



**Saudi Crown Prince linked to Khashoggi murder: UN official**

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**HDFC ERGO snaps up Apollo Munich Health for ₹1,347 crore**

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**Injured Dhawan ruled out, Pant drafted into the squad**

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## NEARBY



### DU to release first cut-off list on June 28

**NEW DELHI**  
Delhi University on Wednesday announced a revised cut-off schedule for admissions to merit-based undergraduate courses. The first cut-off list will now be released on June 28 and students will have to get their documents verified between June 28 and July 1, the university said. The second list will be announced on July 4.

CITY PAGE 3

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### Oppn. slams U.P. gov't's ordinance on varsities

**LUCKNOW**  
The draft ordinance to ban use of campuses of private universities in Uttar Pradesh for "anti-national activity" has not gone down well with the Opposition, with the Congress saying that the move smacks of "foisting RSS ideology on educational institutions".

NORTH PAGE 7

### Car bomb used to target Army patrol vehicle: NIA

**NEW DELHI**  
A Maruti 800 car is suspected to have been used in Monday's terror attack on an Army patrol vehicle on the Aihal-Pulwama road in South Kashmir, initial probe suggests. An improvised explosive device packed in a car parked by the road was detonated when a mobile patrol vehicle of the 44 Rashtriya Rifles passed by.

NEWS PAGE 13

# Panel will study the '1 nation, 1 poll' issue

11 parties, including Congress, DMK, BSP, Trinamool Congress and AAP, skip four-hour meeting

**SOBHANA K NAIR  
SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI**

A committee will be formed by the Narendra Modi-led government to prepare a road map for "One nation, one election", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced here at the end of an over four-hour meeting with presidents of 21 political parties. Eleven political parties, including the Congress, skipped the meeting convened by the Prime Minister. Speaking to reporters at the end of the meeting, Mr. Singh said: "Majority of the parties supported. CPI and CPI(M) raised questions about its feasibility but didn't oppose the move. The Prime Minister then said he



**Mapping the mood:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and other Ministers after the all-party meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

will form a committee regarding this issue." All the political parties were given the opportunity to put forth their views, after which Mr. Modi spoke in support of the idea. "The Prime Minister said that this is not the government's agenda but

the country's agenda. If there are differences of opinion, they are welcome," Mr. Singh quoted the Prime Minister as saying. Sources said Mr. Modi stressed that this formula needs to be accepted even if it takes 10 years to achieve

synchronisation.

Other than the Congress, the notable absentees included the Trinamool Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal, among others. The AIADMK sent Tamil Nadu Minister C.V. Shanmugam and Rajya Sabha MP Navaneethakrishnan, both of whom were denied entry since the meeting was only open to the party chiefs. They submitted in writing the AIADMK's position on the issue. Among the NDA allies, the Shiv Sena was missing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## RS bypolls: SC seeks EC reply on petition

**STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the response of the Election Commission of India (EC) on a petition challenging its decision to hold separate bypolls for two Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat. The seats fell vacant on the election of BJP president Amit Shah and Union Minister Smriti Irani to the Lok Sabha.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# PM's panel rejects former CEA's paper on GDP growth

'Lacks rigour, won't stand up to scrutiny'

## Numbers don't add up

The PM's Economic Advisory Council has rejected Arvind Subramanian's claims made in his research paper:

### SUBRAMANIAN'S PAPER

- Analysis of 17 indicators suggests that GDP growth between 2011-17 was overestimated
- Analysis of tax data not included because changes in the law have rendered their relationship with the GDP unstable
- National income accounting and the methodology of the new series must be reviewed

### PMEAC'S REPLY

- The 17 indicators look at only the industry, whereas nearly 80% of GDP (services & agriculture) were not included
- Tax revenue is hard data, not the product of surveys or estimates. Major changes in law (GST) happened after the period under review
- The methodology of the new series is in line with a transparent and well-managed economy

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) has released a detailed note enumerating its objections to former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian's paper on India's GDP growth. The note said that Mr. Subramanian's paper "lacks rigour" and would not stand up to academic scrutiny.

### Low GDP

The paper, released in Harvard University, postulated that the GDP growth between 2011-17 was significantly lower than the 7% shown by the official figures. "Having closely read the paper and taking into account all information available until June 19, 2019, the primary contributors of this note reject the author's methodology, arguments and conclusions in the said paper," the note by the PMEAC said. "A critique of official GDP estimates must specifically critique cover-

age or methodology, the author does neither."

"Given the fact that his paper lacks rigour in terms of specific data sources and description, alternative hypothesis, rationale of equation specifications, use of dummies, and robustness-check diagnostics of estimated equations, and choice of countries in the sample and a specific list, it would not stand the scrutiny of academic or policy research standards," the note added.

The Council, however, said this did not mean that the paper should not be taken seriously, but that "to believe it as gospel truth is equally problematic."

In a detailed rejoinder, it said the 17 indicators "cherry-picked" by the former CEA were sourced from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), which was not in itself a primary source of information.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## A cry for water



**Pot of woe:** Women staging a protest with empty pots in front of the Coimbatore Corporation on Wednesday to highlight the acute shortage of water. The protest was organised by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. ■ M. PERIASAMY

## Muzaffarpur AES death toll mounts to 115

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUZAFFARPUR/PATNA**

The death toll due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) rose to 115 in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Wednesday, as a Public Interest Litigation was filed in the Patna High Court urging it to direct the State government to take adequate action to contain the outbreak.

The deaths took place at the Shri Krishna Medical College and Hospital where 138 children were still undergoing treatment.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday also agreed to hear a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to urgently constitute a team of medical experts for the treatment of the children suffering from AES in Bihar.

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

# HC raps police for 'brutality' in tempo incident

Asks for identification of all cops involved in assault on driver, minor son

**SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI**

Video clips of policemen dragging and assaulting a 15-year-old boy and his father, a tempo driver, in broad daylight in north-west Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar drew the ire of the Delhi High Court, which described them as evidence of "police brutality".

"Why was the boy dragged along the street in broad daylight," asked a Bench of Justices Jayant Nath and Najmi Waziri after watching video footage of the Sunday incident, which has since snowballed into a political issue. "How can you [Delhi police counsel] standing for the State justify the action of the

five police officers who ran after a 15-year-old boy who had been trying to take his father away," the Bench asked.

"If this is not evidence of police brutality then what more do you need? This is a case of extensive disquiet in society. How can any unformed force do this? This would scare the citizens," the Bench added.

### Independent report

The court also called for an independent report on the incident from an officer of the rank of Joint Commissioner of Police within a week.

The Delhi police's counsel

submitted that cross FIRs have been lodged on the complaints of the two sides and the case transferred to the Crime Branch for a detailed investigation. The counsel further said that three officers involved in the incident have been suspended. To this, the Bench said, "There are eight to nine police personnel who can be clearly seen [in the videos]... Identify the five officers who dragged the boy along the street, all the while pelting him with sticks, and those who assaulted the father."

The High Court also issued notices to the police, the Centre and the city government on a petition filed in

public interest seeking a CBI probe into the incident.

It posted the matter for further hearing on July 2.

One of the petitioners, advocate Seema Singhal, has sought framing of appropriate guidelines for police reforms to prevent such "violent acts of police brutality and excessive force".

"A service gun was pointed towards the minor boy by these policemen threatening him with dire consequences," her petition stated, adding that "the atrocities committed by the police amount to violation of Section 4 of the Model Code of Conduct for the police".

SEE ALSO PAGE 3

## Sunny Deol told to explain poll spend

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH**

Actor-turned-politician Sunny Deol, the BJP Member of Parliament from Punjab's Gurdaspur, has been issued a statutory letter to explain his 2019 Lok Sabha election-related expenditure, an official said on Wednesday.

"We have issued a statutory letter of accounts reconciliation to Mr. Deol among other candidates. Such a letter is issued to every contesting candidate 26 days after the declaration of results. If any discrepancy is found, then the concerned candidate is given the chance to explain," said Gurdaspur District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Vipul Ujjwal.

A source, privy to the matter, said that in the "shadow registers" maintained by the Election Commission the poll expenditure of Mr. Deol has been estimated to be above ₹70 lakh, which is the statutory limit.

"We can't give any figure for anyone unless reconciliation of account has taken place. We maintain record of the expenditure of candidates during the election and issue the letter after results. If any discrepancy is found after the candidate's reply, then we issue a notice to the candidate. It is a normal statutory process," said Mr. Ujjwal.

Mr. Deol defeated Congress's Sunil Jakhar by a margin of 82,459 votes to win the Gurdaspur seat.

# A water clinic for elephants opens in Mathura

Injured, sick and geriatric jumbos undergo specialised treatment for rehabilitation

**BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI**

India has opened its first specialised hydrotherapy treatment for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments, near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC), which currently houses 20 rescued animals and is run in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS.

Situated on the banks of the Yamuna in Mathura, the hydrotherapy jumbo pool is 11-foot-deep and has 21 high pressure jet sprays that create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet



**Water baby:** An elephant relaxing in a hydrotherapy pool in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and body and help in increasing blood circulation.

"The hospital started in 2018 already offers state-of-the-art facilities, including wireless digital X-ray, laser treatment, dental X-ray, thermal imaging and ultra-

sonography to treat injured, sick and geriatric elephants," said Dr. Yaduraj Khadpekar, senior wildlife veterinary officer.

He said that with each elephant rescue they had observed a disturbing pattern.

"In captive elephants their bodies are weakened due to improper nutrition, their bodies and delicate feet are riddled with wounds and painful abscesses. Osteoarthritis and foot issues are common ailments. Water resistance is useful for muscle strengthening and cardiovascular training while water pressure can reduce oedema and swelling," he said.

The elephants at the Wildlife SOS have been rescued from extreme distress. Some were privately owned and had the cruel history of being used for begging.

HYDROTHERAPY TO HEAL FEET AND JOINTS PAGE 12