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Sitaram Yechury meets  
Tarigami in Srinagar

Srinagar  
CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday became the first national leader to enter Srinagar city since August 5 and met his ailing party colleague and former legislator, M.Y. Tarigami. The visit comes a day after the Supreme Court granted him permission to meet Mr. Tarigami.

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FRIDAY REVIEW • 8 PAGES  
(TABLOID)

## Those excluded from final NRC will get a window of 10 months

Police officials in Assam brace for 'crisis' ahead of publication of register

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Those excluded from the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be published on August 31 will get a window of 10 months to prove their citizenship before being sent to detention centres, even as police officers in Assam on Thursday prepared to face an unprecedented "crisis".

"We cannot say how many will be left out. But each of them will have a window of at least 10 months to challenge his or her exclusion," Assam's Additional Chief Secretary in charge of the Home and Political Departments Kumar Sanjay Krishna said.

The publication of the register could be the start of an



Calm before the storm: Security personnel guarding an NRC office ahead of the release of the final list in Guwahati. ■ AFP

unprecedented complication – more of the humanitarian kind than of law and order, police officers said.

However, the outgoing DGP, Kuladhar Saikia, said the police and other forces had ensured that security

was in place before Saturday. "I believe this entire process will be completed peacefully with awareness and sensitisation drives preceding the exercise," he said.

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## More notices issued for re-verification

People included in the draft National Register of Citizens published in July last year but suspected to be foreigners continue to receive notices for re-verification of their documents, days before the publication of the final list. The NRC authority said there was nothing unusual about the notices. "Some people may be summoned on Friday too. The process will continue until the deadline fixed by the Supreme Court," a spokesperson said. ▶ PAGE 12

## Lack of demand is hobbling the economy's animal spirits, says RBI

Central bank stresses need to revive investment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its annual report for 2018-19, has said the lack of domestic demand is holding back the animal spirits in the economy and emphasised the need to revive consumption demand and private investment during 2019-20.

"What ails the animal spirits? At the core of the issue of domestic demand," the RBI said in the annual report.

The report said the recent deceleration could be in the nature of a soft patch mutating into a cyclical downsw-

## Dip in ₹2,000 note circulation

The ₹2,000 currency notes have dropped in circulation in the past year. The RBI report said 3,363 million pieces were in circulation as on March-end 2018 and the number dropped to 3,291 million in the year ended March 2019. ▶ PAGE 15

ing, rather than a deep structural slowdown.

"Nonetheless, there are still structural issues in land, labour, agricultural marketing and the like, which need

## Bank frauds go up by 74%

The value of bank frauds went up 73.8% during 2018-19, compared with the previous year. In terms of the number of cases, it was up 15%, the RBI's report said. Banks had taken 55 months, on an average, to report large frauds. ▶ PAGE 15

to be addressed," the report said, adding that the policy focus at this point should remain on improving the ease of doing business.

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## Kandla, Adani ports put on security alert

Inputs warn of terror threats from sea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

The country's two largest ports, Kandla and Adani in Gujarat, were put on high alert, along with the entire Gulf of Kutch, after intelligence agencies shared inputs of a possible entry by Pakistan-trained commandos through the Harami Naala creek to carry out underwater attacks.

However, the alerts turned out to be "precautionary" in nature.

Informed sources told *The Hindu* that "the inputs were meant to warn that there was a likelihood of such attacks".

What created confusion

was the wording used by the authorities that "commandos have entered the Gulf of Kutch via the Harami Naala creek area," and that the "commandos were trained in underwater attacks".

According to a top official, a "routine advisory" issued by the agencies created confusion, and the two ports were put on high alert.

The authorities asked all shipping agents to ensure the safety of berthed vessels and those arriving for berthing. They asked all stakeholders to step up security and remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

CONTINUED ON • PAGE 12

## A new high



Fighting fit: A student climbing a wall at the launch of the Fit India Movement at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched in New Delhi the nationwide drive for a healthier future. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY (REPORT ON PAGE 9)

## Russia set to offer submarines during Modi-Putin summit

Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft may also be sold

DINAKAR PERI  
MOSCOW

Russia is likely to offer India its conventional submarines on the government-to-government route under the Navy's Project-751 at the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin at Vladivostok next week, Russian officials said.

"Russian conventional submarines will be offered through the government-to-government route to India at the summit. This will save a lot of time in the procurement process," one official said.

"The possibility of offering India the Su-57, the Russian Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA), is also being explored, but it has not been

## Strengthening defence

Reviewing defence cooperation will be on top of the agenda during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia next week



- The deal to manufacture at least 200 Ka-226T Utility helicopters for the Indian Army and Air Force is likely to get a boost
- The two leaders will also review

the setting up of a manufacturing plant in India for Ak-203 assault rifles

■ Russia is likely to offer its conventional submarine for the Navy's P-751 tender

■ Russia might consider an offer of Su-57 Russian Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (in picture) to India

decided yet," he said.

The Navy is looking to buy six advanced conventional diesel-electric submarines under Project 751 that, after several delays, has made progress in the past several months. The procurement is

under the Strategic Partnership (SP) model, and is the second project to be processed through this route after the Navy's tender for utility helicopters.

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## U.S. again expresses concern on J&K

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Three days after U.S. President Donald Trump met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in France and discussed the situation in Kashmir, American officials said they were "concerned" about the continuing communication restrictions and detentions.

Mr. Trump had said that during their discussion on the Kashmir issue, Mr. Modi

had said that he "really feels he has it under control", and that India and Pakistan could resolve the issue bilaterally. Sources told *The Hindu* that diplomats from different embassies, including senior U.S. and U.K. officials, had been meeting External Affairs Ministry officials over the past few days to stress that they were watching the situation closely.

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## Free travel for women gets Cabinet nod

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday accorded in-principle approval to free travel for women aboard Delhi Transport Corporation and cluster buses beginning October 29, the State government said in a statement.

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## Schoolmates shun Dalits during midday meal

Probe ordered into U.P. school incident after video goes viral; BSP chief demands action

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

A government primary school in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district has landed in a caste discrimination controversy after some students did not have their midday meals alongside Dalit schoolmates.

The matter came to light after a video of the school during the midday meal session, apparently shot by media persons, was widely

shared on social media.

While Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati demanded strict legal action by the State government against those guilty of "such disgusting casteist discrimination", the district administration said the complaints of caste-based discrimination were prima facie "entirely baseless".

But P. Gupta, principal of the Rampur-1 primary school, admitted to "slight

discrimination" that the Dalit students faced from others. He said some of the other students did not want to eat in the same plates as Dalit students – they bring their own plates and eat separately.

"We make them sit in a line but they – perhaps they get taught that at home – display slight discrimination," said Mr. Gupta.

Despite warning the students several times and

teaching them about equality, Mr. Gupta said they sit and eat in their allotted lines for a short while but once the teachers move away, move out and eat separately.

### Ballia DM's denial

The school has mostly Dalit and Scheduled Tribe students with a few coming from the OBC communities, said the principal.

Ballia DM Bhawani Singh

## Women in Music launches India chapter

Aims to promote gender parity and women's visibility in the Indian music industry

BHUMIKA PRUTHI  
MUMBAI

Women in Music (WIM), a New York-based global non-profit has launched its India chapter to work towards promoting gender parity and women's visibility in the Indian music industry

Priyanka Khimani, chair of India chapter, said WIM would work to attain 50-50 representation in the music industry, a goal the organisation has been working on since it was established in New York in 1985.

On the specific conditions in India, Ms. Khimani said,

"It is important because in general in India there are less women in the workforce and many often take a back seat mid-career. Take any record label, Over The Top (OTT) platform, or publishers and you will not find women in senior leadership. There are no women CEOs and clearly, there is disproportion. It is surprising to see disparity even on the creative side and we need to change that," she said.

Ms. Khimani, who is a co-founder and lead partner at the city-based law firm, Anand and Anand and Khimani, represents several



Inclusive group: Singers at the launch of the Indian chapter of Women in Music, a New York-based global non-profit.

top-billed music artistes including Lata Mangeshkar, Kalyanji-Anandji, A.R. Rahman, Vishal-Shekhar, Sunidhi Chauhan and new

wave stars Shirley Sethia, Harshdeep Kaur and Vidya Vox.

"They are all my clients and thus, I have a strong

inclination towards the music industry. Every year, I curate a conference called 'All about music.' Last year, at the conference, we announced that we will be launching Women in Music in India and finally we had our first, inaugural event on Monday," she said.

Terming it an inclusive group, Ms. Khimani said any artist associated with the industry, lawyers representing them, and production houses, could join the community. "The idea is to create a pool and enable connectivity between stakeholders in the industry," she added.

## Patna High Court withdraws judicial work from judge

11-judge Bench suspends order issued by him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

The Patna High Court has withdrawn all judicial work from a sitting senior judge, Rakesh Kumar, who had in the course of hearing a corruption case against a former IAS officer on Wednesday highlighted the "state of corruption in the judicial system". An 11-judge Bench also suspended Justice Kumar's order and ruled that no action ordered by him would be taken.

"All the matters pending before Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Kumar, sitting singly including tied up/part heard

or otherwise stand withdrawn with immediate effect," read a notice issued by the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court on August 28.

"The registrar will implement the order forthwith subject to further orders with regard to the formation of the Bench," the Bench said in the notice, which came into the public domain on Thursday.

### No jurisdiction

The Bench also observed that their fellow judge had no "jurisdiction to pass such an order on a case that had been closed".

Bihar Advocate General Lalit Kishore told journalists that the Bench expressed serious concern over the order passed by Justice Kumar in which he has raised questions over the majesty of the court and the integrity of the judicial system.

Justice Kumar, in his 20-page order, had questioned how retired IAS officer K.P. Ramaiah was granted bail in a corruption case when the HC as well as the Supreme Court had rejected it. Mr. Ramaiah was accused of misappropriation of ₹5 crore in the Bihar Mahadalit Vikas Mission when he was its CEO.