



Spurious liquor claims 12 lives in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh

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Mandal era has ended in Bihar, says JD(U)'s Bashistha Narayan Singh

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Two stabbed to death in Japan in rampage that targeted children

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Rahul, Dhoni hit centuries as India trounces Bangladesh in warm-up

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NEARBY

Partymen come to Gambhir's rescue

NEW DELHI
A day after East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir's tweet terming the alleged assault on a man in Gurugram "deplorable" split opinion about him within his own ranks, the BJP on Tuesday came to his defense maintaining that he had "not done anything wrong".

CITY PAGE 3

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OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 19

Karnataka ordered to release 9.19 tmcft

Cauvery Water Management Authority ruling on water for T.N. for June

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Tuesday ordered Karnataka to release 9.19 tmcft of water for the month of June from the Biligundlu reservoir to the Mettur dam in Tamil Nadu.

"It was a unanimous decision. The forecast, so far, is a normal monsoon and keeping in view the water level in the dams and reservoirs, we have directed 9.19 tmcft of water to be released for the month of June," CWMA Chairman Masood Hussain told *The Hindu*.

The monsoon is forecast to make landfall in Kerala on



The quantum is in line with the Supreme Court's order on February 16 last year.

June 6, and the Central Water Commission's records show that key reservoirs in southern India are at levels below their five-year average. The total live storage is 6.38 bcm (billion cubic

metre), which is 12% of the total live storage capacity.

The storage during the corresponding period last year was also 12% and the average storage of the last 10 years during the corresponding period was 15% of the live storage capacity of these reservoirs, according to the CWC's May 23 bulletin.

Meeting postponed

The CWMA meeting was to have been held a fortnight ago, but had to be postponed until Tuesday following a request by Karnataka, Mr. Hussain said.

Representatives from all riparian States attended the meeting.

The quantum of water to be released is in line with the Supreme Court's order on February 16 last year. While conferring authority on the CWMA to decide on releasing water, the court said Karnataka's share was 284 tmcft, Tamil Nadu's 404 tmcft, Kerala's 30 tmcft and Puducherry's 7 tmcft.

Besides this, the court reserved 10 tmcft for environmental purposes and four tmcft for natural flow into the sea.

This is the third meeting of the CWMA since June 2018, when it was constituted. It is expected to meet once in 10 days from June to October.

SC to hear Bedi's plea tomorrow

Puducherry LG sought clarity on control over officials

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to urgently hear a petition by Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi for clarity on the issue of control over bureaucrats following a turf war between her office and the Chief Minister.

A Vacation Bench, led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, agreed to hear the petition on Thursday.

On May 10, the court issued notice on a plea by the Administrator, Union Terri-



Kiran Bedi

tory of Puducherry, to stay a Madras High Court decision which curbed the Lieutenant Governor's powers to interfere in the day-to-day administration, especially when an elected govern-

ment was in place. However, in a fresh application, Ms. Bedi said the ruling brought the "administrative machinery to an impasse".

The plea said the Puducherry Lieutenant Governor enjoys "greater discretionary power" than the Delhi Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor has a "special responsibility towards the Union Territory of Puducherry and is under the overarching control of the President".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

New Delhi gears up for Pompeo's possible visit

Stopover enroute to G20 summit

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the first meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump in two years, the government is preparing for a possible visit by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, sources confirmed to *The Hindu*. Mr. Pompeo's visit, along with a high-level delegation, is likely in the third week of June.

Sources said a stopover by Mr. Pompeo on his way

to the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan, "is under consideration". Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump will be among the several world leaders attending the summit on June 28 and 29.

While Mr. Pompeo's visit is to prepare the ground for the meeting on the sidelines of the summit, the Secretary of State and the External Affairs Minister also have urgent issues to iron out.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Scientists give the thumbs-up for Anthropocene epoch

R. PRASAD
CHENNAI

On May 21, a 34-member panel of the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG) voted 29-4 in favour of designating a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene.

The vote signals the end of the Holocene Epoch, which began 11,700 years ago.

According to *Nature*, the panel plans to submit a formal proposal for the new epoch by 2021 to the International Commission on Stratigraphy, which oversees the official geologic time chart.

That nearly 90% voted in favour of a naming the new epoch to reflect how the Earth has been shaped by human activity, is not surprising, as an informal vote had already conducted three years ago in Cape Town at the 2016 International Geological Congress.

The term 'Anthropocene' was coined in 2000 by Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer to denote the present geological time interval in which human activity has profoundly altered many conditions and processes on Earth.

According to the AWG, the phenomena associated with the Anthropocene include an order-of-magnitude increase in erosion and sediment transport associated with urbanisation and agriculture, marked and abrupt anthropogenic perturbations of the cycles of elements such as carbon, environmental changes generated by these perturbations, including global warming, sea-level rise, and ocean acidification, rapid changes in the biosphere and finally



The radionuclides are present almost everywhere.
• THE HINDU ARCHIVES

proliferation and global dispersion of many new 'minerals' and 'rocks' including concrete, fly ash and plastics, and the myriad 'technofossils' produced from these and other materials.

A golden spike

The focus is now on identifying a definitive geologic marker or golden spike (technically called Global boundary Stratotype Section and Point) to signal the beginning of the Anthropocene Epoch. The golden spike must be present globally and should be a part of deposits for geological record.

Many in the AWG believe that artificial radionuclides spread across the world by atomic bomb tests from the early 1950s would serve as the golden spike. The radionuclides are present almost everywhere – from marine sediments to ice layers and even stalagmites and stalactites.

Once a formal proposal is made by the AWG, it will be considered by several more groups of the International Commission on Stratigraphy.

The final ratification will be made by the executive committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

Senior doctor arrested for Payal Tadv's death

GAUTAM S. MENGLE
JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI

The Agripada police in Mumbai on Tuesday made the first arrest in connection with the suicide of Payal Tadv, a resident doctor at BYL Nair Hospital, last week.

The police on Thursday

last registered a case against three doctors – Hema Ahuja, Bhakti Mehare and Ankita Khandelwal, all Dr. Tadv's seniors – after she killed herself in her hostel on Wednesday. The three have been absconding since then.

The police said Dr. Mehare was arrested when she

came to meet her lawyer near Nair Hospital to discuss the anticipatory bail application that all the three have filed.

Mumbai police spokesperson DCP Manjunath Singe confirmed Dr. Mehare's arrest.

The police are question-

ing her on the whereabouts of the other accused.

The police also questioned Dr. Ramesh Bharmal, Dean of Nair Hospital, and several other staff members in connection with the death of Dr. Tadv.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

BSP leader, nephew shot in Bijnor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

A Bahujan Samaj Party leader and his nephew were allegedly shot dead at their office in Najibabad town of Bijnor district on Tuesday afternoon. The Bijnor police said Haji Ehsan, party in-

charge of the Najibabad un-

its, was also involved in property business. Ruling out a political angle, Bijnor Additional SP (City) Laxmi Niwas Mishra said: "Initial probe has revealed it to be a case of business rivalry. An FIR has been lodged."

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

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