



Toll in Bengal violence rises to six: Centre sends advisory

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Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) to go it alone in four Assembly elections

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Assailants open fire at TV crew at Barapullah

NEW DELHI
 In a suspected attempt-to-robbery case, bike-borne assailants opened fire at a TV news channel crew on the way to an assignment at the Barapullah flyover in south Delhi on Sunday morning. Three policemen have been suspended for ignoring the complaint of the victims, said an officer.

NATION PAGE 9

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EDGE PAGE 4

Terrorism is a joint threat: PM

India, Sri Lanka call for collective and focussed action to counter the problem

MEERA SRINIVASAN
 COLOMBO

In a visit spanning barely five hours, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held discussions with Sri Lanka's top leadership - both in the government and the Opposition - in a string of short meetings here on Sunday.

The focus at most of the interactions, sources said, was cooperation in economic initiatives and countering terrorism.

'Immensely fruitful'

Even as he wound up his 'solidarity visit', Mr. Modi tweeted that he had a "short but immensely fruitful" visit to the island.

Mr. Modi, who was here on President Maithripala Sirisena's invitation, is the first foreign head of state to visit the island, after the Easter terror attacks that killed over



PM Modi, with Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith (left) and Ranil Wickremesinghe (right), pays homage to the victims of the Easter attacks at St. Anthony's Church in Colombo. ■ AFP

250 people. The Indian Prime Minister visited St. Anthony's Church here and paid respects to those who died in the April 21 bombings.

"Since both Sri Lanka and India have been victims of terrorism, both leaders con-

demned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and decided to step up cooperation in this critical area," a statement from Mr. Sirisena's media division said.

On his meeting with Mr. Sirisena, Mr. Modi said it was their second meeting in 10

days. "President Sirisena and I agreed that terrorism is a joint threat that needs collective and focussed action. Reiterated India's commitment to partner with Sri Lanka for a shared, secure and prosperous future," he said in a tweet.

After Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe received his Indian counterpart at the Bandaranaike International Airport, Mr. Sirisena accorded him a ceremonial welcome, with a guard of honour and a 19-gun salute.

Mr. Sirisena escorted Mr. Modi in, holding an umbrella for him as sudden showers struck Colombo. He threw a special banquet for his guest and presented him with a replica of the 'Samadhi Buddha Statue', hand-carved in white teak.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Draft NEP proposes formal education from age of three

'RTE to cover three years of preschool before class 1'

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
 NEW DELHI

All Indian children could soon enter the formal education system at the age of three, with the draft National Education Policy projecting an expansion of the Right To Education Act to cover the three years of preschool before Class 1.

The draft policy also wants early childhood education to be overseen and regulated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) as part of the school system, rather than the private pre-schools and anganwadis that currently cater to the age group of 3-6.

This could result in an upheaval in the anganwadi system which has been overseen by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) for more than four decades.

An inter-ministerial task force will work out a roadmap for the transition by the

Fresh focus Key differences between the existing system and the NEP recommendations

Current system	Draft policy recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTE covers Class 1 to Class 8 Anganwadis, preschools cover 3 to 6 age group Focus on health and nutrition in anganwadis Rote learning, formal teaching in preschools WCD Ministry oversees anganwadi system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTE from preschool (age 3 onwards) till Class 12 Integrated primary school framework from age 3 to 8 Anganwadis, preschools to be linked to local primary schools Focus on play and discovery-based learning MHRD to oversee educational aspects

end of 2019, says the draft policy.

Assessing implications

The HRD Ministry is in the early stages of assessing the implications. Additional costs will come in the form of teacher recruitment and training, infrastructure and learning materials, as well as nutritional aspects (including the plan to provide

breakfast to children), said Ministry officials. The Ministry does not have accurate data on what percentage of children are neither in pre-schools nor in anganwadis. Given that the WCD Ministry has been in charge of this for over 40 years, it's not clear if it would be willing to give it up, said one official.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Clinical India prevails in a high-scoring affair

Bolstered by Dhawan's 117 and a steady attack, Kohli's men overcome the Aussie challenge

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
 LONDON

India continued its winning run in the World Cup with a 36-run triumph over Australia at the Oval here on Sunday.

Virat Kohli's men registered their second successive win through an effort that rode on batting superiority amplified by some restrictive bowling later in the day.

India accumulated 352 for five in 50 overs, largely thanks to Shikhar Dhawan's excellent 117, and then bowled out Australia for 316.

The defending champion briefly rode on the efforts of David Warner (56) and Steve Smith (69), but they eventually proved inadequate.

In the match's pre-lunch session, India cruised high

after Kohli preferred to take first strike.

Led by opener Dhawan's century and ably aided by a superb support cast of Rohit Sharma (57), Kohli (82), Hardik Pandya (48), M.S. Dhoni and K.L. Rahul, India kept shifting to the higher gears all through its batting stint, much to the delight of a packed venue with its overwhelming presence of Indian fans.

The batting carnival, with some vociferous support from the stands, had the regular highlights of towering sixes and punchy fours, while the Aussies seemed resigned to their fate.

MAMMOTH TOTAL PROVES TOO MUCH FOR AUSTRALIA PAGE 17

GLOVES SANS INSIGNIA PAGE 17



Chic show: Shikhar Dhawan celebrates his century en route to India's formidable 352 for five against Australia at the Oval on Sunday. ■ HENRY BROWNE/GETTY IMAGES

2 more scribes arrested for 'defaming' Yogi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

Nation Live channel head Ishika Singh and editor Anuj Shukla were on Sunday remanded in 14-day judicial

custody for allegedly broadcasting defamatory content against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

They were arrested on Saturday. Prashant Kanojia, a

freelance journalist, was also arrested for uploading a related video. The Editors Guild of India has condemned the action.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Two Chinese nationals among three killed in boiler explosion

Incident happened during repair work



Fire department personnel at the Nuh plant. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 GURUGRAM

Three persons, including two Chinese nationals, died when a boiler exploded at an animal feed manufacturing unit in Nuh, about 40 km from Gurugram, on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as senior engineer Jhin Jhin Yang, production engineer Jhang Yang and Vicky Rajput, an operator. Vicky was a resident of Sohna in Gurugram.

Nuh SP Sangeeta Kalia said the incident took place around 3:30 p.m. when the boiler in Pusilin Biotechnology exploded during repair. "Vicky was carrying out some welding work to repair the boiler and the two Chinese nationals were standing close to him when the boiler exploded, causing a fire. All three were engulfed in flames and died

on the spot," she said.

The company, which manufactures and trades in animal and poultry feed, was set up in 2017.

Ms. Kalia said preliminary investigation suggested the incident was caused due to lack of proper maintenance of the boiler and the police were trying to contact the management.

"A case will be registered against the management in this connection. We are trying to procure documents from them about the periodic maintenance of the boiler," she said.

Five fire tenders from Nuh and Sohna were sent to put out the fire. Locals claimed that the fire tenders took 30 minutes to reach the spot.

The bodies were pulled out after the fire was doused and sent to Shahid Hasan Khan Medical College for post-mortem.

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