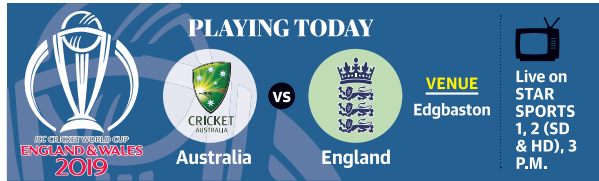




Rahul makes his first visit to Amethi after election defeat  
Page 13



Dutee Chand sprints to 100m glory at World Universiade  
Page 19



Federer faces Nadal in semifinals; Djokovic meets Bautista Agut  
Page 18



PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

## NEARBY



### Appointed CM on popular demand: Gehlot

**JAIPUR**  
In a surprise remark, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday said he was appointed to the CM's post for the third term "on popular demand", as villagers across the State had expressed their opinion in his favour during the 2018 Assembly elections. He said the then Congress president Rahul Gandhi had selected him in view of the strong public sentiments.

NORTH PAGE 5

### Govt. fails to comply with NGT order, forfeits ₹5 cr.

**NEW DELHI**  
The National Green Tribunal has directed that performance guarantee of over ₹5 crore deposited by the Delhi government be forfeited as it has failed to comply with orders on two separate matters pertaining to pollution caused by dairies and illegal banquet halls in the city.

CITY PAGE 3

**TEST SERIES-2020** 21<sup>st</sup> July  
**PRELIMS** 44 TEST FREE Rs. 6000/-  
**MAINS** 46 TEST FREE Rs. 14000/-  
**MALUKA IAS**  
011-47340741, 99101 33084  
51/6, Basement, ORR, New Delhi-60

## 2 more Cong. MLAs quit in Karnataka

After situation turns tense, one legislator is escorted by the Police Commissioner to Raj Bhavan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The corridors of the Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday witnessed the unfolding of a political drama triggered by the resignations of Congress legislators K. Sudhakar (Chickballapur) and Housing Minister M.T.B. Nagaraj (Hoskote). It ended with the former having to be escorted out by the Police Commissioner to the Raj Bhavan, amid trading of charges by the Congress and the BJP.

On a day the BJP knocked on the doors of Governor Vajubhai Vala over Speaker Ramesh Kumar's decision to hold an inquiry before accepting the resignations of 11 Congress-JD(S) legislators, Mr. Sudhakar and Mr. Nagaraj tendered their resignations.

Soon, theatrics began with KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao, Social Welfare Minister Priyank Kharge and former MLC Nazeer Ahmed blocking Mr. Sudhakar near the back entrance of the Vidhana Soudha and restraining him from leaving. They took him into the chambers of Industries Minister K.J. George to convince him to withdraw his resignation.

### BJP stages dharna

BJP leaders who had got wind of this rushed to the spot and staged a dharna in front of the closed doors, urging the Congress leaders to let go of Mr. Sudhakar. Another team of leaders led



**Hopeful still:** Karnataka Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar, along with Congress leaders Murli Deora, left, and Sanjay Nirupam, right, waiting outside a Mumbai hotel where the rebel MLAs were put up, on Wednesday. ■ PRASHANT WAYDANDE

by BJP MLC Ravi Kumar approached the Speaker to seek his intervention. They also filed a written complaint with the Speaker's office.

Mr. Ravi Kumar also accused the Congress of "taking away" Chikkodi-Sadalaga legislator and Congress whip Ganesh Hukkeri, who also met the Speaker on Wednesday evening.

The situation became tense with the arrival of former Chief Minister and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Power tussle reaches SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The battle for power in Karnataka reached the Supreme Court on Wednesday after 10 Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) MLAs jointly accused the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led coalition government of scams and maladministration.

They also blamed Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar of delaying the acceptance of their resignations in a bid to prolong the

life of the ruling dispensation.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi is scheduled to hear the petition of the MLAs on Thursday.

The MLAs said they were fed up with the maladministration and inner contradictions within the Congress-JD(S) coalition. Their decision to resign was as per their conscience, they claimed.

He was eventually detained and taken to the Kalina campus of Mumbai University.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## High drama as police detain Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI/BENGALURU

The Karnataka political crisis spilled over to the streets of Mumbai with the detention and later forced departure of Water Resources Minister and Congress trouble-shooter D.K. Shivakumar, who had arrived in the financial capital to meet the 10 rebel Congress-JD(S) legislators on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Shivakumar was in Mumbai to convince the rebel MLAs to return to the party fold. The MLAs have submitted their resignations to the Speaker and moved to Mumbai, allegedly at the behest of the BJP, threatening the stability of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government.

As Mr. Shivakumar attempted to breach the police's security blanket to meet the legislators staying in Hotel Renaissance, he was held back and asked to wait on the road opposite the hotel by the Powai police led by ACP Milind Khetle.

He was eventually detained and taken to the Kalina campus of Mumbai University.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## 10 Congress MLAs join BJP in Goa

Party strength down to 5 in House



**Another shocker:** Goa CM Pramod Sawant greeting former Opposition leader Chandrakant Kavlekar and other Congress MLAs in Porvorim on Wednesday. ■ ATISH POMBURFEKAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

Political instability in Karnataka spilled over into neighbouring Goa on Wednesday, with two-thirds (10 out of 15) of the Congress MLAs breaking away to merge with the ruling BJP.

The group, led by Leader of Opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar, met Assembly Speaker Rajesh Patnekar in the evening and gave him a letter, informing him about their split.

The MLAs include Atanasio Monserratte, Jennifer Monserratte, Francis Silveira, Philip Nery Rodrigues, Cleofacio Dias, Wilfred D'Sa and Nilkant Halarnkar.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who was present when the group reached the Assembly, said the 10 MLAs had merged with the BJP.

With the 10 MLAs changing sides, the strength of the

Congress in the House will be down to just five MLAs.

The BJP's strength in the Assembly has now gone up to 27. The Goa Forward Party has three MLAs while the NCP and the MGP have one each. There are three Independents.

To a question, Mr. Sawant said no new inductions in the Cabinet were on the cards.

Mr. Kavlekar said he and other MLAs decided to join the BJP as development works in their constituencies were suffering as they were in the Opposition.

"We have seen Mr. Sawant's working style. He is working for the progress of the State. We decided to join hands with him. Being in Opposition, our development works were also suffering," he said. The MLAs joined the BJP unconditionally, he claimed.

## Warming up



The making of Ganesha idols is on in full swing at a workshop in Parel, Mumbai. The torrential rain last week had hampered the work for a brief period. Ganesha Chaturthi falls on September 2. ■ ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

## Worker safety code Bill gets Cabinet approval

It seeks to merge 13 labour laws

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Bill that seeks to merge 13 labour laws into one code on occupational safety, health and working conditions that would apply to all establishments with 10 or more workers was approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday, paving the way for its introduction in Parliament.

The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019, which would impact "40 crore unorganised workers", was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information and

Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

The Bill was the second of four proposed codes that aim to merge 44 labour laws, with the Code on Wages Bill, 2019 that was approved on July 3 being the first, Labour and Employment Minister of State (independent charge) Santosh Kumar Gangwar said.

Mr. Gangwar added that the Wages Bill, which covers minimum wages and other wage issues, would be introduced in Parliament in "two or three days".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## SpiceJet technician dies in freak accident in Kolkata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

In a freak accident, Rohit Pandey, 22, a SpiceJet technician, died after he got stuck in the hydraulic door flaps of the main landing gear of a Q400 aircraft he was attending to at the Kolkata airport on Wednesday.

The hydraulic doors "inadvertently" got closed, leaving Pandey trapped there, SpiceJet said in a statement. The landing-gear doors of the Bombardier Q400 aircraft



Rohit Pandey

had to be broken to rescue him but he was declared dead, it said. The accident happened at 1.45 a.m.

A complaint of "unnatural death" was filed at the Airport police station. A police team visited the accident

spot, an officer said, adding that forensic experts would now collect evidence.

Aircraft maintenance engineers *The Hindu* spoke to said such an accident was rare. "I have never heard of such a thing in my 26-year career. Either he did not follow the SOP or was instructed wrongly by a senior to get the work done quickly," a senior engineer said.

Hailing from suburban Mumbai, Pandey was the breadwinner of the family.

## World Cup ends in agony for Kohli's men

Lose to New Zealand by 18 runs, fail to cross the semifinal hurdle yet again

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR  
MANCHESTER

A World Cup semifinal spread over two days concluded with minutes that stretched between agony and ecstasy.

Under dull afternoon skies masked by low-slung clouds, India suffered an 18-run defeat to New Zealand at Old Trafford here on Wednesday. The Men in Blue failed to get past the World Cup's last-four stage, like in the previous edition at Australia in 2015.

Chasing New Zealand's 239 for eight, India stumbled right at the start, collapsing to 24 for four in 10 overs as seamers Trent Boult and Matt Henry (three for 37) bowled incisive spells. Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul and Dinesh Karthik fell quickly and the remainder of the clash was more about hitching hopes on Ravindra Jadeja's fiery 77 and his 116-run seventh-wicket partnership with M.S. Dhoni, who scored 50.



**When the nation gasped:** M.S. Dhoni gets run out during the World Cup semifinal between India and New Zealand at Old Trafford in Manchester on Wednesday. ■ AP

It boiled down to 52 from the last five overs, but with Boult dismissing Jadeja and Dhoni being run out, the miracle never happened, a de-

feat became inevitable and India finished at 221.

Finally, Kohli's words from the post-match press conference lingered: "To go

out on 45 minutes of bad cricket is heart-breaking."

HENRY SHATTERS INDIA'S  
DREAM PAGE 17

## India can repeal Article 370 at will: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government informed Parliament that "no foreign government or organisation has any locus standi" in repealing Article 370 in J&K as matters relating to the Constitution were internal and only for the Indian Parliament to deal with.

While responding to a question on whether repeal of Articles 370 and 35A will in any way violate any United Nations regulation or any international obligation of the country, Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said, "Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Matters relating to the Constitution of India are internal and entirely for the Indian Parliament to deal with. No foreign government or organisation has any locus standi in the matter."

DETAILS ON PAGE 12