

ALL INDIA FREE IAS SCHOLARSHIP TEST

9TH JUNE (SUNDAY) | TIME - 1:30 PM

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DATE	SUBJECT		SUBJECT	
10 th June	INDIAN ECONOMY	MODERN HISTORY	विषय	INDIAN ECONOMY
11 th June	MODERN HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY	आधुनिक भारत का इतिहास	MODERN HISTORY
12 th June	GEOGRAPHY	CURRENT AFFAIRS	भूगोल	GEOGRAPHY
13 th June	CURRENT AFFAIRS	INDIAN POLITY	समसामयिकी	CURRENT AFFAIRS
14 th June	INDIAN POLITY	INDIAN ECONOMY	(अथ हिन्दी माध्यम में भी)	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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NEARBY

No proposal received on free rides for women: Puri

NEW DELHI
 The Delhi government had not sent any proposal to give free rides to women on the Delhi Metro, which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Monday, to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs or the DMRC so far, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday.

CITY PAGE 3

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FRIDAY REVIEW 8 PAGES
 (IN TABLOID)

Rajnath inducted into Cabinet panel following controversy

Defence Minister earlier left out of CCPA due to 'oversight'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi — after setting up two Cabinet sub-committees for economic growth and investment, and for jobs and skills — reconstituted six other Cabinet sub-committees on Thursday.

A piquant situation arose with the formation of these committees after the Cabinet Secretariat issued an amendment on these sub-committees, adding Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's name to the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) as well as the committees on jobs and economic growth.

The late amendment was an attempt by the government to undo some of the



Rajnath Singh

were mum on why Mr. Singh was excluded in the first place, but said his exclusion from the CCPA and the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs was an oversight that was corrected.

The other major presence in most of these sub-committees is Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Allies find a place

In the CCPA, apart from heavyweight Ministers from the BJP, NDA allies like Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Heavy Industries Minister Arvind Sawant find a place.

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RAJNATH SINGH REVIEWS PURCHASES, BUDGET PAGE 14

RBI cuts interest rate by 25 bps

Changes stance to accommodative; cuts FY20 growth projection to 7%

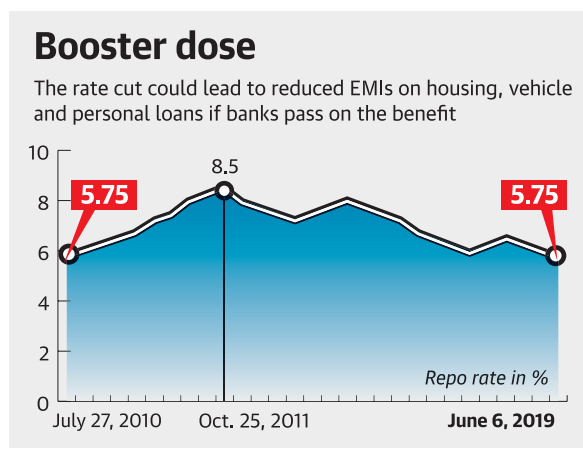
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 MUMBAI

The benchmark interest rate of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fell below 6% for the first time since 2010 as the central bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) cut repo rates by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.75% in order to address growth concerns.

The stance of the policy has also been changed from neutral to accommodative, which means a hike in interest rates is ruled out.

Decision unanimous

The decision to cut interest rate was unanimous among the MPC members. "The MPC notes that growth impulses have weakened significantly as reflected in a further widening of the output gap compared to the April 2019 policy," the RBI said.



Source: RBI

The RBI has revised GDP growth projection for the current financial year from 7.2% to 7%. "The headline inflation trajectory remains below the target even after taking into account the expected transmission of the past two policy rate cuts,"

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said at the media interaction. "Hence, there is scope to boost aggregate demand and, in particular, private investment activity, while remaining consistent with the mandate of flexible inflation targeting," he said.

Sensex sheds over 500 points

Equity markets lost ground on Thursday as investors remained wary of the potential impact of the liquidity issues in the non-banking financial companies segment, with rate-sensitive sectors such as banking and real estate taking the biggest beating. The Sensex lost 553.82 points, or 1.38%, to close at 39,529.72. PAGE 17

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 NO SURPRISES EDITORIAL

Easter bombings: new evidence points to lapses

Former officials say they had warnings

MEERA SRINIVASAN
 COLOMBO

Testifying before a parliamentary panel on Thursday, Sri Lanka's suspended police chief and former Defence Secretary confirmed that prior intelligence on a possible terror attack had been available since April 9, and it was shared among top police and defence officials on the eve of and on the morning of the Easter bombings.

IGP Pujith Jayasundara told the Parliamentary Select Committee set up to

probe the April 21 attacks that he received two calls on an imminent threat, after receiving a similar letter on April 9, from the Chief of National Intelligence. "I got two calls from the Director of the State Intelligence Service — one on the evening of April 20, saying 'Tomorrow will be dangerous, something can happen', and another, on April 21, between 6.45 a.m. and 7.15 a.m., saying 'Something can happen today'."

FISSURES IN GOVT. PAGE 16

Colourful start



An 'Ottamthullal' artiste greeting students at the Talap Mixed Upper Primary School in Kannur on the school reopening day, Thursday. S.K. MOHAN

Speaker endorses merger of 12 Cong. MLAs with ruling TRS

They will now sit with TRS legislators

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY
 HYDERABAD

In a major setback to the Congress in Telangana, the 12 party MLAs who defected to the TRS were recognised as members of the ruling party by Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy on Thursday.

The decision came hours after they met him and sought merger of their group



Policemen outside the Assembly in Hyderabad on Thursday. K.V.S. GIRI

Legislature Party (CLP). Later in the day, the Speaker acceded to the demand of the 12 MLAs, considering the fact that they constituted two-thirds of the total number of 18 MLAs.

Accordingly, seats were allotted to them along with TRS members in the House. Unless the merger is reversed, the Congress is set to lose its status of Opposition party in the Assembly as its strength has come down to six.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

AIR may have to power off short wave transmissions

It began international broadcasting in 1939

SOBHANA K. NAIR
 NEW DELHI

If Prasar Bharati has its way, All India Radio will have to stop all global short wave (SW) transmissions — 80 years after it began international broadcasting in 1939. AIR is resisting the move arguing that it will curtail its global reach.

There are about 46 SW transmitters that beam both domestic and external services. Of these, 28 are used for external services alone. Barring three that were recently installed, all the others will have to be shut down over the next six months. The external services go out to 150 countries in 13 Indian languages and 15 foreign languages.

Prasar Bharati wrote to AIR in the third week of May asking for a proposal to phase out SW transmitters.

'Whimsical decision'

A high-ranking AIR official called it a whimsical decision. "There will be a huge implication for external services. Short wave is the only effective way to reach any part of the world. FM and other modes don't work. Even live streaming on web can't be a substitute due to



Short wave is the only effective way to reach any part of the world, AIR administrators say. V.V. KRISHNAN

varied penetration of internet connectivity. Any country that wants to scuttle Indian radio can just shut down our web channel."

No impact

Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati denied that discontinuing SW will impact global outreach. He said there would be fresh investments in DD India, AIR World Service and Prasar Bharati's Gopal Digital Platform.

"Going forward, AIR world service will be primarily a digital service leveraging FM and medium wave capabilities where available and short wave in a limited way for strategic purposes. We will explore hiring air time in transmitters outside India where feasible," he told The Hindu.

Sidhu loses key portfolio in Punjab Cabinet rejig

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 CHANDIGARH

Fissures in the Congress in Punjab deepened on Thursday with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh changing Navjot Singh Sidhu's portfolio within hours of the cricke-

ter-turned-politician snubbing him by skipping a Cabinet meeting.

Mr. Sidhu was divested of the Local Government and Tourism and Cultural Affairs departments and given the Power and New and Renew-

able Energy Sources portfolio in the Cabinet rejig, which the Chief Minister said would re-energise his team and further streamline the government.

DETAILS ON PAGE 14

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