

IN BRIEF



Delhi High Court judge appointed CCI member

NEW DELHI
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal for the appointment of Delhi High Court judge Sangita Dhingra Sehgal as a member of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Justice Sehgal will serve as a member of the CCI for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge or till attaining the age of 65 years. She joined the Delhi High Court as an additional judge on December 15, 2014, and became a permanent judge on June 2, 2016.

ED opens probe into U.P. mining lease renewal case

NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has opened a money laundering probe into the alleged illegal renewal of 13 sand-mining leases at Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The case involves two IAS officers posted as District Magistrates then. The CBI had registered an FIR against 12 persons, including Ajay Kumar Singh, a 1998-batch officer, and Pawan Kumar, a 2008-batch officer. The others were the alleged beneficiaries.

Abir Lavasa, linked firm under ED scanner

NEW DELHI
Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's son Abir and a firm linked to him have come under the radar of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for alleged violations of forex regulations, officials said on Tuesday. They said the agency had filed a case under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to probe Abir Lavasa and about ₹7.25 crore funds raised early this year by a firm — Nourish Organic Foods Pvt Ltd — linked to him. PTI

Pneumonia, diarrhoea still a big threat

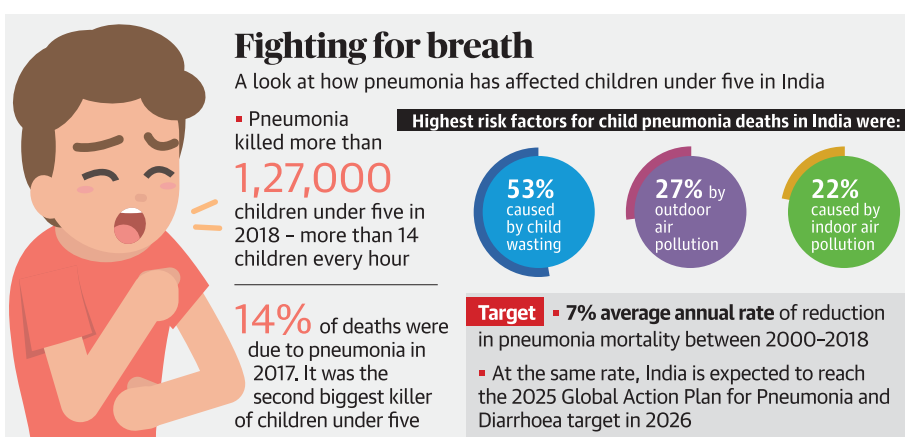
Progress short on ensuring children have access to prevention and treatment services, finds global study

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The 10th pneumonia and diarrhoea progress report card has found that health systems are falling short of ensuring the world's most vulnerable children access to prevention and treatment services in the 23 countries that together account for 75% of global pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths in children under five.

India, which is home to a large population of under-five children, accounts for a major portion of these deaths, notes the report.

"Rollout of rotavirus vaccines, beginning in 2016, and the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, beginning in 2017, helped India's scores improve. India's exclusive breastfeeding rate, at 55%, is among the highest of the 23 countries. However, the proportion of children receiving important treatments, as



SOURCE: SAVE THE CHILDREN, UNICEF AND EVERY BREATH COUNTS COALITION

with many other countries, remains below targets. Half of the children with diarrhoea receive ORS (oral rehydration solution) and 20% receive zinc supplementation — to help protect against, prevent and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea," notes the report.

This report analyses how effectively countries are deli-

vering 10 key interventions, including breastfeeding, vaccination, access to care, use of antibiotics, ORS, and zinc supplementation.

Additional reports from organisations like Save the Children and UNICEF have noted that, in 2017, the highest risk factors for child pneumonia death in India were: 53% caused by child

wasting, 27% by outdoor air pollution, and 22% caused by indoor air pollution from solid fuels.

Pulmonologist Prashant Saxena from Max Hospital, Saket noted that children are the worst hit by sustained high levels of air pollution.

The report card concludes that the global community must increase investment

and support countries in developing smart, sustainable strategies that close gaps and accelerate progress. Globally, pneumonia and diarrhoea led to nearly one of every four deaths in children under five years of age in 2017.

Released ahead of World Pneumonia Day, on November 12, the 2019 Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report Card, by the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, describes progress in fighting pneumonia and diarrhoea in countries with the highest absolute number of deaths, and for the first time in countries with the highest rates of deaths from these illnesses.

Bill Moss, Professor in the Department of International Health, noted that newer vaccines were not yet reaching most children in these 23 countries.

Centre likely to release data on drinking water, sanitation soon

It will give an idea of the performance of Swachh Bharat

SUVOJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

By the end of November, the Centre is expected to release the data on drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing conditions, which will provide a comprehensive idea about the on ground success or failure of the Swachh Bharat campaign, Pravin Srivastava, Chief Statistician of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), said on Tuesday at the sidelines of a two-day

conference of Central and State statistical organisations here.

The 76th round of the countrywide survey of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the MoSPI was conducted between July 2018 and December 2018. "We are looking at the results and hopefully, I think, within this month it should get out," Mr. Srivastava said.

The survey will formally indicate how the Swachh Bharat campaign performed over the last half a decade.

So far, private agencies have done such surveys and acknowledged the achievements of the campaign.

"Achievements of the campaign are not only in completion of toilet construction. The campaign will be considered successful when it would be able to influence other indicators like outbreak of disease or access to clean water. This round of survey is important as it would provide information on those indicators," said a public health expert.

Chhattisgarh moots law to protect journalists

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

A committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Aftab Alam has sought public comments on a draft Bill to safeguard mediapersons in Chhattisgarh from harassment, intimidation and violence.

"Justice Alam will visit Raipur, Ambikapur and Bastar from November 16 to 18 to take suggestions from local journalists, media groups and the general public," Ruchir Garg, a member of the committee and the Chief Minister's media adviser, told *The Hindu*. Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel was committed to introducing a pro-journalist law, Mr. Garg added.

The committee was set up in March to draft a law to foster an atmosphere wherein journalists could perform their work fearlessly, the State government said in a statement. The draft Chhattisgarh Protection of Mediapersons Act proposes that within 30 days of enactment of the law "the government shall constitute a Committee for the Protection of Mediapersons to deal with complaints of harassment, intimidation or violence, or unfair prosecution and arrests of media persons".

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 Wednesday: No weather warning issued by IMD

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.6	29.1	20.8	Kozhikode	...	33.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	21.7	Kurnool	...	32.4	22.7
Aizawl	...	22.2	...	Lucknow	...	29.4	14.7
Allahabad	...	32.3	15.8	Madurai	...	32.7	24.3
Bengaluru	...	28.6	18.8	Mangaluru	...	30.9	23.5
Bhopal	...	29.9	17.8	Mumbai	...	34.3	22.8
Bhubaneswar	...	31.6	19.6	Mysuru	...	28.2	21.0
Chandigarh	...	24.1	12.7	New Delhi	...	28.0	11.7
Chennai	...	32.3	25.2	Patna	...	29.6	17.0
Coimbatore	0.2	31.4	23.2	Port Blair	...	31.1	24.4
Dehradun	...	28.6	11.5	Puducherry	...	32.6	22.8
Gangtok	...	16.0	13.5	Pune	...	30.7	17.4
Goa	...	34.2	23.6	Raipur	...	29.5	18.7
Guwahati	...	30.1	19.5	Ranchi	...	27.2	14.0
Hubballi	...	28.0	19.0	Shillong	...	20.5	11.0
Hyderabad	...	30.8	20.2	Shimla	...	20.6	10.4
Imphal	1.4	27.9	18.1	Srinagar	0.6
Jaipur	...	31.0	19.5	Thiruvananthapuram	...	32.9	24.2
Kochi	12.3	31.0	24.4	Tiruchi	...	32.8	24.0
Kohima	13.8	24.2	10.5	Vijayawada	...	32.4	23.5
Kolkata	...	30.1	22.5	Visakhapatnam	...	31.7	25.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	...	294	33	227	175	...
Bengaluru	...	12	...	96	...	102
Chennai	...	10	18	07	...	81
Delhi	...	22	78	75	462	428
Hyderabad	...	06	56	35	141	118
Kolkata	...	09	59	38	224	166
Lucknow	...	04	25	39	386	...
Mumbai	41	35	171	131
Pune	...	78	11	64	133	102
Visakhapatnam	...	04	46	34	...	57

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

C-295 transport plane clears cost negotiations

Tata-Airbus aircraft will replace the Air Force's ageing fleet of Avros



A file photo of the C-295 transport aircraft.

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has concluded cost negotiations with Tata and Airbus for the purchase of the Airbus C-295 transport aircraft as part of the long-delayed Avro replacement programme of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

"Cost negotiations for the C-295 deal have been

completed. It is now being processed to put it up for clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). It is expected to be signed in the next few months," a senior Defence official said.

Initially, after the completion of cost negotiations, it was felt that a waiver from the Defence Acquisition Council would

be needed on some technical issues. But Defence sources said the issue "has now been resolved."

The IAF has 56 Avro transport aircraft which are in urgent need of replacement. A further six aircraft for a maritime mission role for the Indian Coast Guard have been added taking the total number required to 62, esti-

mated to cost upwards of \$3 billion. While sources expressed optimism that the deal would be signed in this financial year, it is contingent on the availability of funds. The IAF has a situation where committed liabilities for this year are more than the capital allocation in the budget and few big ticket deals are on the agenda.

YMCA in T.N. barred from receiving foreign funds

FCRA registration of over 1,800 NGOs, educational institutes has been cancelled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

More than 1,800 NGOs and academic institutes found to be violating laws pertaining to foreign funding have been banned by the government from receiving overseas funds this year, officials said on Tuesday.

Among those whose registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act has been banned include the University of Rajasthan,

Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Young Men's Christian Association, Tamil Nadu, and Swami Vivekananda Educational Society, Karnataka.

"With the cancellation of the FCRA registration, all NGOs and academic institutions were prohibited from accepting foreign contribution," a Home Ministry official said. The FCRA registration of these organisations was cancelled mostly due to

their failure to submit annual income and expenditure statement on foreign funding for up to six years despite repeated reminders.

As per FCRA guidelines, registered associations are required to submit electronically an annual report with scanned copies of income and expenditure statement, receipts and payment account, and balance sheet within nine months of the closure of the financial year.

Associations which do not receive foreign contribution during a particular year are also required to furnish a 'NIL' return.

Other associations whose FCRA registration has been cancelled include Institute of Pulmocare and Research, West Bengal, National Geophysical Research Institute, Telangana, National Institute of Virology, Maharashtra, and Baptist Christian Association, Maharashtra.

Proposed relocation of 'killer' jumbo leads to protest in Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Shutdowns and protests are dime a dozen in Assam. The latest is over the reported relocation of a "killer" elephant from a jungle in western Assam to another in the central part of the State, 300 km away.

A large number of people in central Assam's Lumingding took to the streets on Tuesday to protest against the State Forest Department's alleged move to relocate the elephant that was captured on Monday.

Padma Hazarika, a BJP legislator, whose family has a history of taming wild elephants and keeping them as



The rogue which was captured in western Assam's Goalpara district.

pets, had helped a team tranquillise the rogue from the Rangjuli area of western Assam's Goalpara district. "What does the govern-

ment want by sending a killer elephant to our part of the State? Are we expendable?" asked P. Dutta, a Lumingding resident among the protestors.

Wildlife officials said no decision had been taken to send the elephant to the Lumingding Reserve Forest, as rumoured.

"The elephant bears injury marks and needs treatment. We are not thinking of relocating it now, as the priority is on providing treatment," Chief Conservator of Forest Akashdeep Baruah, who headed the committee to catch the elephant said to have killed five people, told *The Hindu*.