

IN BRIEF

**NCC, Art of Living to plan course on drug abuse**

CHANDIGARH
The NCC Directorate of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh along with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living foundation will develop courses on drug abuse prevention and personality development for the cadets, officials said on Monday. **PTI**

Ward councillor among 3 killed in 2 Bihar districts

MOTIHARI/ARA
Three persons, including a ward councillor, were shot dead by bike-borne gunmen in East Champaran and Bhojpur districts on Monday. Siyaram Prasad Kushwaha, a ward councillor, and Shambhu Rai were killed outside an office of the Ghorasahan block, East Champaran SP Umesh Kumar Sharma said. **PTI**

PWD engineer held for taking bribe of ₹5,000

KOTA
An executive engineer of the Public Works Department was arrested for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹5,000 from a contractor here on Monday, the police said. **PTI**

Cop arrested for taking bribe from rape accused

JAIPUR
A constable of a police station for women in Dausa district has been arrested for allegedly taking bribe from a rape case accused on promise of dropping charges against him, the Anti-Corruption Bureau said on Monday. **PTI**

Two brothers killed in road accident

KOTA
Two men died after an unidentified vehicle rammed their bike on the NH-27 near Kishanganj town of Baran district on Monday, the police said. The incident took place when the two brothers were travelling to Kishanganj from Baran, the police said. **PTI**

15 polling booths to be set up for Bru refugees

Polling for lone Lok Sabha seat in Mizoram on April 11; six companies of Central forces to be deployed

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AIZAWL**

A total of 15 temporary polling stations are being set up in Mamit district of Mizoram exclusively for Bru community voters living in relief camps in Tripura.

Of the 15 temporary polling stations, nine would be for Bru voters of Mamit district and three each for Lunglei and Kolasib districts of Mizoram, State Chief Electoral Officer Ashish Kundra said on Monday.

Nearly 12,000 Bru voters who originally hail from the three districts but now stay in six relief camps in the neighbouring State would exercise their franchise for the lone Lok Sabha seat in Mizoram on April 11.

Thousands of Bru com-



Bru women at a polling station at Kanhmun, Mizoram.

• FILE PHOTO

munity people had been lodged in the six relief camps in North Tripura district since late 1997 after they fled Mizoram in the wake of a communal tension.

They would vote in the

temporary polling stations being erected at Kanhmun village near Tripura border, Mr. Kundra said.

The Bru voters had cast their votes at the temporary polling stations at Kanhmun village during the Mizoram

Assembly election held on November 28 last year.

The NGO Coordination Committee, an umbrella organisation of major civil societies and student bodies, had earlier threatened to launch an agitation if temporary polling stations for the Brus were set up.

The organisation was of the opinion that those living outside Mizoram should not be allowed to vote in the State.

CEO's appeal

Appealing to the civil societies not to harden their stance, the CEO said launching a stir is a democratic right but thwarting the voting, also a democratic process, by agitation should be avoided.

The Centre and the governments of Tripura and Mizoram had taken steps to repatriate the Bru refugees but those efforts did not yield much.

Six companies of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) would be deployed during the Lok Sabha polls in the State as against 40 companies during the Assembly elections, he said.

Meanwhile, the People's Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram (PRISM) party on Monday announced that TBV Lalvenchhunga would be its candidate for the State's Lok Sabha seat.

Mr. Lalvenchhunga had unsuccessfully contested the Assembly polls from the Champhai North seat.

NGT pulls up Ministry for not furnishing proper data

On mechanism for compliance of green clearance

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has pulled up the Union Environment Ministry for not furnishing proper data on monitoring mechanism for compliance of conditions of environment clearance granted by the Ministry.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed a senior official of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to appear before the tribunal on April 29.

Precautionary principle
"The data furnished is wholly inadequate to evaluate the effectiveness of func-

tioning of mechanism. Adequate mechanism is the mandate of "precautionary principle" and "sustainable development" to be enforced by this tribunal. It appears that either the data is being withheld or the response of the officer is otherwise inadequate," the Bench observed.

The observations came following submissions by the Ministry that "a mechanism existed to periodically monitor the compliance of environmental clearance conditions which was being strengthened". The tribunal had in January directed the MoEF to furnish data on the same following which it submitted that a total of 6,779 projects were monitored

between 2013-2014 and 2018-19.

The Ministry informed the Bench that while in 2013-14, 843 projects were monitored, in 2018-19, it was 1,002.

Extent of defaults

"The data merely mentions figures of the projects monitored, without mentioning the extent of defaults found and further action taken, in absence of which the effectiveness of monitoring mechanism cannot be assessed," the Bench observed.

Following the observations, the NGT asked the officer concerned to be present before the tribunal with the "entire relevant data".

HC seeks Michel, CBI's response on Tihar plea

Jail had challenged phone call order

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought response of Christian Michel and the CBI on plea of Tihar Jail authorities challenging a local court order allowing him to make international phone calls in violation of prison rules.

The jail authorities in its plea alleged that no facts and circumstances were considered by the local court for granting an "illegal and improper privilege of communication".

In January, the local court had allowed Michel, arrested in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper case, to make international phone calls to his family, friends and lawyers. He was granted 15 minutes a week for making the calls.

The jail authorities said

the prison manual provided only for 10 minutes per week for making calls. It said as per the January 27, 2017, circular of prison authorities, a foreign national is only allowed to make calls to the country of his or her origin.

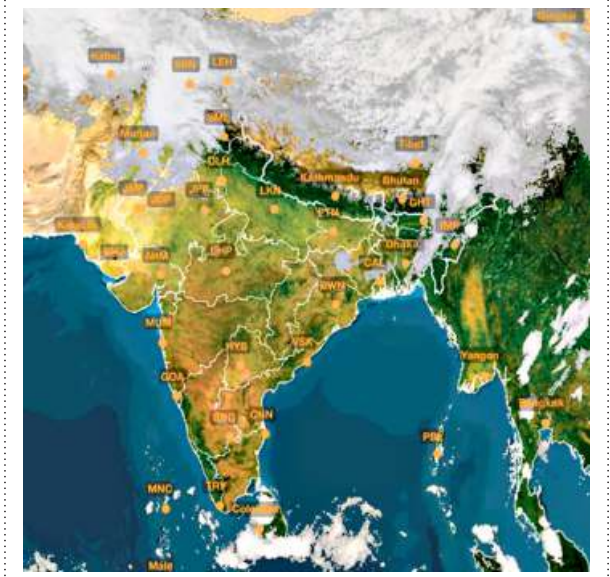
Michel's country of origin is the U.K. and as per the jail call records, he has been mostly contacting his "legal representative" in Italy.

The high court has posted the case for further hearing on April 22. It said Michel be produced before the court on the next date, if already not released from jail.

Michel was extradited from Dubai and later arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in December last year. He was later arrested by CBI in a case related to ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland deal

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.30 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with hailstorm, lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	14.8	29.8	19.6	Kozhikode	...	36.4	26.0
Ahmedabad	...	35.5	18.2	Kurnool	...	38.0	23.8
Aizawl	2	28.6	16.4	Lucknow	...	30.3	14.0
Allahabad	...	32.6	14.4	Madurai	...	37.4	24.4
Bengaluru	...	34.2	20.4	Mangaluru	...	34.4	24.4
Bhopal	...	32.2	16.4	Mumbai	...	34.0	18.1
Bhubaneswar	...	34.2	21.0	Mysuru	...	35.4	17.6
Chandigarh	...	28.6	12.4	New Delhi	...	28.5	12.0
Chennai	...	32.9	24.1	Patna	...	31.6	18.0
Coimbatore	...	36.4	23.2	Port Blair	...	32.6	24.6
Dehradun	...	29.0	11.9	Puducherry	...	33.2	23.8
Gangtok	...	18.0	11.6	Pune	...	37.4	14.5
Goa	...	31.2	21.3	Raipur	...	32.0	19.7
Guwahati	...	31.9	17.0	Ranchi	...	4.4	27.7
Hubbali	...	36.0	21.0	Shillong	...	20.6	11.2
Hyderabad	...	33.7	21.5	Shimla	...	18.4	7.3
Imphal	...	5.6	26.0	Srinagar	...	16.4	1.7
Jaipur	...	30.0	16.6	Trivandrum	...	35.5	25.4
Kochi	...	33.0	26.2	Tiruchi	...	36.7	24.4
Kohima	...	1.6	25.0	Vijayawada	...	34.5	21.5
Kolkata	...	35.1	30.6	Visakhapatnam	...	33.8	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	49	111	32	103	...	...	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Guwahati, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 272 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 51
Bengaluru	11	37	50	63	...	...
Chennai	22	71	42	80	...	...
Delhi	29	54	34	261	291	...	
Hyderabad	2	85	33	78	108	...	
Kolkata	11	107	29	104	122	...	
Lucknow	14	40	50	299	...	...
Mumbai	6	26	82	66	124	...	
Pune	31	15	33	89	117	...	
Visakhapatnam	...	42	24	...	...	...

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease