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NEARBY



13 dead in cooking gas cylinder blast in U.P.

MAU (U.P.)

At least 13 people died and 15 were injured in an explosion caused by a leak in a cooking gas cylinder at a house here on Monday. The building in Walidpur collapsed while two adjoining houses were extensively damaged. The explosion occurred around 7 a.m., said the police.

NORTH ► PAGE 5

Skills university to come up in Delhi

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced that the Delhi Cabinet has cleared a proposal to start a Delhi Skills and Entrepreneurial University. The concept of the university, he said, came up as the Delhi government found that students come out of the formal education system with a BA, B.Sc. or MA degree and do not find jobs.

CITY ► PAGE 2

Contempt case against Gurumurthy dropped

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday closed the contempt of court proceedings against Swaminathan Gurumurthy, editor of weekly magazine Thuglak, for retweeting an article against a sitting Delhi High Court judge.

NATION ► PAGE 9

Economics Nobel for Abhijit, two others

They were awarded “for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty”

T.C.A. SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, popularly called the Nobel Prize in Economics, to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Michael Kremer “for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty”.

While Dr. Banerjee and Dr. Duflo are both affiliated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Kremer is with Harvard University. The three will equally share the prize money of 9 million Swedish krona (about \$916,798/₹6.53 crore).

“The research conducted by this year’s laureates has considerably improved our ability to fight global poverty,” the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a release. “In just two decades, their new experiment-based approach has transformed development economics, which is now a flourishing field of research.”

Reliable answers

The laureates have, since the mid-1990s, sought to introduce a new approach to obtaining reliable answers about the most effective ways to combat global poverty. Rather than focussing on big-picture questions, they divided the issue into smaller, more manageable and measurable questions.

Uplifting the underprivileged

The experiment-based approach of the laureates involved dividing an issue into smaller and more manageable questions

- They have shown that smaller and more precise questions are often best answered through carefully designed experiments among the people who are most affected

this approach can be when they used field experiments to test a range of interventions that could improve school results in western Kenya

- Dr. Banerjee and Dr. Duflo, often with Dr. Kremer, have performed similar studies on other issues and in other countries

They then showed that these smaller questions could be best answered through carefully designed experiments among the people who are the most affected. This thought process has resulted in what are called randomised control trials, previously used in the pure sciences and in clinical drug trials, to be deployed in the social sciences.

“As a result, we now have a large number of concrete results on specific mechanisms behind poverty and specific interventions to alle-



Abhijit Banerjee
He was born in Mumbai in 1961 and completed his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1988

Esther Duflo
She was born in Paris in 1972 and finished her Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1999

Michael Kremer
He was born in 1964 and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1992, where he teaches currently

Impact on policy

- Research surrounding remedial tutoring provided arguments for large-scale support programmes that have now reached more than five million children in India

deworming provides clear health benefits for schoolchildren but also that parents are very price-sensitive. This led the WHO to recommend that medicine should be distributed for free to the over 800 million schoolchildren

- Their studies paved the way for heavy subsidies for preventive healthcare that have been introduced in many countries

Source: Nobelprize.org

Contemporaries recall JNU days

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University community rejoiced on Monday as Professor Abhijit Banerjee of MIT was declared joint winner of the Nobel Prize in economics.

Teachers recollected his campus presence and activism during the last prime ministerial tenure of Indira Gandhi in the early 1980s when JNU was rocked by students’ protests.

“He was extremely well read by the time he came to JNU and had interest in many other disciplines,” said Professor Janaki Nair, who was a campus friend of the Nobel laureate during 1981-83.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 3

tries, there is often a stark difference between the technology and practices used by companies in the same economy and sector. That is, in developing economies, some companies use the latest technology and practices, while others use outdated production methods.

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LEADERS RECALL NOBEL COUPLE’S INDIA WORK ► PAGE 13

INDIAN ECONOMY ON SHAKY GROUND: ABHIJIT ► PAGE 15

ECONOMICS OF POVERTY

► EDITORIAL

If the media keeps quiet, terrorism will end: Doval

“The judiciary treats terror cases on a par with ordinary crimes”

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

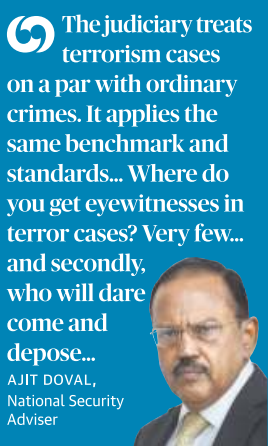
National Security Adviser Ajit Doval said on Monday that the “approach of the judiciary to treat terror crimes on a par with ordinary crimes” was one of the major challenges.

Quoting the former British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, on the need for a change in the media policy, he said: “If a terrorist takes action and the media is quiet about it, terrorism will end.”

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the National Conference of Chiefs of Anti-Terror Squads/Special Task Forces, organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was scheduled to speak at the session, but opted out due to “unavoidable reasons”.

Explaining the challenges in investigating terror cases, Mr. Doval said, “The approach of the judiciary is to treat terrorism cases on a par with ordinary crimes; they apply the same benchmark and standards... building up the cases... Where do you get the eyewitnesses in terror cases? Very few ... and secondly, who will dare



The judiciary treats terrorism cases on a par with ordinary crimes. It applies the same benchmark and standards... Where do you get eyewitnesses in terror cases? Very few... and secondly, who will dare come and depose...
AJIT DOVAL, National Security Adviser

come and depose... It is difficult for any ordinary citizen to come to a court of law and depose against dreaded Jaish or Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists... I want to compliment the NIA on withstanding these challenges.”

He also pitched for a strong perception management in fighting terrorism. “The media is a very important organ to fight terrorism. Why do terrorists kill? As Margaret Thatcher said if a terrorist takes action and the media is quiet about it, terrorism will end. They do it for publicity, because then only you can terrorise people.”

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Restored mobile lines recharge residents of Kashmir



At ease again: A street vendor busy on his mobile phone in Srinagar on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

40 lakh postpaid lines back after 72 days

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Hundreds of Kashmiris were able to reconnect with relatives living outside the State on Monday, as mobile services were restored for 40 lakh postpaid numbers. The moves come after 72 days of communication blackout.

For Khurshed Joo, a carpenter from Srinagar’s Baghwanpora, walking several kilometres to the Deputy Commissioner’s office to get in touch with his son working in Qatar had become routine.

However, on Monday, Mr. Joo’s wife Mukhta Begum was able to talk to her son after more than two months.

“It was a painful period. I am ageing. My son would call me twice a day. It was my lifeline, and then it suddenly stopped [on August 4]. There were days I cried. I felt I

would die and my son might not come to know about it. Who would have performed my last rites?” Ms. Mukhta, in her 70s, said.

Surgery postponed

Khalik Rashid, 62, a resident of the old city, had postponed his heart surgery for the lack of communication in the Valley. “We postponed the surgery because it would have been impossible to get in touch with the family back home in case of any eventuality or help,” his relatives said.

For students, who are due to sit for annual examinations later this month in the Valley, the move has come as a major relief. “We can get in touch with friends and share notes,” said Ryan Ahmad, a Class 10 student.

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‘FASTags will work as Aadhaar to track vehicles’

Gadkari appeals to States to adopt tech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday called FASTags – a device to make automatic payments at toll booths – the equivalent of Aadhaar for vehicles, which will allow the government to track their movement across the country.

The government has already announced that FASTags will be mandatory for all vehicles on all National Highways from December 1.

On Monday, speaking at the One Nation-One FASTag conference, the Minister appealed to all the States to adopt the technology so that the entire system could come under the National Electronic Toll Collection programme of the Ministry of Road Transport and High-



Nitin Gadkari

ways. Users of the State Highways, too, could avoid long queues and benefit from seamless travel, he said. “Cameras at toll booths will take photos of passengers in a vehicle, which will be useful for the Ministry of Home Affairs as there will be a record of a vehicle’s movement,” Mr. Gadkari said, adding that it was an equivalent of Aadhaar.

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Full court reference for Jaitley, Sushma today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A full court reference will be held on Tuesday for former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj, who were both Supreme Court lawyers before they turned to politics. A full court reference is held for departed senior lawyers and judges of the apex court as a mark of respect and remembrance for their service and contribution to the court and the legal profession.

The reference would have Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and all the judges of the apex court assemble in the courtroom of the Chief Justice of India at 10.30 a.m. In attendance in the open court

would be the Attorney General of India, other top law officers, lawyers, friends and family of the departed souls.

Swaraj and Jaitley died this year a few months ago. Swaraj, as a Supreme Court lawyer, was part of the legal defence team of George Fernandes during the Emergency period in 1975. She served as the Union Minister of External Affairs in the first Narendra Modi government.

Jaitley was the Additional Solicitor General of India in 1990. He led the Bofors scandal probe as ASG. He was the Union Law Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and handled portfolios from Defence to Finance in the first Modi government.

Higher food prices push up inflation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation accelerated for the second consecutive month, touching a 14-month high of 3.99% in September. The rates were driven up largely by quickening food prices, official data released on Monday showed.

Growth in the Consumer Price Index quickened in September from 3.28% in the previous month. Inflation in the food group accelerated to 4.7% in September – the highest since December 2017 – up from 2.96% in August. But housing saw inflation slowing to 4.75% in September from 4.84% in August.

Sourav Ganguly all set to be elected BCCI president

Home Minister Amit Shah’s son Jay Shah will be the cricket governing body’s secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly is all set to become only the second international cricketer to be elected president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Batting legend Sunil Gavaskar and off-spinner Shival Yadav too were BCCI presidents for the conduct of IPL and non-IPL activities in 2014, but they took charge following Supreme Court orders.

The Maharaja of Vizianagaram, Lt. Col. Pusapati Vijay Ananda Gajapathi Raju, was the first cricketer to be elected to the post in 1954.

The 47-year-old Ganguly, who has over five years’ ex-



New innings: Sourav Ganguly, N. Srinivasan, Rajeev Shukla and Jay Shah, right, at the BCCI office. ■ PRASHANT NAKWE

perience in administration and is the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), filed his nomination for the BCCI’s top post at the

Cricket Centre here on Monday. When the nominations closed at 3 p.m., there was no other applicant; the same was the case with five other

posts. Ganguly will be officially declared BCCI president at its AGM here on October 23.

Ganguly did not give up hope after Brijesh Patel emerged the clear favourite during informal parleys among BCCI full members on Sunday.

Fifteen years of international cricket (1992-2007) thrust him into the limelight; later, he connected with his fans as an IPL player and as a media personality.

His tenure may end after 10 months as he will run into the Lodha Committee’s recommended compulsory cooling off period after being an office-bearer for two consecutive terms, totalling six

years. He has been a CAB office-bearer for more than five years.

The other key members of the BCCI’s governing body, called the Apex Council, will be Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah, and Arun Singh Dhimal, brother of Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs. Shah will become the secretary and Dhimal the treasurer, posts that will make them members of the IPL Governing Council.

ENTERING BENGAL POLITICS THROUGH BCCI? ► PAGE 6

A FRESH CHALLENGE ► PAGE 18

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS ► EDITORIAL