

IN BRIEF



PM to launch pension scheme for traders

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the The Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana, the Centre's pension scheme for traders, during a visit to Nagpur on Saturday, officials of the Labour and Employment Ministry said on Wednesday. A few of the first subscribers from across the country will be given pension cards by the PM at the ceremony, said Ajay Tewari, Joint Secretary and Director-General of Labour Welfare in the Labour Ministry.

J&K Cricket Association's ex-treasurer arrested

NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Ahsan Ahmad Mirza, the then treasurer of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), in connection with alleged misappropriation of funds to the tune of ₹43 crore. The agency alleged that between 2002 and 2011, the Board of Control for Cricket in India had granted ₹112 crore to the State Association for infrastructure development and cricket promotion. Of the total amount, ₹43.69 crore was allegedly siphoned off and misappropriated.

7 students expelled for 'stealing noodles'

GUWAHATI
A sports academy in Arunachal Pradesh has rusticated seven students for stealing two packets of noodles from the hostel's canteen, the mother of one of the students has alleged, adding that the academy claimed to have a video evidence and did not get in touch with the parents before taking the extreme action. However, the SLSA defended the move, saying the students were "found smoking, indulging in unruly activities and stealing a mobile phone of a Class 10 student".

Heavy rain brings Mumbai to a standstill

Intermittent rain and showers likely, says Met Department



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Mumbaikars woke up to heavy rainfall on Wednesday morning, which led to waterlogging in several key spots and affected the city's suburban railway system and traffic.

While the island city received light rain in the morning, the eastern and western suburbs received between 11 mm and 14 mm of rainfall from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has given a forecast of intermittent rain and shower, with very heavy rainfall at isolated places in city and suburbs. As a precautionary measure in the wake of the IMD's warning, schools have been asked to remain closed today.

"The principals of the schools where students are already in are requested to take all precautions and ensure that the children are sent back home carefully and safely," said an official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

Due to the heavy showers, there were multiple point failures at Virar, affecting suburban rail services on Western Railway (WR).



Monsoon fury: The flooded Andheri subway, top, and a flooded street in Parel. • EMMANUEL YOGINI & VIJAY BATE

Trains were running 15 minutes late between Vasai Road and Churchgate, with very few services being run between Virar and Vasai Road. On the Central Railway's (CR), Central Line as well as Harbour Line, services were over 20 minutes late as water entered the tracks at various spots.

According to Mumbai police, traffic is moving slow due to heavy showers and waterlogging at various spots across the city.

Traffic snarls have been reported at Amrut Nagar Jn, Gandhi Nagar at Kanjur-marg, Sakinaka Junction, Sonapur Junction at Mu-

lud, Netaji Palkar Chowk in Andheri Ganesh Mithanna in Antop Hill, 90 Feet Road in Dharavi, Andheri Subway, Chincholi Port Rd. in Malad, Shivaji Chowk in Antop Hill, Western Express Highway near Metro Station, Milan Subway, King Circle, Poisar Subway, Hindmata Junction, Dadar T.T Circle, Postal Colony in Chembur, LBS Road in Kurla (W), Mazgaon dockyard Jn.

The rain had some minor impact on air traffic as well. An airport spokesperson said that at 10 a.m., operations at the Mumbai airport were normal with minor delays of 10 to 15 minutes.

23 killed as fire consumes Punjab fireworks factory

The death toll may rise further, according to police sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

At least 23 people were killed and 27 injured in a blaze in a fireworks factory at Batala town in Gurdaspur district of Punjab on Wednesday.

The exact reason for the fire is yet to be ascertained and the Punjab government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into it.

An explosion took place around 4 p.m. in the factory, situated in a three-storey building in the residential area. The impact of the blast was so powerful that a few nearby buildings and parked vehicles were damaged. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have been deployed. Police sources said the death toll in the incident might rise as some people were trapped under the debris of the building that collapsed after the explosion.



A car is seen buried under the debris after the blast in the firecracker factory on Wednesday. • PTI

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lac for the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the seven injured, who were referred to the Amritsar Medical College. He also announced ₹25,000 for those who sustained minor injuries.

Gurdaspur Sub-Divisional Magistrate Deepak Bhatia told reporters, "The reason

[for the blast] would be ascertained after the investigation. Rescue operations are on."

Responding to allegations that the factory was "illegally" run in the residential area, Gurdaspur Deputy Commissioner Vipul Ujwal said "the focus right now was on saving precious lives."

(With PTI inputs)

DGCA imposes life ban on aspiring pilot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has barred an aspirant pilot for life from appearing for the exam for commercial pilot's licence after he was found violating rules and possessing two smart-phones while taking the test.

The incident happened on July 26 at an exam centre in Mumbai.

The DGCA on Tuesday issued an order rendering Mehboob Samdani Mohammad Momtaz Khan's test result null and void because he possessed "02 smart phones and 01 smartwatch and one connecting device."

The order stated, "Such conduct of an individual aspiring to become a commercial pilot is considered highly detrimental to the safety of aircraft operation and also to the safety of life and material in air as well as on ground and therefore the violation is considered very grave."

Rajasthan HC quashes facilities for ex-CMs

Court strikes down Act amendment passed by former government

MOHAMMED IQBAL JAIPUR

The Rajasthan High Court on Wednesday struck down an amendment to the Ministers' Salaries Act, 1956, making a provision for lifelong facilities, including government bungalow, telephone, car and personal secretaries, to former Chief Ministers.

The amendment was brought in by the Vasundhara Raj government in 2017, extending the facilities even to CMs who were in office for less than five years.

Allowing a public interest writ petition moved by journalist Milap Chand Dandia, a

Division Bench ruled that providing the facilities to former CMs was "abhorrent to the principle of equality" and it amounted to "nothing but appropriation of State wealth" for no reason other than such persons having held a high elective office.

Getting benefits

Ms. Raje, who served as CM twice for five years each, and Jagannath Pahadia, who was CM from 1980 to 1981, are getting benefits under the law. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also enjoyed the facilities after April 26, 2017, when the Amendment Bill was passed

in the Assembly, till December 2018, when he took over again after the Congress was elected to power.

Similar SC order

In May 2018, the Supreme Court had invalidated an U.P. legislation which allowed ex-CMs to retain government accommodation for their lifetime.

The SC had ruled that such a statute was "arbitrary and discriminatory" and said that once the CMs demitted public office, there was nothing to distinguish them from the common man.

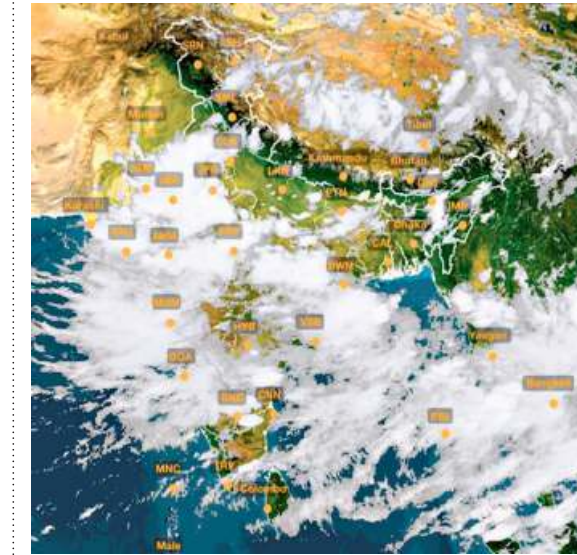
The petitioner, who was la-

ter joined by another journalist Vijay Bhandari, had referred to the apex court's judgment and contended that Rajasthan was a financially backward State and giving lifelong facilities to former CMs was a misuse of public funds. Extension of such facilities involved an additional revenue expenditure of ₹1.5 crore a year.

In its 23-page judgment, the Bench comprising Chief Justice S. Ravindra Bhat and Justice Prakash Gupta declared the impugned sections arbitrary and contrary to Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Extremely heavy falls very likely at isolated places over Gujarat. Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Odisha, Saurashtra and Kutch, central Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Telangana, coastal & south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala & Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely over Jharkhand, West Bengal and Sikkim.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.1	35.0	27.0	Kozhikode	13.2	30.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	1.2	33.0	26.0	Kurnool	1.1	32.0	24.0
Aizawl	25.0	32.0	20.0	Lucknow	36.0	27.0	20.0
Allahabad	15.2	34.0	26.0	Madurai	39.0	27.0	20.0
Bengaluru	4.5	26.0	20.0	Mangaluru	60.1	27.0	23.0
Bhopal	26.0	28.0	24.0	Mumbai	118.3	28.0	24.0
Bhubaneswar	0.9	31.0	24.0	Mysuru	10.6	26.0	20.0
Chandigarh	29.1	34.0	25.0	New Delhi	36.0	29.0	23.0
Chennai	3.6	34.0	25.0	Patna	34.0	28.0	20.0
Coimbatore	0.2	31.0	23.0	Port Blair	34.8	29.0	24.0
Dehradun	0.1	31.0	25.0	Puducherry	11.2	34.0	23.0
Gangtok	16.0	23.0	18.0	Pune	15.0	26.0	22.0
Goa	91.4	26.0	20.0	Raipur	0.2	31.0	25.0
Guwahati	39.0	34.0	26.0	Ranchi	1.0	29.0	24.0
Hubbali	24.0	22.0	18.0	Shillong	0.4	27.0	18.0
Hyderabad	1.1	28.0	23.0	Shimla	25.0	17.0	10.0
Imphal	30.0	22.0	18.0	Srinagar	00.0	00.0	00.0
Jaipur	0.1	35.0	27.0	Thiruvananthapuram	5.4	31.0	25.0
Kochi	8.0	30.0	25.0	Tiruchi	38.0	27.0	20.0
Kohima	31.0	18.0	10.0	Vijayawada	7.2	32.0	25.0
Kolkata	9.4	32.0	26.0	Visakhapatnam	3.0	29.0	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	62	74	51	67	84	Good
Bengaluru	2	24	62	27	73	Good
Chennai	10	32	79	176	217	Moderate
Delhi	9	62	73	196	294	Poor
Hyderabad	13	24	38	30	30	Good
Kolkata	2	14	10	9	11	Good
Lucknow	4	33	51	77	33	Moderate
Mumbai	18	14	108	10	35	Moderate
Pune	74	8	66	17	17	Good
Visakhapatnam	-	-	-	-	-	Good

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

Laws alone are not enough, says IMA

'Multidimensional approach needed'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN NEW DELHI

"Laws are needed but it is not enough," said the Indian Medical Association (IMA) reacting to the Health Ministry's proposed draft Bill which states that anyone who attacks a doctor at a hospital may be jailed for up to 10 years or fined ₹10 lakh.

The Ministry has asked for feedback from the public on how to improve the draft Healthcare Service Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of Violence and Damage to Property) Bill, 2019, which was made public earlier this week.

The Association said, "Violence on doctors and hospitals is a complex phenomenon and will require multidimensional institutional response. A law for deterrence alone might not have the desired impact."

Dr. R.V. Asokan of the IMA said, "We have requested that the government declare hospitals as safe zones with structured security. It is also our considered opinion that inadequacies of in-

Fast-track court for lynching case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

A fast track court will try the cases involving the killing of Dr. Deben Dutta at Teok Tea Garden in Upper Assam, the State government said on Wednesday. The government has also asked Commissioner and Secretary-Finance Shyam Jagannathan to conduct an inquiry into the case.

Infrastructure and human resources in public sector and out of pocket expenditure in the private sector are the root causes of violence."

He said high expectations, lack of understanding of limitations, patient load, and lack of professional counselling are all contributory factors. Such determinants of violence have to be addressed comprehensively, Mr. Asokan added.

President invited to inaugurate AMU centenary celebrations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GHAZIABAD

The Aligarh Muslim University has invited the President of India to inaugurate its centenary celebrations on December 17, 2020.

AMU Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor, while chairing a consultative meeting to chalk out the detailed programme of centenary celebrations, said that a formal invitation to the President of India for inaugurating the celebrations has already been extended.

Prof. Mansoor also informed that University Grants Commission will be requested to grant ₹20 crore for holding various programmes to mark the occasion.

Modi to launch drive to promote artificial breeding

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch on September 11 a major six-month drive to promote artificial insemination in cattle in 600 districts which have less than 50% coverage of the technology.

Currently, the national coverage is only 30%, though some States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu use artificial insemination rates for more than 70% of their cattle.

High costs

However, a senior Ministry official, who did not wish to be named, said that a nominal investment of ₹350 per

pregnancy would result in extremely high returns.

However, using sex-sorted semen - which increases the possibility of a female calf to about 90% - also drastically increases the cost of insemination, as the technology is still new in India.

Subsidised price

The government-subsidised price of a single semen dose is only ₹20; sex-sorted semen, on the other hand, can cost ₹500 to 600 per dose, said the senior official.

Of the 11.9 crore semen doses produced in the country every year, only 10 lakh are sex-sorted.

Chandrayaan-2 homing in on moon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Chandrayaan-2's mission handlers have further honed the orbit of moon lander Vikram to as close as 35 km from the lunar surface, sharply priming it to its descent planned early on Saturday.

The nine-second operation took place at 3.42 a.m. on Wednesday as scheduled. An update from the Indian Space Research Organisation said both the orbiter and the lander were healthy.

Pragyaan, a small rover, sits inside the lander and is expected to roll down and begin its lunar exploration work on Saturday.

"With this manoeuvre, the required orbit for the Vikram lander to commence its descent towards the surface of moon is achieved. The lander is scheduled to [make a] powered descent between 0100 and 0200 hrs IST on September 7, which is then followed by the lander's touchdown between 0130 and 0230 hrs IST," it said.

This was the second and probably the last manoeuvre of the lander before it reaches the lunar surface.

Post-manoeuve, the lander was going around moon in its new orbit of 35 km x 101 km. (Its earlier orbit was 109 km x 120 km.

KALOJI NARAYANA RAO UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES TELANGANA STATE
NOTIFICATION FOR MQ ADMISSIONS
Application forms online are invited from NEET-UG-2019 qualified candidates for admission into BHMS Course for Management Quota in Private Homeopathy colleges in the State of Telangana under KNRUHS from 05-09-2019 to 11-09-2019.
For detailed notification refer to www.knrhuhs.in, www.knrhuhs.telangana.gov.in
Dated: 04-09-2019 REGISTER

REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi
MHRD, Government of India, MYSURU - 570006
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Email: riemysore@rediffmail.com, www.riemysore.ac.in
Ref. No: 15/ACAD/PROG/19
Research Proposals from Experts in Teacher Education are invited to be sponsored and funded by IUCTE, RIEM. The areas of research, the guidelines, the eligibility criteria and other relevant details can be viewed in www.iucte.riemysore.ac.in. The last date for receiving the proposals is 30.09.2019. Sd/- PRINCIPAL

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT
148-B E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-11/2019-20
1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road/Bridge works as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : Road works
3. No. of Work : 06 Nos.
4. Tender Paper cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : 'A'Class/Special Class/Super Class as noted against each work
6. Available of bid document in the website: From 10.00 A.M. of 13.09.2019 to 5.00 PM of 10.10.2019 : Dt.11.10.2019 at 11.30 AM
7. Date of Opening of Bid
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said websssite.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha
I&PR-34117/11/0021/1920

SARDAR VALLABHBAI PATEL NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY
(सर्वदार वल्लभभाई पटेल राष्ट्रीय पुलिस अकादमी)
(सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल राष्ट्रीय पुलिस अकादमी) (Government of India : Ministry of Home Affairs)
Hyderabad - 500 052 HYDERABAD - 500 052.
No. 15011/4/2016/Est/A2 Dated: 30 August, 2019
Applications are invited from eligible Officers under the Central/State Government/Union Territory Administration/Public Sector Undertakings/Recognized research institutions/Universities/Autonomous/Statutory Organisations for filling up of three posts of Assistant Director (Law) in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad-500 052, by deputation including short term contract.
2 Pay, qualifications required, other eligibility criteria for the post and application form are available in Academy website <http://www.svpnpa.gov.in/vacancies.aspx>. Duly filled in applications, alongwith supporting documents, should reach the Assistant Director (Estt), SVP National Police Academy, Hyderabad - 500 052 through proper channel not later than two months from the date of publication of this notice in the Employment News.
Sd/- (S. Ajeetha Begum) Assistant Director (Estt)