



Nirav Modi, wanted in India on fraud charges, remanded by U.K. court

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China says provoking trade disputes is “naked economic terrorism”

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Stokes' all-round show helps England trounce South Africa

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NEARBY



I'm being unfairly singled out, says Navjot Sidhu

CHANDIGARH

At the receiving end of Punjab Chief Minister and Congress leader Amarinder Singh's criticism after the Lok Sabha poll results, State Local Bodies Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Thursday said he was being unfairly singled out in the name of poor performance of his department. Mr. Sidhu said the Ministry had worked in the most transparent manner.

NEWS • PAGE 12

U.P. invites bids for Jewar airport

NEW DELHI

The proposed Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh, which will serve as a second airport for the National Capital Region, is expected to begin operations from 2023 with a capacity to handle 1.2 crore passengers annually, stated a tender document floated by the State government on Thursday. The airport, to be known as Noida International Airport, will be developed in four phases at a cost of ₹30,000 crore on 1,300 hectares of land.

CITY • PAGE 3

Trinamool's cultural wing to take on the RSS

NAIHATI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced the setting up of socio-cultural wings of the party on the lines of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. “If they [BJP] can associate with the RSS, I will create Jai Hind Bahini to counter the RSS,” Ms. Banerjee said, announcing that there would be uniform and identity cards for members of these cultural organisations.

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FRIDAY REVIEW • 8 PAGES
(TABLOID)

Modi takes oath with 57 Ministers at glittering event

■ Amit Shah, former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar inducted

■ Over 20 Ministers dropped, including those who lost polls

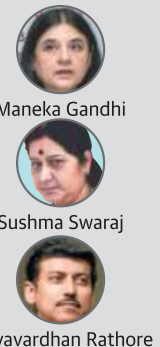
■ After Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj also opts out of the government

■ Offered only one berth, Nitish Kumar's JD(U) stays away

Cabinet Ministers



Not inducted



NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with 57 Ministers, took the oath of office at a grand swearing-in ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday.

The size of the event, however, was not the only thing that made news, with BJP president Amit Shah finally deciding to join the Union government, and former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar making a surprise entry into the Cabinet, among the top 10 Ministers.

The drama of the event was not restricted to those who did not make the cut from the last government – almost 22 Ministers have been dropped, including those who lost the election this time.

The Janata Dal (United), a constituent of the NDA, hogged the limelight, ironically, by keeping away because Bihar Chief Minister and party president Nitish Kumar demanded more berths than the single one being offered to every ally.

Prominent exclusions

The government formation was significant as much for those who took the oath as

those excluded. The news that former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj would not join the Union Cabinet was not apparent till she arrived for the ceremony and proceeded to occupy a front row seat among the guests.

Sources in the government said she had “opted out” and linked it to her decision – announced during the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election – that she would not contest in the Lok Sabha election.

Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley also opted out on Wednesday, citing health reasons.

Other notable exclusions were former Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh, former Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi, former Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu, former Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore, and former Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha.

Anupriya Patel, another ally of the NDA, was also dropped, with no reason given, though she won her Lok Sabha seat.

However, Republican Party of India's Ramdas Atha-

wale was accommodated without a single seat.

For party president

The most interesting exclusion was that of former Health Minister J.P. Nadda, who is tipped to be the next BJP president since Mr. Shah has joined the government. Fresh elections to the post are due later this year, and will be an interesting political event to watch out for.

The BJP practises a strict adherence to the one-man, one-post rule, but sources confirm that Mr. Shah may continue in both the Ministry and as party president till later in the year when his tenure (which was extended to cover the Lok Sabha election) ends and the inter-party process of election concludes.

In all, the Council of Ministers saw representation from 22 States, and an attempt to balance caste and regional equations.

Tribal, minority and backward and upper caste representation found a place in the coveted list.

MINISTRY BEARS FIRM STAMP OF MODI • PAGE 13

S. JAISHANKAR, A POLICY WOKN AMONG POLITICIANS • PAGE 13



Perfect backdrop: Around 8,000 guests attended the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Hush as Sushma enters venue

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

As Ministers of the previous Cabinet walked into the forecourt, it was still unclear how many of them would be retained in the new Modi team.

The most prominent to be dropped was External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, and there was a hush as she walked into the forecourt and greeted the leaders gathered there.

It was only once Ms. Swaraj took her place next to former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's wife Sangeeta, who attended in lieu of her ailing husband, and veteran leaders L.K. Advani and Murlidhar Manohar Joshi, that it became clear that Ms. Swaraj would not be taking the oath.

The most cheering from the crowd was reserved for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Smriti Irani.

CELEBRITIES, HONCHOS, STARS STEAL THE SHOW • PAGE 13
THANKS MODI • PAGE 13



Laying out priorities: Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy speaking after he was sworn in on Thursday. ■ CH.VIJAYA BHASKAR

In his first order, Jagan hikes old age pension

Andhra Pradesh CM vows to end graft

G. VENKATARAMANA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy increased the pension for the elderly from the current ₹2,000 a month to ₹3,000 in phases over four years.

This is the first file he signed after being sworn in as Chief Minister a little after noon at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium here on Thursday.

Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan administered the oath to Mr. Reddy.

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Rao and DMK president M.K. Stalin attended the ceremony.

Speaking to the newly elected YSR Congress Party MLAs, MPs, activists and sympathisers after being sworn in, Mr. Reddy said the implementation of the ‘Nav-

aratnas’ – nine welfare measures promised in the party manifesto – was the top priority of his government.

He said parties should go for the next election on the basis of how election promises were honoured.

Jobless to be hired

As part of the implementation of the ‘Navaratnas’, Mr. Reddy announced that four lakh jobless youth would be recruited as volunteers to door deliver the benefits of these schemes by August 15.

One volunteer would be hired for every 50 households, and they would be paid ₹5,000 a month until they got a better job, he said.

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MNCs PLAN TO RETURN TO ANDHRA PRADESH • PAGE 8

Give fair hearing to those not included in NRC, SC tells Assam

Do not cut short the process, CJI tells Hajela

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday urged Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) Coordinator Prateek Hajela to ensure that those who have appealed against non-inclusion of their names in the NRC must get a fair hearing, and due process must be followed.

Indirectly referring to reports of a Kargil war veteran being declared a foreigner,



Prateek Hajela

the Vacation Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Aniruddha Bose said the reports were “disturbing and the media is not always incorrect”.

“Do not cut short the pro-

cess just because you have to meet the deadline of July 31,” Justice Gogoi told Mr. Hajela. But the court reiterated its stand that the publication of the final list should not go beyond July 31.

There would be no extension of the deadline, the CJI said.

“There is a deadline. But do not cut short and just complete the process only to complete it. Merely disposing of 70% claims till today is not good unless the disposal is properly done,” he observed.

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Back at work after six days, Rahul calls on Sharad Pawar

Cong.-NCP merger not discussed, say sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After keeping away from political meetings for six days, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday called on Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's residence to discuss the political situation.

Though the meeting led to speculation about a possible merger of the NCP and the Congress, a source close



Rahul Gandhi

to Mr. Pawar categorically denied it.

“It never came up for discussion,” the source said and added the two leaders analysed the Lok Sabha election results at the meeting that

went on for over an hour.

The two leaders are said to have agreed that the Opposition parties need to focus on the key States that go to the polls later this year, including Maharashtra.

After insisting on stepping down as party chief and refusing to meet any party leader, Mr. Gandhi drove down to Mr. Pawar's residence. “Mr. Pawar got the impression that Mr. Gandhi will continue for now,” said the NCP source.

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CONG. NOT TO SEND SPOKESPERSONS • PAGE 12

Every day, four Delhiites die in road accidents

Figures until May 15 show a dip in the death toll from 656 last year to 551

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

This year, Delhi witnessed four deaths daily on average because of road accidents. Nearly half of these deaths – 44% – were hit-and-run cases, suggests the accident analysis report of Delhi Traffic Police with figures updated until May 15.

The numbers are down from last year though. In 2018, 637 fatal accidents and 656 deaths were reported in the city until May 15. “Over the same period this year, 534 fatal accidents that claimed 551 lives have been reported. The data include

all categories of vehicles, including two-wheelers,” said a traffic police officer.

“We have noted a 16% fall in the total number of accidents reported in the city,” said Meenu Choudhary, Joint CP, Traffic (Operations).

Biggest killers

The biggest killers on the road were private cars followed by goods vehicles, causing 95 and 63 deaths respectively. Two-wheelers came next, responsible for a total of 50 deaths.

E-rickshaws re-entered the list: they killed two persons this year as opposed to

none earlier. “We are planning a major drive to check reckless driving by e-rickshaw drivers. Unauthorised stoppages by these drivers cause traffic jams and often lead to minor accidents. We keep issuing challans but need to do more since the number of e-rickshaws is growing rapidly in the city,” said the officer.

Buses of all shades were another major culprit, claiming 36 lives. DTC bus-linked fatalities are up 125%, those involving cluster buses 44% and deaths due to accidents involving private buses have risen by 25%, says the re-

port. School buses, responsible for the death of eight persons between January 1 and May 15 last year, have kept a clean slate so far this year.

“In most of the accidents reported from across the city, the victims were pedestrians. We keep fining drivers for violating traffic rules. Till March, we have issued 5,91,455 challans,” said the traffic police officer.

“To regulate traffic and safety of commuters, we are working on a four-pronged strategy – regulation, prosecution, road engineering solutions and road safety campaigns,” said Ms. Choudhary.

J&J offers ₹25 lakh to all patients for faulty implant

67 people will benefit, Delhi HC told

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

U.S. multinational Johnson & Johnson (J&J) on Thursday informed the Delhi High Court that it was ready to voluntarily pay ₹25 lakh each to 67 patients who have undergone revision surgeries on receiving faulty hip implants made by the company.

J&J is embroiled in a legal battle with the government over the issue of compensation to those patients who had received faulty Articular Surface Replacement

(ASR) hip implants, which forced them to undergo revision surgeries.

Around 93,000 people worldwide were implanted with ASR, of which around 4,700 patients are from India.

The implants were recalled by the company in August 2010 after the number of serious adverse reactions grew in India and across the world.

The 67 patients would be receiving the cheque within two weeks.

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