



**CBI told to respond to Chidambaram's plea for bail in INX Media case**

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**SC extends interim protection from arrest to Gautam Navlakha**

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**Toll in Iraq clashes rises to 44; PM Mehdi says no magical solution**

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**Elgar, de Kock hit centuries as South Africa gives a strong reply**

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## NEARBY



**Maoists kill two policemen in Jharkhand**

RANCHI (JHARKHAND)  
Two police personnel were killed on Friday when Maoists opened fire on security forces in Ranchi district, a police officer said.

**NORTH** ▶ PAGE 5

**Cong. issues show-cause notice to party MLA**

LUCKNOW  
The Congress on Friday issued a show-cause notice to its Rae Bareilly MLA Aditi Singh after she defied the party whip and attended a special 36-hour session of the U.P. Assembly.

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## Grey Line opens to passengers

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Puri and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday inaugurated the Delhi Metro's Dwarka-Najafgarh corridor, also called the Grey Line.

With the opening of the approximately 4.3 km-long corridor, the Delhi Metro's operational network has now expanded to 389.35 km with 285 stations, including the Aqua Line and the Rapid Metro.

Passenger operations on the new corridor, which has three stations – Najafgarh, Nangli and Dwarka (interchange with Blue Line), started at 5 p.m. on Friday. The Najafgarh station will be the longest stand-alone underground station in the whole network. Commuters will be able to change to Blue Line via an 80-metre passageway at the Dwarka station.

Mr. Puri said, "The DMRC network is one of the most comprehensive and in terms of distance covered, one of the most successful urban transport systems in the world and the attempt is to compare it with metro systems in New York, London and Moscow."

## India's first e-waste clinic to come up in Madhya Pradesh capital

Central Pollution Control Board to offer technical support

**STAFF REPORTER**  
BHOPAL

The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have joined hands to set up the country's first e-waste clinic here, that would enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.

After inspecting the garbage and plastic recovery centres in Bhanpur here, CPCB officials discussed the clinic with BMC officials. A three-month pilot project, the clinic, if successful, would be replicated elsewhere in the country.

"Electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee. The CPCB will provide technical support at the unit," BMC Additional Commissioner Rajesh Rathore told

## Central bank's 25 bps rate cut leaves market disappointed

FY20 GDP forecast revised down to 6.1% from 6.9% due to slowing growth

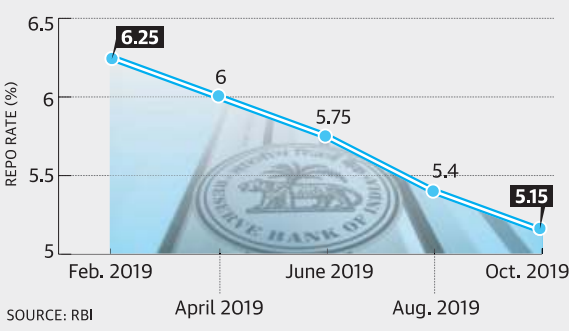
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) delivered another rate cut on Friday – the fifth in as many policy review meetings to boost a slowing economy. However, it failed to cheer the market, which was betting on a bigger rate reduction.

The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) decided to cut interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) to 5.1%, with five members voting in favour of the quantum and R.H. Dholakia for a 40 bps cut (100 bps = 1 percentage point). "The MPC also decided to continue with an accommodative stance as long as it is necessary to revive growth, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target," the RBI said.

### Free fall

The RBI made another rate cut on Friday, the fifth in as many policy review meetings, to boost a slowing economy



The central bank also revised its growth forecast for the current financial sharply, from 6.9% projected in the August policy, to 6.1%. Growth forecast for the first quarter of the next financial year was also trimmed to

7.2% from 7.4%.

Inflation forecast for the second half of FY20 has been retained at 3.5-3.7%.

"Noting that the output gap has widened since its last meeting, the MPC was of the view that the continuing

slowdown warrants intensified efforts to restore the growth momentum... As long as the growth momentum remains as it is and till the growth is revived, the RBI will continue to remain in an accommodative mode," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in the post-policy interaction with the media.

The rate cut comes after GDP growth for the first quarter of the current financial year plunged to a 25-quarter low of 5%. Between February and now, the central bank has reduced the policy rate by 135 bps.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12

**SENSEX TANKS FOR FIFTH**

**STRAIGHT SESSION** ▶ PAGE 15

**MODERATE EXPECTATIONS**

▶ EDITORIAL

## Shooting down of Mi-17 was a big mistake, admits IAF chief

Action will be taken against two officers: ACM Bhadauria

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Mi-17 helicopter crash on February 27 in Kashmir was caused by friendly fire and was a "big mistake", Air Chief Marshal (ACM) R.K.S. Bhadauria said on Friday.

The crash claimed the lives of all six personnel on board and one civilian on the ground. "The Court of Inquiry (CoI) into the accident completed its work last week... Disciplinary action will be taken against two officers involved in the crash,"



Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria in New Delhi on Friday. • R.V. MOORTHY

said ACM Bhadauria, who took over as the 26th Air chief on September 30 from B.S. Dhanoa.

Those who lost their lives would be declared battle ca-

sualties, he added at his first annual press conference as the Chief of the Air Staff, ahead of the Air Force Day.

On the morning of February 27, as fighter jets of India and Pakistan were engaged in a dogfight over the Naushera sector, a day after the Balakot airstrike, the Mi-17 crashed in Budgam shortly after take-off from Srinagar.

The CoI confirmed that it was shot by the Israeli-origin ground-based Spyder surface-to-air missile system of the IAF.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12

## ₹96 lakh compensation awarded to family of ASI

Tribunal rejects insurer's claim that rash driving caused policeman's death

**NIRNIMESH KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal here has ordered an insurance company to pay ₹96.17 lakh to the wife of a Delhi Police ASI who was killed in a road accident in 2018.

According to the claim petition, a dumper had hit the car of the policeman, Mamchand Tomar, from behind

when he was driving to Ghaziabad. A day after the accident, Tomar succumbed to the injuries at a hospital.

The petitioners, Tomar's wife and their five children, had sought a compensation of ₹1.2 crore, submitting that he was earning ₹57,819 per month at the time of the accident. But the Presiding Officer of the Tribunal, S.S. Malhotra, fixed the amount at ₹96.17

lakh, inclusive of the interest at 9% from the date of filing of the petition, after calculating the victim's monthly salary as ₹52,037 after deducting income tax.

Opposing the claim, the insurance company submitted that the accident had happened due to rash and negligent driving on the part of the policeman. But the Tribunal rejected the argument.

Mr. Malhotra said that the insurance company has not shown any evidence to prove that the victim was driving in a rash and negligent manner. "The allegations levelled in the written statement, however strong they may be, cannot take place of proof... Since the insurance company has no statutory defence, it is liable to pay compensation to the petitioners," he said.

## CBI moves SC against bail to Rajeev Kumar

HC had said no to custodial interrogation

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Calcutta High Court's order granting anticipatory bail to former Kolkata Police chief Rajeev Kumar in the Saradha chit fund scam case.

Giving relief to the IPS officer, the High Court had observed that his custodial interrogation was not required. The court also said that the CBI could question him, provided it gave a 48-hour prior notice to him for appearance.

The agency had opposed Mr. Kumar's petition, arguing that he had not responded to the summonses issued over the past few weeks.

In its order, the High Court also directed Mr. Kumar to furnish a personal bond of Rs.50,000. Accord-



Rajeev Kumar

ingly, after about 20 days, he made a public appearance on Thursday to complete the formalities in a city court.

The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people to the tune of Rs.2,500 crore, promising higher rates of return on their investments.

Mr. Kumar was part of the Special Investigation Team set up by the West Bengal government for probing the scam before the Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI in 2014, along with other chit fund cases. (With inputs from PTI)

## Hanging by a thread



**Water, water everywhere....** Social workers distributing drinking water to residents of Rajendra Nagar in Patna on Friday. Pumps have been deployed to drain water from last week's torrential rainfall, which killed 73. • RANJEET KUMAR



The Hindu has launched a personalised, ad-free version of its app for Android users as part of its subscription offerings. Readers can access the app and the website through a common login after signing up.

A metered pay wall has been introduced on the website that allows free access to ten articles a month for those who have not signed up.

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Editor,  
The Hindu

## 49 booked for sedition for anti-lynching letter

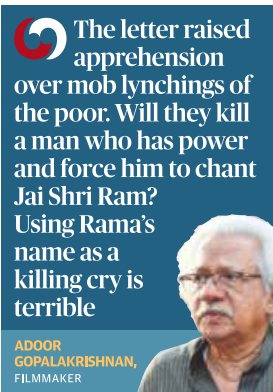
Celebrities had written to PM Modi in July, voicing concern over incidents

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI/  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A case of alleged sedition has been registered in Bihar's Muzaffarpur against 49 celebrities, including Ramchandra Guha, Aparna Sen, Mani Ratnam and Adoor Gopalakrishnan, who had expressed concern in an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over growing incidents of mob lynching.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan termed the decision "unbelievable".

Addressing mediapersons on the sidelines of the release of an Islamic encyclopaedia on Friday, he said the



letter was written by responsible citizens who visualised the nation as a democracy with space for plural opinions.

He reiterated that they

could not be branded anti-national just because they did not agree with the government. "We are still a democracy and every citizen has the right to write to those in power, up to the President," he said.

The letter, he said, had raised apprehension over mob lynchings of the poor. "Will they kill a man who has power and force him to chant Jai Shri Ram?" Using Rama's name as a "killing cry is terrible"

"Instead of taking action on the issues raised in the letter, there was a propped-up petition by people who outnumbered us," he said.

He said any responsible government would have taken action on the issue highlighted in the letter. Instead, there had been a dozen such cases of people being killed. The lynchings, he alleged, increased as the perpetrators knew no one would get punished. "Each of them deserves to be punished, even with capital punishment," the wellknown filmmaker said.

On the allegation that the letter tarnished the country's image, Mr. Gopalakrishnan asked if the lynchings, which were reported around the world, did not bring a bad name to the country.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 12

## In a first, U.S. lawmakers take a step against India on Kashmir

Senate panel makes appeal to end 'humanitarian crisis' in the State

**SUHASINI HAIDAR**  
NEW DELHI

In what could become the first step towards legislative action by American lawmakers against India on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has added an appeal to end what it calls a "humanitarian crisis" in Kashmir in its report ahead of the annual Foreign Appropriations Act for 2020.

The amendment was proposed by Senator Chris Van Hollen, who visited Delhi this week as a part of a congressional delegation that discussed the Kashmir situation as well as India-US bilateral relations, trade ties and defence purchases with key officials.

### 'Restore communication'

According to the report, which was submitted to the Senate by Lindsey Graham, senior Senator and key Republican leader known for his close ties to President Donald Trump, the committee on Appropriations "notes with concern the current humanitarian crisis in Kashmir and calls on the Government of India to: fully restore telecommunications and Internet services; lift its lockdown and curfew; and release individuals detained pursuant to the Government's revocation of Article 370 of the Indian constitution."

What makes the report as



Senator Chris Van Hollen visited Delhi this week as a part of a delegation that discussed the Kashmir situation. • GETTY IMAGES

Mr. Van Hollen had met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Washington last week and Senator Bob Menendez, also a part of the delegation, met with Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal this week in Delhi. Both Senators have made public statements in the last two months on the Kashmir situation.

### Denied permission

While it is unclear whether their concerns over Kashmir elicited any responses from the government, The Hindu has learnt that Senator Van Hollen was rebuffed when requested permission to visit Srinagar in an effort to assess the situation on the ground.

When asked, MEA officials said the Ministry of Home Affairs handled such requests. No diplomat or foreign journalist has yet been given clearance to visit Kashmir since the government's decision on Article 370 on August 5.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum's India Economic Summit in Delhi on Friday, Mr. Jaishankar said many key decision-makers in the US had been "misinformed by their media" and that he had spent considerable efforts in the past few weeks to clear misconceptions on the government's decision to drop the "temporary" Article 370.

(With inputs from Sriram Lakshman)