



Rahul Gandhi raises problems of farmers with Kerala CM

Page 8



Assange undergoing 'psychological torture', says UN investigator

Page 14

PLAYING TODAY

New Zealand vs Sri Lanka
CARDIFF, 3 P.M.

Afghanistan vs Australia
BRISTOL, 6 P.M.

Live on STAR Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD) & STAR Sports 3

Thomas, Russell and Gayle help West Indies crush Pakistan

Page 17



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NEARBY



Mercury rises to season high of 44.8°C in Capital

NEW DELHI
The Capital on Friday recorded a maximum temperature of 44.8 degrees Celsius, four degrees above normal for the season under the influence of a heatwave. The temperature is likely to touch 46-47°C in some parts over the next 48 hours, according to the Met office. Over the next five days, hot winds carrying dust are also likely to blow over the city.

CITY > PAGE 2

Admiral Karambir Singh takes over as Navy chief

NEW DELHI
Admiral Karambir Singh on Friday assumed office as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff. He took over from Admiral Sunil Lanba who stepped down upon retirement. Admiral Singh was the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Visakhapatnam.

NATION > PAGE 9

Amit Shah gets Home in new Cabinet

■ Nirmala is new Finance Minister, Rajnath Singh moved to Defence ■ Nitin Gadhari and Ravi Shankar Prasad retain their portfolios ■ S. Jaishankar is MEA, joins Cabinet Committee on Security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The contours of the new Modi government were clear after portfolios were announced for the Union Council of Ministers, with BJP national president Amit Shah being allotted the Home Ministry and former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar being made the External Affairs Minister. Both new faces immediately also became members of the Cabinet Committee on Security, the most powerful Cabinet sub-committee.

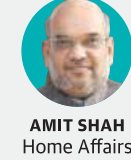
Former Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be the new Finance Minister and former Home Minister Rajnath Singh will take over as the Defence Minister.

Change at the top
Prime Minister Modi has made bold changes in the top four Ministries that form the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), with Mr. Jaishankar being the biggest gainer, having joined the government as a Cabinet Minister and inducted straight in-

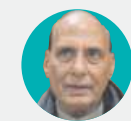
Big league 2.0

The portfolios of 24 Cabinet Ministers were announced through a communique issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday. A look at who got what:

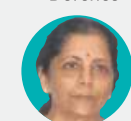
NARENDRA MODI: Prime Minister; Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; & all other portfolios not allocated to any minister



AMIT SHAH
Home Affairs



RAJNATH SINGH
Defence



N. SITHARAMAN
Finance and Corporate Affairs

S. Jaishankar: External Affairs | **Nitin Gadhari:** Road Transport and Highways & Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises | **Ravi Shankar Prasad:** Law and Justice; Communications & Electronics and Information Technology | **Piyush Goyal:** Railways & Commerce and Industry | **Prakash Javadekar:** Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Information and Broadcasting | **Ramesh Pokhriyal:** Human Resource Development | **Smriti Irani:** Women and Child Development & Textiles | **Harsh Vardhan:** Health and Family Welfare; Science and Technology & Earth Sciences | **Ram Vilas Paswan:** Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution | **D.V. Sadananda Gowda:** Chemicals and Fertilizers | **Narendra Singh Tomar:** Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Rural Development & Panchayati Raj | **Harsimrat Kaur Badal:** Food Processing Industries | **Thaavara Chand Gehlot:** Social Justice and Empowerment | **Arjun Munda:** Tribal Affairs | **Dharmendra Pradhan:** Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel | **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi:** Minority Affairs | **Prahalad Joshi:** Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines | **Mahendra Nath Pandey:** Skill Development and Entrepreneurship | **Arvind Sawant:** Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise | **Giriraj Singh:** Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries | **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat:** Jal Shakti

to the CCS. However, many other Ministers have retained their portfolios from the first Modi government, with some being given additional departments.

Senior Minister Nitin Gadhari continues as the Minis-

ter of Road Transport and Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Ravi Shankar Prasad stays on as the Law Minister, along with Information Technology and Telecommunications.

Railway Minister Piyush

Goyal retains charge of the Ministry with the addition of Commerce, which was earlier held by Suresh Prabhu who has been dropped. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan retains the crucial portfolio and has been

given the additional responsibility of Steel.

Giant killer Smriti Irani, who defeated Congress president Rahul Gandhi in Amethi and was expected to be moved up in the hierarchy, continues with her old portfolio of Textiles, along with Women and Child Development, formerly held by Maneka Gandhi.

New Ministry

One of the major gainers among Cabinet Ministers was former Minister of State for Agriculture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who will head the newly created "Jal Shakti" Ministry. Mr. Modi had said at the BJP's manifesto launch in April that the Ministry would be a priority area for the new government. The Agriculture portfolio has been allotted to Narendra Singh Tomar, along with his old portfolios of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

ALLIES RETAIN PORTFOLIOS IN NEW CABINET > PAGE 13
SANITATION SIDELINED IN REJIG OF MINISTRIES > PAGE 13

Scholarship for wards of defence personnel hiked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved changes to the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme for wards of deceased defence personnel under the National Defence Fund – his first decision on assuming office, a statement from the PMO said on Friday.

This was "in line with the Prime Minister's vision for India's safety, security and the well-being of those who

protect the nation..." the PMO statement read.

Police too covered
Mr. Modi approved the increase from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500 a month for boys and from ₹2,250 to ₹3,000 a month for girls.

The ambit of the scheme was also widened to cover the wards of State police officials martyred in terror or Naxal attacks.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 12

India lifts curbs on airspace

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

There is relief likely for thousands of air travellers affected due to the closure of Pakistan airspace as India lifted curbs on use of its skies on Friday.

"The ball is now in Pakistan's court. Most likely they will also open up," a senior official said on the condition of anonymity.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 12

Sri Lanka eager to welcome PM Modi: President Sirisena

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the first major foreign dignitary to visit Sri Lanka following the Easter Sunday bombings, announced President Maithripala Sirisena here on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, the Sri Lankan leader sought a joint front to defeat terrorism and announced the date of the national election. "Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi will visit Sri Lanka on June 9. Sri Lanka has recovered from painful terror attacks. We have maintained peace and stability in the country in the aftermath of the Easter bombings," said President Sirisena, urging regional and global strategies to defeat terrorism.

Likely to visit Maldives
According to available information, Mr. Modi is expected to travel to Maldives in

the first week of June and Mr. Sirisena confirmed that Sri Lanka will be the second foreign destination of the Indian leader.

"We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming Prime Minister Modi," he said. He thanked India for supporting Sri Lankan investigations into the Easter suicide attacks and urged for a global fight against terrorism.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 12

Spate of murders in U.P. after Lok Sabha poll results

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW/GHAZIABAD

A Samajwadi Party leader was shot dead in Jaunpur by bike-borne assailants in broad daylight on Friday while another was killed outside his house in the Dadri

area of Gautam Buddha Nagar a few hours later, adding to the list of murders of people linked to political parties in Uttar Pradesh after the 2019 Lok Sabha election results.

Lalji Yadav, 45, was shot around 9.30 a.m. by masked

men while his SUV was parked near the Sarai Khwaja police station on his way to Jaunpur city. He was declared dead at a local hospital.

On Friday afternoon Ramtek Kataria, president of the SP's Dadri unit, was shot

dead outside his house. Vinit Jaiswal, SP (Rural) G.B. Nagar, said prima facie it appears to be a case of family rivalry.

Several other such incidents have been reported since May 23. On Tuesday, a

BSP leader, Haji Ehsan, and his nephew were shot dead in Najibabad town of Bijnor district. Also, in a separate incident, former SP MP from Bulandshahr Kamlesh Valmiki was found dead at his residence in Kurja on Monday.

Below normal rainfall likely in northwest, northeast, says IMD

Normal monsoon expected over rest of India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A week before the onset of the southwest monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a "normal" rainy season, with the country as a whole set to receive 96% of the long period average (LPA) rainfall.

However, northwest India will get 94% of the average, while the northeast will only receive 91% of average rainfall, putting both these regions in the "below normal" category.

Issuing its second stage long range forecast on Friday, the IMD said the 2019 monsoon is likely to reach the Kerala coast by June 6.

The IMD seemed to allay fears of the El Nino phenomenon playing havoc with the summer's rainfall, although it noted that "the current weak El Nino conditions may continue during the monsoon season with reduced intensity".

During a "normal" monsoon, the country gets 96%



Thick clouds hovering over Bengaluru.

• V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

to 104% of the LPA. The forecast probability of rainfall falling within this range was 41%, said the IMD statement.

If the total rainfall is between 90% and 96% of the LPA, it falls in the "below normal" category.

Regionwise, the season's rainfall is likely to be 94% of the LPA over northwest India, 100% over central India, 97% over south Peninsula, and 91% over northeast India, all with a model error of ± 8%, it said.

GDP growth slumps to 5.8%

Unemployment rate at 45-year high



YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

India's GDP grew at 5.8% in the January-March 2019 quarter, dragging down the full year growth to a five-year low of 6.8%. The unemployment rate in the country rose to a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18, as per official data released on the first day of the second term of the Modi government.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said the slowdown, caused by temporary factors such as liquidity crunch, is likely to continue in the April-June 2019 quarter, with the demand picking up from the second quarter onwards.

'Temporary factors'

"Slowdown in the fourth quarter GDP was due to temporary factors, like stress in the NBFC sector affecting consumption finance. The first quarter of the current fiscal will also see relatively slower growth. From the second quarter onwards, we expect the growth and consumption to pick up," Mr. Garg said.

Asked about India losing the fastest growing nation tag to China with a quarterly growth of 5.8%, Mr. Garg, who is also the Finance Se-

cretary, said, "Quarterly numbers don't matter... it is basically annual growth... At 6.8% annual growth, India is still the fastest growing nation... China is still lower."

During the year, the slowdown in the economy was led by sluggish growth in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (2.9% growth), the mining sector (1.3% growth) and in manufacturing (6.9%).

The sectors which saw growth rate of over 7% were public administration, defence and other services, construction, financial, real estate and professional services, and electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services.

The unemployment data, which was released a day after Prime Narendra Modi took oath for the second term, confirms an earlier leaked version of this survey that claimed that joblessness was at a 45-year high.

"It is a new design and a new matrix. It would be unfair to compare it with the past. This 45-year high is your interpretation. I don't want to claim that it is 45-year low or high," Statistics Secretary Pravin Srivastava told the media.

FISCAL DEFICIT IS AT 3.39% OF THE GDP > PAGE 15