

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Kerala, Mahe and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

Table with columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN, CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for 16 different cities across India.

Table with columns: CITIES, SO, NO, CO, PM2.5, PM10, CODE. Shows pollution levels for 10 major Indian cities.

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.

Disciples of Nithyananda arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat police on Wednesday arrested two disciples of Swamy Nithyananda in connection with the alleged kidnapping and wrongful confinement of children at the Nithyananda Ashram in Ahmedabad.

The police have also booked Swamy Nithyananda, who is said to be out of the country, on charges of kidnapping, illegal confinement and the use of children for collecting donations from followers to run the ashram.

The arrested disciples are Sadhvi Pranpriyavand and Priyatatva Riddhi Kiran, both managers of the ashram which has been at the centre of a controversy since a Bengaluru-based couple filed a complaint against it for allegedly confining their minor daughters.

The duo have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping at least four children, keeping them in illegal confinement in a flat and using them as child labourers to promote activities of the ashram.

The police booked Mr. Nithyananda after recording the statements of the four children who were rescued from the flat and the ashram Yogini Sarvagyaapeetham.

Ahmedabad (Rural) Superintendent of Police (SP) R.V. Asari said, "We have also named Nithyananda in the FIR lodged against the ashram."

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION RESEARCH & CLINIC (GAMRI) IMPORTANT NOTICE MD/MS ENTRANCE TEST

Mamata-Owaisi war of words gets shriller

Split in Muslim votes may badly impact Trinamool Congress as it did to the Congress in Assam

SUVOJIT BAGCHI KOLKATA

In the last 72 hours, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee twice warned Hyderabad-based Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMM), asking him to refrain from contesting in the Bengal polls, without naming him. On Wednesday, she was more categorical.

"Those who are coming from outside with other interests would not be allowed to hold indoor meetings [with administrators]. [The] Hyderabad party is BJP's agent," she told a meeting of the administrators. "He asked the Muslims not to associate with extremism. They [AIMM] are like mosquitoes of dengue, will sting

and fly away. We will take care of the interests of the minorities," she said on Wednesday.

The AIMM chief on Tuesday said "If Mamata Banerjee wants a fight, [he] will give it to her" playing the ball back to Ms. Banerjee's court. While — as of now — there is no confirmation about the AIMM's poll plans in Bengal, a split in Muslim votes may severely trouble the Trinamool Congress [TMC] like the Congress in the 2016 Assembly polls in Assam. In Assam, the predominantly Muslim All India United Democratic Front of Assam polled 13% of Bengali Muslim votes facilitating the BJP's victory.

The other factor is even more ominous for the TMC.



A recent study on Muslim employment indicates that the number is not increasing in government jobs, despite the Opposition's repeated allegation of Muslim appeasement against the TMC. In the Kolkata Municipal Corporation [KMC], for example,

the number of Muslim employees has dropped from 1,555 in 2008 to 1,126 in 2019.

As per the latest available government data [2015], the percentage of Muslims in the State government jobs is 5.73, while their population

is about six times more. Muslims are engaged in 15.61 and 11.09% jobs respectively in Murshidabad and Malda, districts with over 50% Muslim population.

The information was published, for the first time, by researcher Sabir Ahamed, examining a decades' data collected from the National Sample Survey [NSS], Administrative Staff Census, reports of Pratichi Institute, founded by Prof. Amartya Sen, and Social Network for Assistance to People.

The data, also collected using RTI, was presented at a two-day symposium on Bengali Muslims earlier in the week, hosted by the Bengali Academia for Social Empowerment, a social organisation.

Ministers are liable for public remarks

Faith in the system is at stake: advocate

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Senior advocate Harish Salve argued before a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday that every government Minister is individually liable for the remarks he or she makes in public.

A five-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra is examining whether further "reasonable restrictions" should be imposed on the right to free speech of government Ministers to protect the fundamental right to dignity and life of ordinary citizens.

The Bench is examining the question in the background of the public comments made by former Uttar Pradesh Minister Azam Khan that the gruesome Bulandshahr gang-rape of a girl

and her mother by bandits was a political conspiracy of the then State government led by Akhilesh Yadav.

'Democracy is fragile'

Mr. Salve said the Minister concerned does not need to hold a portfolio to adhere to the Constitutional principles of his office. "What is at stake is public faith in the system and in the institution. Democracy is very fragile; it is dependent on the faith of the public," Mr. Salve said.

Mr. Salve, who is the amicus curiae in the case before the Bench, said people do not take the law into their own hands because they trust the system. "If you undermine the faith of the public in the justice delivery system, there will be complete anarchy," he said.

Book on Sikh turban withdrawn

Publishing house gets calls that it is blasphemous, hurtful

VAISHNA ROY CHENNAI

A slim, illustrated children's book called The Art of Tying a Pug by Natasha Sharma, released two weeks ago, has attracted huge controversy with several Sikhs calling for its immediate withdrawal.

The Chennai-based children's publishing house, Karadi Tales, received more than one legal notice, with petitioners calling the book blasphemous, insulting and hurtful. "We have been bombarded with calls and mails, abuse and threats for the last few days," said Karadi Tales co-founder and publishing director Shobha Viswanath.

On legal advice, the author and publisher have decid-

ed to withdraw the book. Said Ms. Viswanath, "The author and her family are feeling frightened and harassed."

Ms. Sharma, a practising Sikh herself, grew up in Amritsar helping her father tie his turban or pagdi each morning, and this sparked the idea for the book. She teamed up with award-winning illustrator Priya Kurian, sending her videos of her father so she would get the details right.

What didn't work is the fact that Ms. Sharma chose to pun on the word 'pug', a well-known abbreviation for pagdi among Sikhs. The book used sketches of a boy helping his father tie the tur-

ban while a little pug keeps getting in the way, finally ending up with a sash tied around its head.

Ms. Sharma was unavailable for comment. Her note on the book says she wanted to "introduce children from across the country to a different facet of culture".

Sikhs took to social media to say the book was "in bad taste"; it presented them in a "negative" way and disrespected the turban. Sikh religion mandates the 5 Ks, of which one is kesh (long hair), covered by the turban.

Ms. Viswanath said the fallout was unexpected. "One should understand the intent, which wasn't to hurt."

IN BRIEF



Edwin Van Ingen case: ED attaches assets

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate has attached properties worth ₹117.87 crore of a person facing the allegation of usurping the assets of British national Edwina Joubert Van Ingen, who worked as a taxidermist for the Maharaja of Mysuru.

'Gandhi villages' to be established in Rajasthan

JAI PUR The Congress government in Rajasthan has decided to constitute a new Department of Peace and Non-Violence, along with "Gandhi villages" in each district, to appraise the people of the contributions of the Mahatma. The Department will act as a nodal agency for the implementation of Gandhian thought.

Forged PMO letter: CBI arrests Mumbai builder

NEW DELHI The CBI has arrested a builder in connection with a forged letter from the Prime Minister's Office to the Maharashtra Chief Minister, seeking favours for his company. The accused, Surendra Mittal, allegedly submitted the letter, on the PMO letterhead, to the Slum Rehabilitation Department.

Olive Ridley's arrive in Odisha for mating season

BERHAMPUR Olive Ridley turtles have begun to arrive at Odisha's Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam for their annual mass mating season that precedes the mass nesting that takes place here. Rushikulya rookery is a major nesting site for the Olive Riddles along the Indian coast.

Tamil Nadu Polymer Industries Park Limited

RE-TENDER NOTICE Re-Tender No: 01A/19. Request for proposal is invited from eligible bidders under "Two Cover System" for the selection of EPC Contractor for development of basic infrastructure. The details of the RFP is as follows:

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consultancy Services for the "Development of Freedom Park and Public Amenities in old jail land at Shivamogga town" (on e-procurement basis)

Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Name of Assignment, Area of Land, Period of Services. Lists a consultancy service for preparation of DPR.

1) Processing fee shall be paid as mentioned in the e-procurement portal through online payment 2) The EOI can be viewed/downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 21-11-2019 onwards.

TAMIL NADU INDUSTRIAL GUIDANCE & EXPORT PROMOTION BUREAU. Request for RFP. This is with reference to our Advertisement No. DIPR/1388/DISPLAY/2019 which appeared on 13.11.2019 in The Hindu, Times of India and Dhina Thandhi, wherein the undersigned has invited Request for Proposal (RFP) for the selection of Consultancy firms for Industrial Development strategy, Investment promotion, Facilitation and related services.

Central Public Works Department NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Press Notice. The Executive Engineer, President Estate Project (PEP), CPWD, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi (Phone No-011-23793470 Email Id-eepepdepwd@gmail.com) on behalf of President of India invites Request for Proposal (RFP) on line bid two-bid system for the following work:

VIGNAN'S WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR FACULTY POSITIONS Professors/Assoc.Professors/Asst.Professors in the disciplines of CSE, IT, ECE & BIO-MEDICAL Engineering

NLC India Limited NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices SI.No.1 to 9). 1.UNIT:M.M.COMPLEX:ENQ/19-20/002545/MM24(01) dt.15-11-2019: Automatic Isoperibol bomb calorimeter- 1 No. Due date of opening:11-12-2019

WALK-IN INTERVIEW. VIGNAN'S Foundation for Science, Technology & Research. WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR FACULTY POSITIONS Professors/Assoc.Professors/Asst.Professors in the disciplines of CSE, IT, ECE & BIO-MEDICAL Engineering

INSTITUTE OF WOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY Recruitment Notification for Various Posts. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up of following posts at the Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru.

School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal Recruitment of Assistant Professor (ON CONTRACT) in Architecture/Design/Landscape/Environmental Planning/Transport, Planning and Logistic Management/Urban and Regional Planning for a period of 11 months through online submission mode.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD College of Engineering Hyderabad, KUKATPALLY, HYDERABAD - 500085, TELANGANA STATE. TENDER NOTIFICATION

NLC India Limited NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices SI.No.1 to 9). 1.UNIT:M.M.COMPLEX:ENQ/19-20/002545/MM24(01) dt.15-11-2019: Automatic Isoperibol bomb calorimeter- 1 No. Due date of opening:11-12-2019