

NEARBY



'Stalin's remarks amount to contempt of court'

CHENNAI  
A.I. Adhikari on Sunday said DMK president M.K. Stalin's remarks hinting at the result of the recount of postal and certain EVM votes polled in Radhapuram in 2016 would amount to contempt of court. Mr. Stalin had cited social posts, which claimed DMK candidate Appavu had won in the recount of votes.

NHA, Google join hands to strengthen AB-PMJAY

NEW DELHI  
The National Health Authority has signed a Statement of Intent with Google to strengthen the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The NHA, in a release, added that Google would help provide training to NHA personnel to build their digital skills.

Two coaches of train derail in Uttar Pradesh

NEW DELHI  
Two coaches of the Lucknow-Anand Vihar train derailed near Moradabad station on Sunday, officials said. No injuries have been reported so far, Northern Railways PRO Deepak Kumar said. The fifth and eighth coach of the train derailed between Katghar and Moradabad stations at 10.15 a.m., Mr. Kumar said.

Govt. teacher suspended after viral smoking video

SITAPUR  
A teacher of a government school here in U.P. was suspended after a video purportedly showing him smoking in a classroom went viral on social media, a senior official said. Mr. Prakash was suspended on Saturday after his video went viral, District Basic Education Officer Ajay Kumar said.

Police disrupt climate strike in Mumbai

Volunteers seek declaration of climate emergency by govt., claim police warned them on Aarey

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

Barely 20 minutes after protesters gathered at Bandra Reclamation on Sunday morning, demanding that the government declare a climate emergency, the police dispersed them. Many claimed the police warned them against bringing up the Aarey forest case.

Organised by a volunteer-led group called Extinction Rebellion (XR), the agitators, that included school children and college students, planned a mock die-in. Following the disruption, they shifted their venue to a nearby parking lot.

XR has been in the news for its protests across the world.

Last week, another chapter of the group had gathered in London, spilling red paint to resemble blood, and raising a sign that read 'stop funding climate death'.



Do or die: Activists and climate strike supporters taking part in a die-in protest as a part of the Global Climate Strike declaration in Mumbai.

Unique protest

In Mumbai, the group planned a more subtle protest with participants lying down pretending to be dead.

"Policemen were already present before we reached the venue. We showed them our permission letters but they said no gathering would be allowed as Section 144 was in force," an XR volunteer told *The Hindu*, adding

the policemen also told them to refrain from discussing the Aarey issue.

"We had a few students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences who had come down to talk about Aarey. But they had to go back due

Supreme Court Bench to hear Aarey forest case today

Authorities killing the lungs of Mumbai, says letter to SC

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Monday hear a plea against felling of 2,646 trees at the Aarey colony by the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) to make way for a Metro car shed.

On Sunday, the top court received a letter from a delegation of law students against the axing of trees in the Aarey forest.

The top court decided to pursue it as a public interest litigation (PIL) and constituted a "Special Bench" to hear the case.



The top court received a letter from law students

tivists against the felling of trees in the prime green area of the city.

Following protests, the Mumbai police have imposed Section 144 in and around Aarey and also arrested around 29 green activists.

The law students, in their letter, had appealed for urgent hearing by the top court, contending that "part of Aarey will be cleared with all trees axed leading to irrevocable loss".

The 29 activists were on Sunday granted bail by a holiday court.

The MMRCL began axing the trees from Friday night, hours after the Bombay High Court had rejected a bunch of petitions by NGOs and ac-

Yes Bank files complaint to tackle fake news

'Rumours being spread on WhatsApp'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Yes Bank, a private sector lender, has lodged a complaint with the Mumbai police and the cybercell against dissemination of fake news and rumours on social media about the bank's finances.

"Yes Bank has requested the authorities to form a multi-disciplinary team of experts for detecting the origin of the fake news and assess the short-sell positions, held either directly or indirectly by such accused persons," the bank said in a statement.

It said some miscreants

were spreading false information and malicious rumours on WhatsApp and other social media platforms to create panic among its depositors.

Yes Bank shares came under pressure recently after promoters sold shares and lenders invoked pledged shares.

"The messages attempt to show the bank in a poor light, and are intended to tarnish the bank's image in the eyes of its depositors, stakeholders and the public," the private sector lender said, adding it remained committed to protecting the interest of all stakeholders.

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 Monday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.9	34.7	25.2	Kozhikode	1.4	33.1	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	32.9	23.7	Kurnool	2.2	33.1	24.5
Aizawl	—	28.2	19.1	Lucknow	—	33.1	23.4
Allahabad	—	33.1	24.0	Madurai	—	34.8	25.0
Bangaluru	0.4	28.7	20.6	Mangaluru	0.5	32.5	23.0
Bhopal	—	31.7	21.6	Mumbai	—	33.0	23.5
Bhubaneswar	—	34.7	23.6	Mysuru	11.4	30.1	20.2
Chandigarh	—	31.0	19.0	New Delhi	—	32.6	21.1
Chennai	—	33.5	27.2	Patna	—	33.4	25.3
Coimbatore	—	34.0	23.2	Port Blair	5.6	32.2	24.1
Dehradun	—	32.2	18.7	Puducherry	—	33.3	23.9
Gangtok	—	21.2	16.1	Pune	2.5	31.2	20.0
Goa	2.9	32.5	23.0	Raipur	7.2	32.0	25.2
Guwahati	—	34.0	23.3	Ranchi	0.5	30.0	22.0
Hubballi	—	27.0	21.0	Shillong	5.5	22.2	19.4
Hyderabad	2.2	30.6	22.4	Shimla	—	22.6	12.8
Imphal	2.4	29.8	19.7	Srinagar	—	21.7	8.6
Jaipur	—	—	21.8	Thiruvananthapuram	1.2	32.7	23.9
Kochi	37.6	31.4	24.4	Tiruchi	—	—	25.2
Kohima	—	23.6	15.8	Vijayawada	—	34.1	24.5
Kolkata	0.7	33.1	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.4	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	127	159	113	122	108	■	■
Bangaluru	08	65	74	—	124	■	■
Chennai	03	28	45	143	—	■	■
Delhi	06	102	32	120	210	■	■
Hyderabad	04	22	25	106	—	■	■
Kolkata	11	53	15	141	113	■	■
Lucknow	03	20	54	175	—	■	■
Mumbai	06	31	111	42	59	■	■
Pune	86	08	67	79	75	■	■
Visakhapatnam	38	62	29	54	99	■	■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
SO<sub>2</sub>: 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.  
NO<sub>2</sub>: 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

PMC case: ED seizes private jet, cars of HDIL promoters

Former PMC Bank chairman sent to custody till Oct. 9

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL  
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized the private jet and cars of the Housing Development Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) promoters in connection with the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank case.

The law enforcement agency had raided the premises of HDIL promoters on Friday.

The promoters of the debt-ridden HDIL Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, who are accused in the scam, were sent to police custody till October 9.

The duo was arrested af-



Rakesh Wadhawan

ter they failed to cooperate during the investigation.

According to police, PMC bank officials gave loans to HDIL between 2008 and 2019, despite no repayment of the previous loans.

An FIR was registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, includ-

ing criminal breach of trust, cheating, and forgery.

Ex-chairman arrested

A Mumbai magistrate on Sunday remanded the former chairman of PMC Bank, S. Waryam Singh, to police custody till October 9, officials said.

Waryam Singh, who was nabbed by the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai police from his hiding place in Mahim late on Saturday, was produced before the Esplanade magistrate court on Sunday.

The police said that he will be interrogated for his prima facie involvement in the alleged ₹4,355 crore fraud case concerning HDIL.

Elderly artist, gardener found dead in Goa

Woman murdered by the gardener

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI

A 65-year-old Goa-based artist, Shireen Mody, and her gardener were found dead on Sunday, the police said.

According to the police, Mody was allegedly murdered by the gardener, who later succumbed to his injuries caused by a fall while he was trying to run away from the scene of crime.

Ms. Mody, formerly from Mumbai, was running an art studio in Arpora village in North Goa district, where the incident took place on Sunday afternoon.

"She was assaulted by her gardener Prafulla, who hails from Assam. After hitting her with a heavy weapon in the storeroom of her house,

he tried to run away but was injured after a fall," said Navlesh Dessai, Inspector in-charge of the Anjuna police station. Prafulla later succumbed to his injuries, Mr. Navlesh added.

While Ms. Mody was pronounced dead at the Goa Medical College near here, Prafulla was taken to a local district hospital where he was also declared dead. Both the bodies have been sent for post-mortem.

Mr. Dessai said that CCTV footage recorded at the residence of the deceased artist showed the gardener running away from the scene of crime.

A case of murder has been registered at the Anjuna police station.

'RERA Act applicable to plots sold under industrial project'

Tribunal's ruling wins the approval of property consultants

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR  
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (TNREAT) has upheld a ruling by the Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA) that projects such as SEZ and estates involving sale of industrial plots to investors come under the purview of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Act.

The verdict comes in the case of GMR Krishnagiri SIR Ltd, which is establishing a special economic zone in Hosur, Krishnagiri district.

According to official sources, RERA does not exempt sale of industrial plots from the definition of the Act. Maharashtra and Tamil

Nadu have adopted this definition.

Such industrial projects, which came after the implementation of the Act, should be registered.

Joint-venture project

GMR had entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO) to develop the project as a joint venture with an infrastructure development company under the public-private partnership model.

It sought an opinion from the TNRERA on the applicability of RERA for the project. It got a response that the project should be regis-

tered with the TNRERA.

Against this, the company moved the TNREAT, which noted that TIDCO entered into an MoU by way of facilitating the company to do a real estate business for the purpose of selling industrial plots.

"The entire act and legislative history clearly mentioned the sale of plots, apartments etc. Therefore, the very purpose of the enactment is only for regulation of sale of plots and apartments and not for any other purpose. Hence, TNRERA has rightly pointed out that the Act has not differentiated plots into housing plots, commercial plots or industrial plots," it noted.

Burst of creativity at Kolkata Durga pandals

NRC, fake news, Balakot air strike — organisers tackle diverse themes to woo devotees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Diverse, unique, and thought-provoking and with myriad themes such as the National Register of Citizens, fake news, and Balakot air strike, the Durga Puja marquees (pandals) have come alive in Kolkata this autumn.

Almost 3,000 community Durga Pujas are organised in the State capital and another 25,000 in the districts and every Puja organiser is trying to do something different through themes, lightings and decorations all aimed at wooing the people to their pandal.

While a Durga Puja pandal at Vivekananda Sarbojanin Durgotsav has tried to tackle the subject of evolution of news and of how fake news reaches the public, the organisers at Young Boys Club Sarbojanin Durga Puja have created scenes from the Balakot air strike, where along



Festive mode: A marquee made of bamboo during Durga Puja celebrations in Kolkata.

with models of IAF jets, there is a life-size model of IAF pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman.

The Rajdanga Naba Uday Sangha has tried to bring to the fore what is emerging as the most politically sensitive issue in the State, the NRC exercise in Assam. Refugees have been described and badminton rackets —

representing two countries — have been slotted in front of the pandal. The community Puja organisers have also tried to bring alive various monuments such as the golden temple of Amritsar revered by Sikhs at the Bhowanipore Baish Palli Northern Park. At Kharagpur's Netaji Byamagar of West Midnapore, an

attempt has been made to replicate the model of ancient Egypt, whereas at the Kumartuli Park Sarbojanin Durgotsav Committee, in north Kolkata the theme is related to space and the extra-terrestrial intergalactic connections.

When it comes to spectacle and grandeur only a few can match the Santosh Mitra Square Durga Puja that has installed a 13 feet tall idol of the Goddess at an estimated cost of ₹20 crore.

Organisers have not shunned themes of social inclusion and highlighted the marginalisation of the third gender. At Dum Dum Tarun Dal, a song "tumi dekho nari pushush, ami dekhni sudhui manush" (you see only man and woman, but I see only the human) floated with reference to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's love for Lord Krishna, and the various taboos associated with the third gender.

Gang-rape survivor commits suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUZAFFARNAGAR

A gang-rape survivor committed suicide on Saturday at Behdi in Uttar Pradesh by hanging herself from the ceiling of her house after being allegedly harassed by her assaulters to with-

draw the case against them, police said.

The 24-year-old woman had written the names of the accused on her hand before committing suicide, police said. She was raped by three men a year ago, they added.



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