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NEARBY

Drug haul: accused dead

CHANDIGARH
The key accused in the alleged smuggling of heroin from Pakistan, who was lodged in Amritsar jail, has died in judicial custody.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 5

Now and Then

The only Indian basketball player to receive a Padma Shri, Prashanti Singh says she is now happy lifting weights in the gym.

▶ PAGE 2

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ 4 PAGES

Solar panel vendors cash in on power demand during Assam floods

Some traders in areas that usually escape inundation invested in solar gadgets before the arrival of the monsoon in June

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The sun has created a flood of business opportunities in the monsoon-mauled Assam.

The deluge this year has so far killed 55 people - five drowned on Saturday - and washed away 521 domestic animals and fowl as 38.37 lakh people across 18 of the 33 districts continue to be affected. The tragedy for most has translated into cash for a few, even non-traders who sniffed possibilities. Among the major beneficiaries are vendors of solar panels and appliances. "The number of

SPECIAL

there has been no electricity since the floods submerged most houses in these areas more than a week ago. Traders in market areas such as Mohanbazar, Bankhabazar and Manubazar have generators, but many installed solar panels to first charge batteries and let us charge our mobile phones and torches for a fee," he said.

A trader, declining to be named, insisted he was not cashing in on people's misery. "It is a service we are providing and we have a

right to recover our cost and a little more," he said.

The likes of Hasanur Alam, who pays ₹10 for charging his feature phone, and Nazrul Islam, whose smartphone entails a charging fee of ₹20, are not complaining. Each charging centre, Mr. Amin said, gets 200 clients per day.

Officials dealing with non-conventional energy said the demand for solar panels had made a few vendors in flood-prone areas sell their wares at a premium. A Guwahati dealer denied the allegation.

Depending on whether it is monocrystalline and poly-

crystalline, a solar panel of up to 50 watts costs ₹46-73 per watt. The demand is more for panels of capacity ranging from 12 watts to 20 watts.

"Many inmates of relief camps and flood-affected people in makeshift houses on embankments are using solar panels for basic requirement," said Nayanjyoti Bhuyan, associated with an aid agency. Officials in Nalbari and Barpeta districts said non-traders had also joined retailers in ferrying essentials.



Much sought after: A mobile phone charging centre, run on generators and solar panels, in Barpeta. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Delhi bids farewell to Sheila Dikshit

Senior Congress leaders, supporters and political rivals attend cremation

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The mortal remains of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit were consigned to flames at the Nigam Bodh Ghat here on Wednesday.

Family members, friends, senior Congress leaders and political supporters and rivals attended the cremation carried out with full state honours amid heavy monsoon showers and cries of "Sheila Dikshit Amar Rahe".

Sources close to her family said she had told them that she wished to be cremated in the CNG-run crematorium at the ghat as it was eco-friendly.

As Chief Minister, it was Ms. Dikshit who was instrumental in introducing CNG-run public transport vehicles in the Capital to curb air pollution.

The cortege left Ms. Dikshit's home in Nizamuddin East and made its way to the All



A city's loss: The funeral procession of former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit leaving from the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Ms. Sonia Gandhi told presspersons that Ms. Dikshit was a friend and like an elder sister.

"Her demise is a big loss to the Congress party," she said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani, former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also paid their respects during the day.

Scores of supporters paid their last respects at Ms. Dikshit's home in the morning, at the AICC headquarters and also at the crematorium.

Many of them had several stories to share about how Ms. Dikshit had had an impact on their lives and how they were shocked that someone who had only recently contested a Lok Sabha election could pass away so suddenly.

India Congress Committee headquarters on 24 Akbar Road where it halted for two hours for people to pay their last respects to her.

It then proceeded towards the ghat after making a small detour via the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) headquarters on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg.

Ms. Dikshit, who died of a

Revamp of Army Headquarters to get under way by month-end

Government has already given in-principle nod

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Army's attempt at major restructuring will begin with the draft government sanction letter for reorganisation of the Army Headquarters (AHQ) expected by the month-end, Army sources said. The AHQ restructuring is the first of the four measures being undertaken as part of the transformation of the force.

Aligning procurements

"The government has already given in-principle approval for the AHQ restructuring. We have identified how to utilise the available space. One of the main ideas is to get procurements aligned,

Change of guard

The Army Headquarters (AHQ) will be reorganised as part of a bigger transformation of the force

How the AHQ is restructured:

At present: Two Deputy Chiefs for:
1. Information systems & training
2. Planning and systems

After change: Three Deputy Chiefs for:
1. Sustenance 2. Strategy
3. Information systems

- Director General (DG), Rashtriya Rifles, to move to Udhampur under an Additional Director General (ADG)
- New post of 'ADG Vigilance' to be created. Will report to Army Chief

The Army now has two Deputy Chiefs, one for information systems and training and the other for planning and systems. These functions are being brought under one authority to avoid overlapping.

In another major change at the AHQ, the Directorates of Military Operations, Military Intelligence and Operational Logistics will report to the Deputy Chief (Strategy). The Perspective Planning Directorate will also report to this Deputy Chief. The third Deputy Chief, Information Systems, will look after all technology and cyber-related issues, the source said.

A new post of Additional Director-General (ADG), Vigilance, is being created, and he will report to the Army chief.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

among other things. A new Deputy Chief (Sustenance) is going to look after all procurements," a senior Army source told *The Hindu*.

Under the plan, the Master-General Ordnance will report to the Deputy Chief to bring all ammunition under one head, the source stated.

Govt. to roll out big push for infrastructure

Major decisions outlined as NDA completes 50 days in office in second term

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An Annual Global Investors Summit is to be organised later this year, with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) anchoring the event, to invite investment in the infrastructure segment, where spending for the next five years is projected at ₹100 crore.

The government is hoping that this massive push for infrastructure, with investors



Many of the big ticket promises were taken up at the first Cabinet meeting.

from India and abroad participating, will have a cascading effect of pushing growth.

This was revealed by government sources as the Modi government completed the first 50 days of its second term and shared data on decisions taken by it.

Significantly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told close aides in his office that there will be no "settling-in" period this time around as it was a continuing government.

Giving further details, government sources said the 50-day push was important

Heavy rain leaves roads waterlogged

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Heavy rain lashed the Capital on Sunday leading to waterlogging and traffic congestion at several places.

The city received 49.2 mm of rainfall between 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., making it the heaviest downpour of the season so far.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 3

Little room for SC/ST scientists in biotech bodies

RTI enquiry reveals poor representation

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Scientists from the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) are grossly under-represented in scientific institutions funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), a Right To Information query by a researcher has found.

Several of these institutions just about meet the government prescribed criteria for reservation - 15% for the SCs and 7.5% for the STs. However, the RTI responses perused by *The*

Employee position	Permanent staff				Scientists			
	Total	SC/ST	SC	ST	Total	SC/ST	SC	ST
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology	37	6	1	0				
National Institute of Immunology	208	34	2	0				
Regional Centre for Biotechnology	44	4	0	0				
National Institute of Plant Genome Research	74	9	5	0				
Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics	110	19	2	0				
National Centre for Cell Sciences	149	27	5	2				
Centre of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing	13	2	1	0				
Translational Health Science and Technology Institute	32	2	1	0				
Institute of Bioreources and Sustainable Development	14	0	0	0				

Hindu show that posts of scientist and technical grade staff (where reservation rules are not mandatory) see only single-digit representation from the reserved categories (excluding the Other Back-

ward Classes).

For instance, at the National Institute of Immunology (NII), funded by the DBT, 34 out of the 208 permanent employees belong to the SC/ST category. However, only two from the SC category were scientists (Group A scientists in the pay grade level 10 and above, where the SC/ST reservations don't apply). There was no scientist from the ST category.

At the Regional Centre for Biotechnology, another DBT institute, set up under the auspices of UNESCO, four of the 44 permanent posts were held by the SC/ST candidates. But none was in the scientist grade.

The Pune-based National

Centre for Cell Sciences had the highest representation of SCs and STs among scientists - five in the SC category and two from the STs.

Of the 16 DBT institutions, only nine responded to a request for information on representation of scientists, said Ashok Kumar, the RTI applicant. Mr Kumar is a doctoral candidate at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad, also an autonomous DBT institute. The THSTI records just two of its 32 permanent employees from the SC/ST category of whom one was in the scientist grade.

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