

In Southall, Brexit a side issue

International News

On a cold and drizzly June morning, a steady stream of people trickled in and out of the polling booth near Southall station in London, home to one of the country's biggest South Asian communities. While the snap general election was called by the Conservative government with a view to strengthening its hand in Brexit negotiations, the debate has quickly been taken over by other issues as was demonstrated by some of those emerging from the polling station.

"For me, it's not about Brexit but about local issues," said Gita, a 70-year old retired nurse, originally from Southall, who is a long-standing supporter of Ealing Southall's Labour MP Virendra Sharma. She said plans to cut services at the local Ealing Hospital was a top priority for her and others in the constituency.

iconoclast

someone who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions

arduous

difficult to accomplish, hard to endure

RBI 'grappling' with inflation data challenge, says Acharya

Business News

A day after the Finance Ministry cast doubt on RBI's inflation forecasts, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Viral Acharya on Thursday said price rise data pose a challenge and the central bank is "grappling" with it.

Mr. Acharya also said capacity utilisation in many of the sectors is very low, with a depressing impact on economic activities.

As the RBI left the key interest rates unchanged Wednesday citing concerns on the price situation, Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian had said: "Inflation forecast errors by the RBI have been large and systematically one-sided in overstating inflation."

profligate

recklessly extravagant or wasteful in the use of resources

prosaic

not challenging; dull and lacking excitement

SC verdict on Aadhaar-PAN link today

National News

The Supreme Court will on Friday pronounce its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the mandatory linkage of Aadhaar with the Permanent Account Number (PAN) under Section 139AA inserted in the Income Tax Act by the Finance Act, 2017.

A Bench of Justices A.K. Sikri and Ashok Bhushan will deliver the judgment at 2 p.m. on the petitions filed by Ramon Magsaysay award winner Bezwada Wilson, former Kerala Minister Binoy Viswam and ex-Army officer S.G. Vombatkere against making Aadhaar necessary for the continuing validity of PAN.

ameliorate

Make, become better

obsequious

obedient or attentive to an excessive degree