

IN BRIEF



Mallya gets more time to pay up for London home

LONDON
Embattled liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya has settled a legal dispute with Swiss bank UBS to allow him time until April 2019 to pay up mortgage loan for his London home. The bank had sought possession of his Cornwall Terrace apartment over the non-payment of a £20.4 million loan and a trial in the case was due last week. However, the proceedings have been adjourned following a settlement. PTI

India to host Army scouts masters contest in Aug.

NEW DELHI
India will for the first time host the 'Army scouts masters competition' in August, which is being held as a segment under the 5th edition of International Army games, an Army officer said on Tuesday. Teams from eight countries, including Russia and China, have arrived in Jaisalmer for the coordination conference.

Constable suspended for assaulting T.N. journalist

VILLUPURAM
Villupuram Superintendent of Police S. Jayakumar on Tuesday suspended Vijayan, a constable attached to Edaikkal police station near Ulundurpet, for repeatedly assaulting a senior journalist with a Tamil news channel here. The incident took place on May 3. Two other constables were shifted to the Armed Reserve for failing to intervene and not reporting the incident.

Statues on Vizag Beach Road removed

VISAKHAPATNAM
Three statues that of actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao, film director Dasari Narayana Rao and son of NTR, Nandamuri Hari Krishna, were removed overnight by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation from Beach Road, late on Monday. The statues were removed based on an order from the A.P. High Court as they were installed without obtaining permission.

ED questions Kochhars again in loan case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday again quizzed former ICICI Bank managing director and chief executive officer Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar in the Videocon Group loans case. They have been told to appear before the probe team on Wednesday. The second round of questioning started around 11 a.m. and continued for several hours. The Kochhars have been asked to submit some more documents, according to an official.

The money laundering probe is being conducted on the basis of an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, alleging that a quid pro quo of ₹64 crore was paid in the form of investments in the company of Ms. Kochhar's husband for sanction of loans to some Videocon Group companies.

Videocon Group head Venugopal Dhoot allegedly invested the money in Nupower Renewables Limited through Supreme Energy Private Limited, which was later transferred to Pinnacle Energy Trust, another firm managed by Mr. Kochhar.

Floods result of rampant construction: SC

Violation of Coastal Regulation Zone norms cannot be condoned, warns the court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Unbridled construction activities in eco-sensitive areas with natural water flow have a devastating effect and lead to natural calamities like those seen in the recent floods in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttarakhand, the Supreme Court warned.

“Expert opinions suggest that the devastated floods faced by Uttarakhand in recent years and Tamil Nadu this year are immediate result of uncontrolled construction activities on river shores and unscrupulous trespass into the natural path of backwaters,” a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Navin Sinha observed in a recent order.

The observations are part of its direction to the authorities in Kerala to demolish certain apartment blocks situated in ecologically sensitive areas in Maradu panchayat within a month. In a detailed order published lately, the court declared the



Future tense: Alfa Serene Apartments, which is among the five buildings under the Maradu municipality in Kochi that were ordered to be razed by the Supreme Court. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

permission given by the panchayat authorities for their construction as illegal and void.

“We take judicial notice of recent devastation in Kerala which had taken place due to such unbridled construction activities resulting into colossal loss of human life and property,” the Supreme

Court observed.

It said the area in which the construction was carried out was part of tidal influenced water body and strictly restricted under the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone notifications.

“Uncontrolled construction activities in these areas

would have devastating effects on the natural water flow that may ultimately result in severe natural calamities,” the Bench said in the order.

Prior permission must

The Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) has been prepared to check these

Odisha fishermen in a fix

Unemployment worries loom after boats, nets lost to Fani

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

The traditional fishermen of Odisha are in a fix as they have lost their boats and nets in cyclone Fani and face the diminished scope of professional employment in other coastal States during the summer months.

According to Prasanna Behera, president of the Odisha Traditional Fish Workers' Union (OTFWU), a large number of the cyclone-devastated fishermen may be forced to become menial migrant labourers during the next two months. The Phailin cyclone of 2013 that had its landfall near Gopalpur in Ganjam district had led to large scale migration of fishermen looking for work outside the State. But Phailin occurred in October, when the scope of employment in the marine fishery sector was high in other coastal States.

Migration for jobs

During the summer months fishing activity is low in States of the eastern coast, which will reduce the employment scope for Odisha fishermen, said Mr. Behera. It is expected that some of them may migrate to the western coast looking for fishing sector jobs in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa. Others may be compelled to earn a living as menial work-



Fishing boats after cyclone hit Chandrabhaga in Puri, Odisha. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

ers in other sectors.

According to initial government assessment, 6,389 traditional marine fishing boats, 7,240 nets, 2,524 fish ponds of area 587 hectare, three fishing harbours, six fish landing centres, and five fish farms have been damaged by Fani in Odisha. According to OTFWU, the number of damaged boats and nets will be higher as information is yet to reach it from several areas.

Fani has affected the traditional fishermen of Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara districts and those living on the banks of Chilika lake in Khurda, Ganjam and Puri districts. The demand for marine fish, prawn and crab has again started to rise in the Odisha markets. But the fishermen of Ganjam, who were least affected by Fani are not able to gain from it.

According to N.Taleya, a fisherman community leader of Nulia Nuagaon in Ganjam district, the ban on mechanised fishing from April 15 to May 31 for the breeding season still continues in Ganjam coast. Due to this they are only able to fish with their traditional catamarans. The catch is not sufficient to get good income, although demand is high as fishing is almost nil in the Fani-devastated coastal districts.

With fall in fish catch, women of the marine fisherman community have also lost their livelihood. They are no more able to process and trade marine products. Samudram, a federation of Women Self Help Groups, is doubtful about producing 500 kg of processed marine products per month in the coming days.

Security beefed up at Kamal's residence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Security has been enhanced at Makkal Needhi Maiam leader Kamal Haasan's residence and the party office at Alwarpet in the wake of the controversy over his comments on Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse.

Events cancelled

The actor-politician has cancelled campaign events in Aravakurichi and Ottapidaram constituencies, where bypolls are due on May 19.

Strong criticism

Mr. Haasan's remarks drew strong criticism as well as support from different groups. Dairy Minister K.T. Rajenthra Bhalaji had said Mr. Haasan's tongue should be cut off for making such comments.

“On Tuesday, following an input that a few Hindu outfits were planning to protest outside his residence and party office, security was enhanced,” said a police officer. A patrol vehicle has been stationed here round-the-clock. Adequate police personnel have been deployed to his residence in Neelankarai, he added.

types of activities and construction activities of all types in the notified areas.

Under Section 3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, the authority is empowered to deal with the environmental issues relating to the notified Coastal Regulation Zones.

Construction activities in the notified CRZ areas can be permitted only in consultation with and concurrence of the authority.

“It is the binding duty of the local self-governments, the competent authority issuing building permits to forward application for building permission to the authority along with the relevant records,” the court said.

The significance of CRZ notifications in the interest of protecting environment and ecology in the coastal areas and the construction raised in violation of the regulations cannot be lightly condoned, the Bench quoted from past judgments on the issue.

Deep dive into VR with Rahman's Scent of a Song

The maestro unveils his new venture at Cannes

NAMRATA JOSHI
CANNES

The first day of the 60th Cannes Film Festival saw music maestro A.R. Rahman unveiling a prelude to his forthcoming virtual reality (VR) film *Le Musk*.

Called “Scent of a Song”, the musical sensory experience is an immersive exercise that literally plants the viewer into the story. Despite your feet firmly planted in Cannes, it takes you to the locales the film has been shot in and brings you whisper close to the characters, specially the flautist heroine Juliet, played by Nora Arnezeder.

Immersive experience

At one point you feel like the mirror she is looking into and at others you actually feel like reaching out and wiping away the tear from her eye. The soundscape is just as multi-dimensional and immersive.

Presented by tech giant Intel at the Cannes XR section, the experience requires sitting on special red egg-shaped, pod-chairs with the VR gear – a headmounted eye view and headsets. In addition there is an olfactory dimension to the experience

Ban on LTTE extended by five more years

‘It keeps indulging in disruptive activities’

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday extended the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for five more years for violent and disruptive activities which are prejudicial to the integrity and sovereignty of India. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) renewed its 2014 notification to declare the terror outfit behind the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as an ‘unlawful association’ for another five years.

India had banned the LTTE after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

In the notification, the MHA said the LTTE “continues to adopt a strong anti-India posture as also continues to pose a grave threat to the security of Indian nationals, so it is necessary to declare the LTTE as an unlawful association with immediate effect.”

The Ministry also said the

“diaspora continue to spread through articles on Internet portals anti-India feeling among the Sri Lankan Tamils by holding the Government of India responsible for the defeat of the LTTE and such propaganda through Internet, which remains continued, is likely to impact Very Very Important Persons [VVIP] security adversely in India.”

Eelam concept

The MHA said that even after its military defeat in 2009 May in Sri Lanka, the LTTE had not abandoned the concept of ‘Eelam’ (separate land for Tamils) and had been clandestinely working towards the cause by undertaking fund raising and propaganda activities.

“The remnant LTTE leaders or cadres have also initiated efforts to regroup the scattered activists and resurrect the outfit locally and internationally,” the Centre said.



A.R. Rahman

because the film involves linking scents with memory. Be it joy or fear, every feeling comes underlined with a distinct smell. In fact, the idea for it came to Rahman from his perfume-loving wife Saira.

Rahman's passion project started off as a 20 minute film that has now become an hour and ten minute long musical, aromatic, murder mystery. Besides Arnezeder, it stars Guy Burnet, Munirih Grace and Mariam Zohrabayan. Shot entirely in Italy, it has reportedly taken about \$5 million to make.

The composer and music director spoke about his love for experimenting with technology emanating from the fact that he always wanted to be an engineer. It [the love of tech] has seeped into many things, he claimed. “So

when someone says something is difficult to get done, I say let's do it,” he said. He thanked his amazing team of “geniuses” back in Chennai who worked the software.

He also said his background – the mix of the experience of East and West – makes him want to indulge in a different kind of storytelling. A story-telling that is not about words as about seeing things up close and personal.

All of it harnessed for a cinema, that, according to him, is about “community, empathy and understanding but not in a conventional, preachy way”.

In a video on the making of the film, the cast and crew spoke about the uniqueness of filming for VR – the single takes, no cuts, constant action, hidden crew, static camera. They also spoke about Rahman wearing many hats and bringing in energy, enthusiasm and spirituality to the film.

Rahman hopes to premiere the film in the U.S. and Europe and will bring it to India by the end of the year. It would mean revolutionising the way a film is seen and building the required infrastructure.

Quick, cheap diagnostic test for Haemophilia A

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)'s National Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai, has developed a cost-effective Point-of-Care (POC) diagnostic test for severe Haemophilia A and Von Willebrand Disease (VWD), a genetic disorder caused by missing or defective Von Willebrand factor (VWF), a clotting protein.

“This is the first in the world POC test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder. Working

cost of these kits is less than ₹50 in comparison to existing conventional test for the diseases that costs around ₹4,000 to ₹1,00,000,” an ICMR release said.

The diagnosis can be done within 30 minutes of blood sample collection.

Patients with severe Haemophilia A or VWD can have life threatening spontaneous or post-traumatic bleeding like brain haemorrhage and gastrointestinal bleeding or they may have bleeding into joints or superficial bleeding from the nose or gums.