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Slowdown, need for jobs on the table, Govt sets up two new Cabinet panels

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

ACKNOWLEDGING that a slowing economy and need for jobs are pressing issues that need sustained follow-up, the new government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday decided to set up two new committees of the Cabinet — one on Investment and Growth, and the other on Employment and Skill Development.

While an official notification is awaited, multiple sources in the government confirmed the decision. They said groups of ministers met Tuesday to discuss the formation of these committees and the agenda going forward.



Signals intent, priorities

For the government, a slowing economy has been a major concern, especially during the last financial year when GDP growth rate dropped below the original estimate of 7 per cent to 6.8 per cent. Growth rates were sequentially lower every quarter, with the last quarter (January-March 2019) growing

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Charting course

ECONOMIC GROWTH and jobs are key to meet aspirations of the youth. The immediate impact of two decisions, GST and Insolvency Bankruptcy Code, on growth are slowly fading. The two new committees with specific mandate will ensure ministries are on the same page, and expedite decision-making.

Each minister must have a 5-yr plan: PM to Cabinet

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

IN ONE of the first assignments to his colleagues, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is learnt to have asked all ministers to draw up five-year vision plans for their respective ministries. He conveyed this at the first meeting of the Union Cabinet on May 31, a day after the swearing-in of the new government.

"Prime Minister desired focus on a sound vision for five years in every department," a source said. Another source said

"Prime Minister wanted every minister to prepare a five-year plan for ministries to work on".

This, sources said, will be in addition to the plan of action for the first 100 days, prepared by the ministries at the behest of the PMO during the course of the Lok Sabha election campaign.

Sources indicated that the ministers are supposed to dwell upon this over the next few weeks and firm up a vision for the next five years for their respective ministries. Identified plans may come up for discussion with the PMO for better

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Pilot's wife was on ATC duty in Jorhat when IAF AN-32 vanished from radar

SAKSHI DAYAL
PALWAL (HARYANA), JUNE 5

WHEN THE Indian Air Force AN-32 aircraft went missing Monday afternoon, the wife of pilot Ashish Tanwar (29) saw things unfold closer than anyone else. Posted at the IAF Air Traffic Control in Jorhat in Assam, Sandhya was on duty when the flight took off from the base at 12.25 pm for the advanced landing ground at Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh.

"They lost contact with the flight at 1 pm, and she called us an hour later to tell us what had happened," Flight Lieutenant Ashish's uncle Udaivir Singh told *The Indian Express*, at the family home in Palwal.

With search operations still underway, the family despairs as the hours pass. At Ashish's home in Palwal's HUDA Sector 2, his uncle said: "Initially we were hopeful that may be the aircraft crossed over to China and managed to make an emergency landing, but even in that case, those on board would have made some contact by now. If they have crashed in the hills..."

"His father has gone to Assam to meet the authorities and get updates quickly, but his mother is at home. She is absolutely shattered, and is barely able to



Ashish and Sandhya got married in February 2018

speak without crying," he said. Singh is one of five brothers of Ashish's father, Radhelal. Of the six siblings, five joined the Army, with three, including Radhelal, retired now. Ashish, his uncles said, was heavily influenced by this, and aspired to "serve the nation" ever since he was a young boy. His elder sister is a Squadron Leader in the IAF.

"I remember one time, when Ashish must have been barely up to my waist, I asked him what he wanted to become when he grew up. He immediately said he will be a soldier. *Fauji ka beta fauji hi banta hai*," recalled

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HAFIZ SAEED NOT ALLOWED TO LEAD LAHORE PRAYERS

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



As PMs prepare for Bishkek, Pak and India drop Eid hints

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

WITH A week to go for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan to reach Bishkek for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, Pakistan Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood arrived in Delhi Tuesday night for what sources said was a three-day "private visit".

On Wednesday, Mahmood, who was the envoy to India till mid-April and whose family is still in Delhi, offered prayers at the Jama Masjid to mark Eid. He was accompanied by Acting High Commissioner Syed Haider Shah and other Pakistan diplomats. Sources said Mahmood's family is likely to return with him to Pakistan.

In Islamabad, Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria met Pakistan President Dr Arif Alvi on the occasion of



Pak Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood (left) at the Jama Masjid in Delhi. ANI

Eid, where they exchanged greetings. "Exchanged #Eid greetings with President @ArifAlvi in #Islamabad this morning. The President expressed hope for #peace in our region.@IndiainPakistan," Bisaria tweeted.

The two events have raised

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WINNING START

Rohit Sharma scored an unbeaten 122 as India centered to a six-wicket win over South Africa in Southampton to open its cricket World Cup campaign. Reuters

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Air hostess gangraped in Mumbai flat, airline security officer arrested

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, JUNE 5

A 25-YEAR-OLD air hostess with a leading airline was allegedly gangraped in an apartment in Mumbai on Monday. Police arrested a colleague for the assault Wednesday and according to the woman's complaint, the room in which she was assaulted was shared by three men, and a woman was also present in the room.

The accused, Swapnil Badoniya (23) arrested Wednesday, knew the complainant and worked in the security department of the same airline company. The role of the other two men, however, is still under investigation.

Senior police inspector Nitin Alaknure of the MIDC police station confirmed the incident. "So far we have learnt that Badoniya

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For killing Dalit, 13 jailed for life in Madhya Pradesh

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, JUNE 5

A SPECIAL Court in Guna has sentenced 13 people, including 12 upper-caste men, to life in prison for beating to death a Dalit farmer who tried to file a complaint against them under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in Mahukhan village in Madhya Pradesh in September 2017.

Neelam Ahirwar, 45, was first accused of stealing a tractor from

the village, about 20 km from Guna, and then 15-kg urad dal from the Mahukhan gram panchayat bhavan by a group of upper-caste men led by sarpanch Praveen alias Pappu Sharma. A sub-divisional magistrate had found both allegations to be false. Ahirwar and his brother jointly owned 25 bighas of land and had enough grains and pulses at home, the family had argued to counter the theft charge. Before the fatal attack on September 30, the 45-year-old

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4 years after Champions League folded up, ED asks BCCI to share all records

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JUNE 5

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has asked the BCCI to share the contract papers and foreign remittance records relating to the now defunct Champions League T20 for which the Indian board had joined hands with Cricket Australia and Cricket South Africa.

Those in know say that the ED notice spells trouble for the BCCI since the agreement between the three cricket boards was verbal — no formal agree-

ment was signed for the tournament which was launched in 2009 and folded up in 2015.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a senior BCCI official said, "There is nothing in writing. It remains to be seen how the BCCI will answer the ED queries."

The issue first came to light a few months ago when the Committee of Administrators (CoA) suspected a possible FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) violation in the Champions League T20 accounts. After a series of meeting with BCCI office-bearers, the matter was referred

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Mujhe goli maar do: Haryana Cong chief as sparks fly over LS loss

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MANOJ CGG & VARINDER BHATIA
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, JUNE 5

ABUSE, WALKOUTS, threats. This Haryana Congress meeting in New Delhi had it all.

In the end, according to those who attended the state coordination committee meeting, a bizarre remark by the party's state chief Ashok Tanwar summed it up: "Mere ko agar khatam karna hai, toh mujhe goli maar do (if you want to finish me, then just shoot me)." Haryana leaders told *The*



Ashok Tanwar walked out of the coordination meeting

Indian Express that Tanwar made the remark after being blamed for the party drawing a blank in all 10 Lok Sabha seats from the state.

Tuesday's meeting was convened by senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad to discuss strategy for

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