



Hardik tries to meet Sanjiv Bhatt, detained

CONGRESS leader Hardik Patel and two legislators, along with their supporters, were detained by the Gujarat police when they were on their way to Palanpur jail to meet sacked IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt. Others detained were Mahesh Patel and Kirit Patel.

Man killed by tiger at Corbett reserve

A daily wager patrolling with a team of forest guards in the Corbett Tiger Reserve was mauled to death by a tiger, an official said on Wednesday. The big cat pounced on Bishan Ram (55) and dragged him away. His half-eaten body was later recovered from the interiors of the forest.

CVC seeks models to curb loan diversion

The Central Vigilance Commission has recommended uniform models for financing farmers growing sugar cane and other crops, to prevent fraudulent diversion of bank loan funds. "As these farm loans are at concessional rates, no action is taken against the sugar companies," it said.

Policemen suspended on molestation charges

Three policemen have been suspended after a video showing them molesting a minor boy at a railway station here in Chhattisgarh went viral on social media, an official said on Wednesday. The incident apparently took place on August 9.

Act fast on reverse tendering, says Jagan

A day after the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) made it clear that reverse tendering would lead to cost escalation, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy stressed the need to hasten decisions to take the process forward.

'Swachh' to look beyond toilets

ODF+ phase will focus on waste management

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In a nascent effort to look beyond toilets and kick off its ODF+ phase - that is, Open Defecation Free Plus - focussing on solid and liquid waste management, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) has included the prevalence of plastic litter and water-logging in villages as indicators of cleanliness in its 2019 rural survey.

For the last five years, ever since the SBA was launched on Gandhi Jayanti in 2014, its main focus has been on eliminating open defecation by constructing toilets and promoting their usage through widespread behaviour change programmes. With the October 2, 2019 deadline looming near, and the original goal almost achieved according to



Obstacle course: Plastic garbage dumped in a canal at Chepauk in Chennai.

government data, the mission is moving on to its next phase.

Four main verticals

"ODF+ will have four main verticals - solid waste management divided into biodegradable waste and plastic waste, and liquid waste management divided into grey water, or kitchen waste water, and faecal waste," said Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra

Singh Shekhawat, speaking at the launch of Swachh Survekshan 2019. "We are working under the specific protocols for the different modules... Right now, there is no mechanism for plastic waste collection or waste disposal in most villages."

A senior official explained that the protocol for plastic waste would call for bans on single use plastic, as well as the collection and sorting of

waste at the Block level. If possible, plastic waste would be sent for recycling, or baled and shredded.

"There are also proposals to use it in cement plants and brick kilns. There is potentially a profitable market available for this waste if handled correctly," said the official. "We don't want to create landfills across rural India in the name of waste management."

Village-based survey

The survey aims to cover 18,000 sample villages - approximately 30 per rural district - and take feedback from over 2.5 crore villagers. In fact, citizen feedback will account for 35% of the ranking of districts.

"Continuity is the basis of behaviour change. This survey is one step to ensure continuity of ODF achievements," said Mr. Shekhawat.

The survey will be conducted from August 14 to September 2.

Govt. set to ease norms for mining

This will avoid a dip in iron production

JACOB KOSHY NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry plans to provide "temporary" forest clearances to prospective bidders for mines whose leases are set to expire in March 2020. The bulk of such mines are located in Odisha and Karnataka.

Officials said that the Environment Ministry would enable clearances to avoid a potential drop in iron production between 2020 and 2022, and catalyse moribund mining auctions. The traditional process has been for mine developers to be responsible for obtaining necessary clearances to start work at a mine.

A key change

This relaxation was necessary because of a change in



Black gold: Trucks on the move in the Mahanadi coal fields in Odisha.

the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, which was amended in 2015. The key change is that, unlike the previous years when mining leases were extended every 20 years, new leases would be issued for 50 years and they would be made available via an auction.

Knee implant cost to stay below 10%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A day after the Central government noted that the ceiling price of orthopaedic knee implants will be monitored to ensure that the cost does not increase beyond 10% in a given year, the medical device industry has said that it expected more from the government.

Medical Technology Association of India's (MTAI) chairman and director-general Mr. Pavan Choudhary said, "We were seeking a 20% increase in the selling price of knee implants to make up for two years of price control combined with continuing pressures of rupee devaluation and inflation."

'Partial relief'

"Having said that, it is reassuring that the government has begun to acknowledge the financial pressures on medical device companies and has decided to provide partial relief by letting companies increase the price by 10% in the next one year, as per paragraph 20 of DPCO (Drugs Prices Control Order), 2013. As we move ahead, we will continue to engage with the government for a long-term solution," he added.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) notified the ceiling price of orthopaedic knee implants on August 16, 2017 by invoking extraordinary powers, in public interest, under paragraph 19 of the DPCO, 2013 for a period of one year.

Subsequently, the applicability of ceiling prices fixed for orthopaedic knee implants was extended for another year, up to August 15, 2019.

Accordingly, the cost of knee implants was reduced significantly, by up to 69%, resulting in a notional saving of ₹1,500 crore per annum to consumers.

Chandrayaan-2 moves out of earth's orbit

It is to enter the lunar orbit on Aug. 20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The Chandrayaan-2 lunar lander-orbiter was on Wednesday set on course to exit earth's gravity as it began a seven-day journey to the moon in the wee hours, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

The spacecraft, which was launched on July 22, is scheduled to reach the vicinity of the moon on August 20.

Engineers at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru raised the orbit of the spacecraft for the sixth and last time on the earth side. The 20-minute operation was carried out at 2.21 a.m. by firing the space-

craft's engine.

"With this, Chandrayaan-2 entered the Lunar Transfer Trajectory," ISRO said in a statement. "Earlier, the spacecraft's orbit was progressively increased five times during July 23 to August 6. All systems on board Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft are normal," the space agency added.

The spacecraft carries lander Vikram and rover Pragyan on it. The mission is the country's first lunar soft-landing attempt and would also be the first-ever arrival on the moon's southern polar region by any country.

Vikram is slated to touch down on the moon on September 7.

Freedom fighter's Tricolour to flutter again

Khadi flag was specially made in 1947 after it was clear that the British were leaving

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

Nurul Hussain had intended to display his father's most prized possession - a khadi Tricolour of 1947 vintage - to mark India's 75th Independence Day.

But friends and neighbours in Sivasagar district's Demow town, about 380 km east of Guwahati, advised him not to wait that long. He agreed to unfurl the National Flag on Thursday. "They have a point. I am 78 and the only survivor among Mohammed Hussain's five sons," he said.

'Commander Sahib'

Mohammed Hussain spent the later part of his life as a cleric. Locals, however, knew him more as Commander Sahib than a maulvi. "He



Nurul Hussain, centre, and his family with the flag that will be unfurled for the first time since 1947.

had sown the seeds of revolt against the British. People began to call him Commander Sahib. The British were so angry with his rebellion that they confiscated 47 'bighas' of land he owned,"

Mr. Hussain told The Hindu from Demow.

After Commander Sahib died in 1971, his youngest son took over the responsibility of preserving what his father referred to as his treasure box.

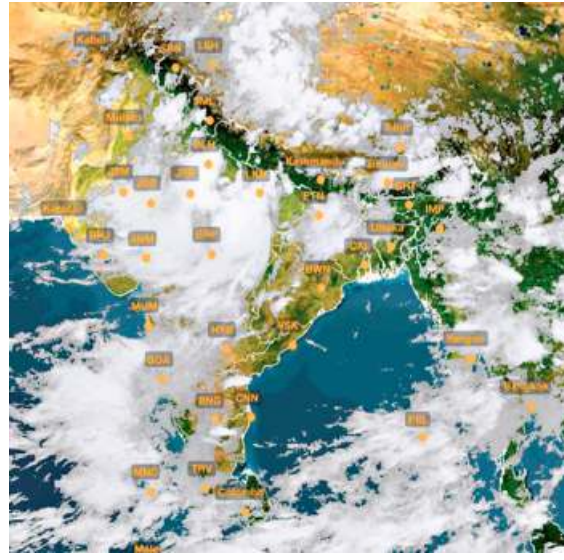
sure box.

"The box contains much more than the spotless khadi flag. There are records pertaining to his joining the freedom movement under Mahatma Gandhi, his joining the Indian National Congress and assorted items associated with many a great leader," said Mr. Hussain, who was the founder-teacher of the Demow Town High School in 1970.

The flag was specially made in 1947 after it became clear that the British were leaving India. The records, Mr. Hussain said, trace the history of the movement in eastern Assam from 1938 to 1947, including the Quit India movement. Many among the town's 30,000 people will turn up at the courtyard of the Hussain house for the unfurling of the flag at 7 a.m.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Thursday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Meghalaya

Table with 4 columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various cities including Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Gangtok, Goa, Guwahati, Hubballi, Imphal, Jaipur, Kochi, Kohima, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Mysuru, New Delhi, Patna, Port Blair, Puducherry, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Shillong, Shimla, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchi, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam.

Table with 4 columns: CITIES, SO2, NO2, CO, PM2.5, PM10, CODE. Includes a legend for Air Quality Code (Poor, Moderate, Good) and a note about observation made at 6:00 p.m. in Ahmedabad.

Air Quality Code: SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can cause visibility by reacting with other 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.

Stalin: pass anti-NEET bills again

STAFF REPORTER CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin urged Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami to call a special session of the Assembly to pass two anti-NEET bills again, and send it for Presidential nod.

He was reacting to the Tamil Nadu government's statement that the State was kept in the dark for two years with regard to the President having withheld his assent to two anti-NEET bills.

He alleged that Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar did not share information that the assent was not given and the bills returned.

STAFF REPORTER BERHAMPUR

An idol of Mahatma Gandhi is being worshipped within the complex of a Jagannath temple in Odisha's Berhampur for the past six decades.

OSMANIA UNIVERSITY NAAC A+ Grade | Category | University | UPE Hyderabad, Telangana State-500007. RUSA 2.0 Advt. No.01/2019-20, dated 13.08.2019. Applications in online mode are invited for Post-Doctoral and Doctoral Fellows in the four RUSA 2.0 Centres of Excellence at Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana State-500007.

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PARADIP PORT TRUST e-TENDER CALL NOTICE Name of the work : "Allotment of 02 (Two) nos. of Manual Iron Ore / Iron Ore Pellet Plots at PPT". License Fees : ₹2,28,26,628/-, Wharfage Fees : ₹14,92,110/-. Last date & time of submission of bid : 02.09.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.. Date and time of opening (technical bid) : 04.09.2019 up to 16:30 hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Traffic Manager PPT/PR/2701/19-20 Dt. 14.08.2019

PARADIP PORT TRUST CORRIGENDUM-1 TO e-TCN No. TD/TM/GEN-235 (Vol-III)/19/1914 dtd.01.08.2019 for "Allotment of 01 (one) no. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet Plot at IOHP". Refer our website for details of Corrigendum-1 published : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Traffic Manager PPT/PR/2701/19-20 Dt.14.08.2019

Temple in Odisha worships the Father of the Nation

An idol of Mahatma Gandhi within the complex of a Jagannath temple in Berhampur hogs attention

The worship of the Father of the Nation continues in this temple since its establishment at Gosaninuagaon in Berhampur in 1960. Like other deities, Babu also has a separate small temple for him called Bhagavat Gadi. In it the Mahatma's idol is worshipped along with the Odia Bhagavat, written by poet-saint Jagannath Das, and pictures of Lord Rama and Shiva.

Like all Hindu deities, the idol of Gandhiji is worshipped every day as per traditional rituals.According to Panchanan Choudhury, the managing trustee, while the temple complex was being

built, senior citizens of Gosaninuagaon had decided to worship Gandhiji's idol in it. At that time, the Mahatma was seen as someone who had ushered in the new age of independence.

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