur Vihar line opened

The 9.7km Lajpat Nagar to Mayur Vihar Pocket-1 section of Delhi Metro's Pink Line was opened to commuters on Monday, shrinking the distance between south and east Delhi from over 35 minutes to less than 15. However, the 1.4km missing link from Mayur Vihar Pocket-1 to Trilokpur remains a sore point. **P 4**

WELCOME 2019



Sydney put on its biggest-ever fireworks display in a spectacular welcome to the New Year, kicking off a wave of celebrations for billions around the world. Sydney is also where the Indian cricket team will be chasing history as it seeks to clinch its first-ever series win in Australia in a Test that begins on January 3 | **P 5, 10 & 16**

34 years on, Sajjan finally goes to jail

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New Delhi: Complying with the December 31 deadline, former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar on Monday surrendered before a Delhi court to serve the life sentence awarded to him by the Delhi high court in connection with a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case.

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Kumar (73) reached the court at 2.18pm following the surrender of former MLAs Kishan Khokhar and Mahender Yadav, who were also convicted in the same case. The two MLAs will serve 10-year jail terms. Kumar was sent to Mandoli Jail in northeast Delhi.

Hasina gets 3rd straight term as Awami League wins 288 of 300 seats

Dhaka: Bangladesh's ruling alliance won virtually every parliamentary seat in the country's general election, according to official results released Monday, giving PM Sheikh Hasina a third straight term despite allegations of intimidation and the opposition's



FULL COVERAGE: P 8
► Most one-sided votes in recent history, P 8

tion disputing the outcome.

The coalition led by Hasina's Awami League party won 288 out of 300 seats, or 96%, in Sunday's polls. The opposition alliance led by lawyer Kamal Hossain won only seven seats. The opposition rejected the outcome, with Hossain calling the election "farfetched" and demanding a new one be held under the authority of a "nonpartisan government". But chief election commissioner K M Nurul Huda ruled out any re-vote, saying there were no reports of irregularities.

With Hasina's thumping win, India plans to continue investing in Bangladesh to build on the growing economy of its neighbour and make it the linchpin of India's Act East policy. AGENCIES

Victorious debut for ODI skipper Mortaza

Bangladesh ODI captain Mashrafe Mortaza, 35, has become the first active cricketer in the country to be elected as a lawmaker. The Awami League candidate for Narail-2 constituency got 2.7 lakh votes — 96% of votes cast — while the Jatiya Oikya Front alliance nominee managed barely 8,000. **P 8**

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Bad loans now shrinking: RBI

The RBI has said that the ratio of bad loans has improved from last year and is expected to further decline in March 2019's financial results. In its biannual financial stability report released on Monday, the RBI said the gross non-performing assets ratio of banks declined to 10.8% in September 2018 from 11.5% in March 2018. **P 17**

13-mth low in core sector growth

Core sector growth slowed to a 13-month low of 3.5% in November against the previous month's 4.8% expansion and 6.9% growth in November 2017. Growth was dragged down by the crude oil, fertiliser and natural gas segments. However, cumulative growth of 5.1% in April-November was higher than the 3.9% in the same year-ago period. **P 17**

Price cut for LPG cylinders, petrol

Subsidised cooking gas refill became cheaper by Rs 120.5 from Tuesday and petrol prices touched a year's low of Rs 68.84 a litre in Delhi. Since cooking gas refills are subsidised by the government, the effective price for consumers will fall by Rs 5.91 per cylinder, to Rs 494.99 in January 2019. **P 10**

New GST rates kick in today

The Centre has notified revised GST rates effective from January 1 that will alter rates for air travel, third-party insurance, leasing and rental of goods and cost of cinema tickets. The notification gives effect to the decisions taken at the last meet of the GST Council, which met after the recent polls.

City youths hooked to new forms of marijuana

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: City youths have started consuming the latest forms of marijuana — Weed Wax and Shatter — which are a rage among teenagers in Western countries. And the youths are willing to shell out 50 times more than the normal price for a weed pack.

The revelations came after the crime branch busted a dark web-based drug cartel

FULL COVERAGE: P 3

and arrested two youths. Apart from seizing imported marijuana, police recovered 76 cartridges of marijuana THC distillate and 50 grams of marijuana wax. Additional commissioner (crime) Rajiv Ranjan confirmed the development. Police have now formed a special team, led by ACP Arvind, to bust the drug racket. They have taken custody of accused Sahil and Rhythm for 10 days to get more information about the cartel. In 2018, marijuana emerged the drug of choice for the capital's youths.

EXPENSIVE PUFF

► Crime branch busted a dark web-based drug cartel and found that two new forms of marijuana — Weed Wax and Shatter — are becoming popular among youths

► Police seized 76 distillate cartridges of marijuana THC and 50 gram of marijuana wax

► While a pack of Indian weed costs ₹50-100, the new weed is sold for ₹2,000-3,000/gm

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