



**IN BRIEF**

**Pak. air traffic controller saves Jaipur-Muscat plane**  
ISLAMABAD  
An air traffic controller from Pakistan saved a plane with 150 people flying from Jaipur to Muscat. After facing abnormal weather conditions in Sindh area, the controller directed the flight through the remaining journey in Pakistani airspace. PTI

**NGT for more assistance for mining victims' kin**  
GUWAHATI  
The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is expected to recommend more compensation to the kin of the 15 miners who were killed in a flooded rat-hole coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district in 2018. The families were given ₹3 lakh each - ₹2 lakh from the PM's Relief Fund and ₹1 lakh from the State government.

**Siblings killed as father tries to avoid pothole**  
COIMBATORE  
Two girls were fatally run over by a lorry after they fell from the motorcycle their father was riding on Saturday morning. R. Venkatesh, their father, was trying to avoid a pothole in Coimbatore's Rathinapuri when the kids fell from the bike. The deceased have been identified as V. Gayathri, 9, and V. Keerthana, 7. While Keerthana died on the spot, Gayathri succumbed to her injuries at the hospital.

**Thieves strike at judge's house, steal trees**  
REWA  
A gang of five thieves struck at the residence of Arun Kumar Singh, a district court judge and chopped off four sandalwood trees from the premises, before decamping with the logs, police said on Saturday. Police said Justice Singh and his family members were asleep when the incident took place, adding that the thieves cut the trees after threatening the judge's police guard at gunpoint. PTI

# Dam victims seek rehabilitation

Fishermen hit by rise in water level of the Narmada

STAFF REPORTER  
BHOPAL

Hundreds of farmers, potters and fishermen from 178 villages that were submerged by the backwaters of the Narmada, marched to the office of the Narmada Valley Development Authority in Bhopal demanding rehabilitation and alternative employment on Saturday.

Ever since the Sardar Sarovar dam downstream was filled to the brim, the Narmada has developed an erratic current and an unstable channel, posing a challenge to fishermen in Madhya Pradesh.

"When the backwaters swelled, the catch dwindled dramatically. And now, several species have become extinct in the river," says Mansarovar Verma, 53, a fisherman of Chikhaldia vil-



**On the edge:** Farmers, potters and fishermen displaced by the Sardar Sarovar Dam project taking out a rally in Bhopal on Saturday. \*A.M.FARUQUI

lage in Barwani district.

"We don't want contractors from outside to take over water bodies. Local fishermen have a traditional right to them," said Medha Patkar, of the Narmada Bachao Andolan, who led the rally and then staged a dharna with the protesters.

**Fall in catch**

"Water has entered forests, and dead leaves are detrimental to fish. Furthermore,

garbage from submerged villages has caused a large-scale pollution of the river," said Mr. Verma.

He now catches 2-4 kg of fish a day, earning only up to ₹400 a day. Three months ago, he netted 8-10 kg, bringing home ₹1,000 a day.

"We want compensation or land for the loss incurred. We don't want to work for a fishing contractor, who'll set terms for us," he said.

Earlier, a drop in the wa-

ter level after the monsoon gave them an opportunity to cultivate muskmelon and watermelon on the river banks around the month of January. After the water level rose, this too became impossible.

The government has opened 32 societies for fishermen in Dhar, Barwani and Khargone districts, which share the river's banks, to dispel the fears about contractors taking over fishing.

# Navy MiG-29K crashes in Goa, pilots eject safely

The engines failed after suffering a bird-strike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Navy MiG-29K fighter jet on a routine mission crashed after an engine failure due to a bird-strike in Goa on Saturday morning. The two pilots, Capt. M. Sheekhand and Lt. Cdr. Deepak Yadav, ejected safely.

Around noon, the aircraft encountered a flock of birds after take-off from the naval air base at Dabolim, the Navy said in a statement.

"The pilot observed that



**Close shave:** The left engine of the aircraft had flamed out and the right engine caught fire. \*ATISH POMBURFEKAR

the left engine had flamed out and the right one had caught fire. Attempts to recover the aircraft by following the standard operating procedures were unsuccessful due to the nature of emergency," the statement said.

The pilot pointed the aircraft away from populated areas and both the pilots ejected safely, the statement said. There was no loss of life or property.

A Court of Inquiry has been instituted to investigate the cause of the accident.

# Odisha locals protest against steel plant

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

Several villagers in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district on Saturday demanded scrapping of an integrated steel, cement and captive power plant proposed by Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Utkal Steel Limited.

The project is proposed to come up on land which was previously acquired for the steel project of South Korean steel major POSCO. After the South Korean company shelved its project, the State government brought the entire land parcel under its land bank scheme.

"This is illegal. The State government should have returned the land to people as no project could be set up within five years of its acquisition. The new project will jeopardise livelihood of locals," said Manorama Khatua, a villager.

# Dalit man who was forced to drink urine dies

Police have arrested four people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

The 37-year-old Dalit man who was allegedly beaten and forced to drink urine succumbed to his injuries on Saturday, nine days after the incident in Punjab's Sangrur district.

Jagmal Singh was undergoing treatment at the Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in Chandigarh. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a minor son.

Singh is said to have had an altercation with Rinku and a few other persons last month. The victim, in his complaint, alleged that one of the accused invited him

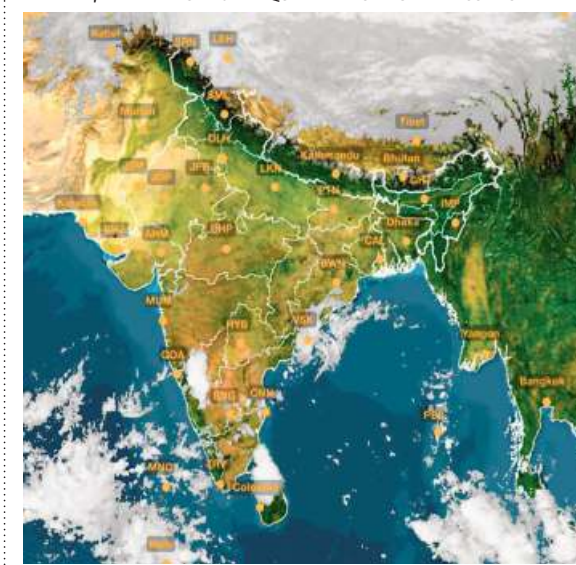
to his house, where he was thrashed by him and three others on November 7. When he asked for water, he was forced to drink urine, he had said.

The police arrested all the four accused - Rinku, Amarjeet Singh, Lucky and Bitu - all hailing from Changanliwala village after the incident.

Earlier, a case of wrongful confinement and attempt to commit culpable homicide had been registered against the accused. After Singh's death, Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been added to the FIR, said Sangrur's Senior SP Sandeep Garg.

**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 Sunday:** Moderate to dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, east Arunachal Pradesh, south Assam and Meghalaya.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	30.0	18.0	Kozhikode	16.6	33.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	...	32.0	20.0	Kurnool	...	31.0	23.0
Aizawl	...	26.0	14.0	Lucknow	...	29.0	15.0
Allahabad	...	31.0	14.0	Madurai	0.5	33.0	25.0
Bengaluru	...	27.0	20.0	Mangaluru	...	37.0	24.0
Bhopal	...	29.0	15.0	Mumbai	...	33.0	23.0
Bhubaneswar	...	31.0	18.0	Mysuru	...	29.0	21.0
Chandigarh	...	26.0	15.0	New Delhi	...	29.0	15.0
Chennai	1.0	32.0	25.0	Patna	...	31.0	17.0
Coimbatore	...	32.0	23.0	Port Blair	10.6	31.0	25.0
Dehradun	...	28.0	13.0	Puducherry	10.2	32.0	23.0
Gangtok	...	17.0	11.0	Pune	...	31.0	18.0
Goa	...	34.0	24.0	Raipur	...	30.0	18.0
Guwahati	...	31.0	19.0	Ranchi	...	27.0	13.0
Hubballi	...	28.0	21.0	Shillong	...	22.0	11.0
Hyderabad	...	30.0	20.0	Shimla	...	18.0	9.0
Imphal	...	26.0	11.0	Srinagar	...	...	...
Jaipur	...	29.0	17.0	Thiruvananthapuram	4.0	33.0	25.0
Kochi	...	32.0	25.0	Tiruchi	...	33.0	24.0
Kohima	...	24.0	12.0	Vijayawada	...	31.0	23.0
Kolkata	...	31.0	21.0	Visakhapatnam	...	31.0	24.0

(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	124	154	46	118	116	...	
Bengaluru	13	79	96	...	85	...	In observation made at 4:00 p.m., Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 418 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 37.
Chennai	8	13	33	74	...	...	
Delhi	20	112	46	401	337	...	
Hyderabad	3	60	42	164	132	...	
Kolkata	9	66	40	241	171	...	
Lucknow	10	43	35	365	...	...	
Mumbai	11	119	34	181	153	...	
Pune	75	12	57	139	110	...	
Visakhapatnam	9	48	37	111	110	...	

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

# Govardhan Mutt out of Odisha govt.'s purview

Of the four mutts set up by Adi Shankara, it is the only one governed by a State Act

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Govardhan Mutt of Puri, one of the four key mutts established by Adi Shankara, the prominent Hindu saint, is all set to be kept out of the Odisha government's administrative purview.

The Govardhan mutt is the only such mutt currently controlled by a State Act. The three others - Sharada Mutt at Sringeri in Karnataka, Dwarka Mutt in Gujarat and Jyotir Mutt at Joshimath in Uttarakhand - function autonomously.

The Odisha Hindu Religious Endowment (Amendment) Bill, 2019 tabled by the Naveen Patnaik government in the ongoing winter session of the State Assembly was passed on Saturday.

**Several requests**

"There has been a request from different sources, including the Govardhan Mutt, to exclude the mutt from the purview of the Odisha Hindu Religious Endowment Act, 1951. It is stated that three mutts - Jyotir Mutt, Dwarka Mutt and Sharada Mutt -

have been kept out of their respective State Endowment Acts and the management of the said mutts has been vested with the respective Shankaracharyas," said Pratap Jena, State Law Minister, while tabling the bill.

Mr. Jena said that it was expedient to amend clause xiii of Section 3 of the Odisha Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1951 (OHRE) to exclude Govardhan Mutt and endowments attached from the definition of religious institutions.

There are more than

18,000 Hindu public religious institutions in Odisha which are governed by the provisions of the OHRE Act.

The Govardhan Mutt is one of the oldest mutts of Puri.

According to the government, the position of the Sankaracharya of the Govardhan Mutt is important because of his involvement with the affairs of the Shree Jagannath Temple.

The Sankaracharya heads the Mukti Mandap Pandit Sabha, which renders advices on religious affairs.

# Inspector threatens student for tweet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

A police inspector in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh threatened a law student with the National Security Act and the Gangsters Act for tweeting against stubble burning.

In a telephonic conversation that went viral on Friday, Surendra Singh Pachauri, SHO, Sheeshgarh, could be heard asking Ishaq Khan how he dared tweet about stubble burning with-

out his permission.

"Come to the police station immediately, else the NSA and Gangsters Act will be invoked against you," Mr. Pachauri was heard saying.

When Mr. Khan pleaded that he only pointed out about pollution in his neighbourhood and that he was a differently-abled person, Mr. Pachauri said he would "correct his disability."

SP (Rural) Sansar Singh said action will be taken against the police official.

# U.P. fines farmers for stubble burning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

Facing criticism by the Supreme Court, district officials in western Uttar Pradesh are cracking down on farmers indulging in stubble burning and factories causing pollution.

On Friday, the Mathura administration fined 288 farmers for ₹12.42 lakhs. The Gautam Buddh Nagar administration in Greater Noida booked 12 farmers in Dadri, just four days after 10 farmers were booked and fined ₹35,000 in the district. In Bulandshahr, three factories were sealed for burning tyres for generating oil.