

IN BRIEF



CM candidate based on situation, says Rajini

CHENNAI Actor Rajinikanth, who recently said he was open to working with actor-politician Kamal Haasan "in the interest of Tamil Nadu", on Thursday said if such an eventuality occurred, that in such a situation, the Chief Ministerial candidate would be decided based on the prevailing circumstances.

Mixed reaction in Assam to Centre's NRC move

GUWAHATI The Assam Public Works, the original petitioner in the Supreme Court on updating the National Register of Citizens, on Thursday welcomed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement that the NRC would be updated again in the State. The Congress, however, opposed the move claiming that the BJP wants a fresh NRC update without the supervision of the Supreme Court.

Farmers call off strike in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR Farmers in western Odisha called off their strike after the government emissaries assured them that no paddy stock would be left unsold due to the centralised token system during the ongoing paddy procurement season. The Assembly, however, witnessed disruptions throughout the day with Opposition Congress and BJP seeking complete withdrawal of the centralised token system.

Mayawati backs Muslim teacher in BHU

'The government and the varsity administration's wavering stance is unnecessarily fuelling the issue'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW/JAIPUR

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Thursday came out in support of Muslim Assistant Professor in the Banaras Hindu University Feroze Khan, who has been unable to discharge his duties due to protests by some students against his appointment.



Mayawati

She said the wavering stance of the government and the varsity administration was "unnecessarily fuelling" the issue.

The controversy, which came about after some people linked education to the hyper-politics of religion and caste, could not be justified in any manner, Ms. Mayawati said in a series of tweets in Hindi.

the banner of the Joint Action Committee, BHU, a common platform for non-ABVP student groups, the students held up banners and placards declaring their support for Mr. Khan.

'Matter of pride'

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday demanded immediate intervention from his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath to settle the issue.

Mr. Gehlot said a scholar of Sanskrit language, belonging to the Muslim community, should be a matter of pride.

"The BJP, the RSS and all groups claiming to represent Hindu culture should welcome his appointment."

Sanskrit faculty opened, protest to end: officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

The Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vignyan Faculty of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) reopened on Thursday, 14 days after it was shut over protests by some students opposing the appointment of a Muslim man, Feroze Khan, as Assistant Professor in the Sahitya (literature) Department.

The faculty "has reopened," the BHU PRO tweeted. Vinay Pandey, Head of the Jyotish Department in the faculty, along with other teachers opened its gates for

the first time since November 7.

"Everything is normal in the faculty," said Mr. Pandey. Vice-Chancellor Rakesh Bhatnagar and other senior officials held several rounds of talks with the students, during which the protesting students handed over a list of questions to the administration. "After written assurances by the Chief Proctor and the Head of the Department to respond to the questions within 10 days, the students said they would end their sit-in," a University spokesperson said.

'India's focus on pace has impacted quality of balls'

We have incorporated changes that players wanted, says Paras Anand, MD of Sanspareils Greeland

ANUJ KUMAR GHAZIABAD

India's increasing focus on pace bowling has impacted the quality of balls being used in Test matches, says Paras Anand, Marketing Director of Sanspareils Greeland or SG, the sports goods company in Meerut that is providing the pink balls for the first Day-Night Test between India and Bangladesh in Kolkata.

"Excited and nervous," Mr. Anand said, adding that he was keen to know the "feedback of the players." "It is only the 12th Test to be played with a pink ball.

The SG pink ball has not been used in first-class cricket. It has only been tested in the first division. Unless it is tested at the top level, we won't know," said Mr. Anand, the third generation entrepreneur of the family business started by his grandfather Kedarnath Anand in Sialkot in 1931 before he and his brother Dwarkanath moved to Meerut in 1950.

Comparing it with the SG red ball, which the company has been providing for Test matches in India for the last 27 years, Mr. Anand told *The Hindu* that the difference

was in the dyeing process.

In the red ball, he said, the wax coating process takes a day, while in a pink ball they use polyurethane coating or lacquer in layman's terms.

"It takes up to 4-5 days to get the desired gloss that would make the ball last for 80-90 overs," he said

Extra pigment

On apprehensions about the pink ball getting exaggerated swing movement in the early overs and lack of reverse swing and spin, Mr. Anand said the extra pigment coating will cause lateral movement in the early overs.

"I don't think that spinners would be affected because apart from the colour the seam is almost the same as the red ball. If the dew factor is taken care of, spinners would have a say in the game. As for reverse swing, it would come into play later than it does with the red ball. But these are all possibilities, players would discover ways to deal with the new ball, like how it behaves during the twilight, and we would like them to share their feedback with us."

In the past, Virat Kohli and R. Ashwin have criticised the seam of the SG ball.

"Things have changed since then, as we have incorporated the changes that they wanted. You could see it in the Indore Test. Ashwin could have taken many more wickets had catches not been dropped off his bowling," he said.

Mr. Anand said critics of the ball should realise that the Indian pitches are changing and we no longer rely only on slower bowlers to win matches. "We have been asked to make harder balls with a seam that would stand up for 70-80 overs and our technical team has responded."

'Nithyananda has fled India'

Gujarat police say that he left after a rape case was filed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD

After the arrest of two disciples on charges of kidnapping, wrongful confinement and using children to collect donations from followers, controversial self-styled godman Nithyananda has fled the country, the Gujarat police said on Thursday.



Nithyananda

"We have learnt that Nithyananda has fled the country after a rape case was registered against him in Karnataka," said Ahmedabad (Rural) Superintendent of Police R.V. Asari.

The police on Thursday arrested Hitesh Puri, principal of the Delhi Public School near Ahmedabad, where Mr. Nithyananda has set up his ashram.

ram. He was later released on bail.

Two children, aged 9 and 10, enrolled at the ashram told the police they were tortured, made to work and kept in illegal confinement at a flat in the city for over 10 days. Similar allegations were made by two other children rescued from the ashram, in a complaint filed by their parents.

On Thursday, the Central Board of Secondary Education sought a report from the Gujarat Education Department on how the school's land was given to the ashram without its permission.

31 convicted in Vyapam case

Quantum of punishment will be pronounced on Nov. 25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHOPAL

A CBI court on Thursday convicted 31 people in a case related to the infamous Vyapam recruitment and admission scam in Madhya Pradesh.

They were found guilty on a host of counts, including cheating by personation, cheating and forgery related to the 2013 police constable exam conducted by the Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board (MPPEB), better known by its Hindi acronym Vyapam (Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal), the prosecution said.

CBI special judge S.B. Sahu convicted the 31, including 12 imposters and seven middlemen, on different counts, CBI Special Prosecutor Satish Dinkar told PTI.

The quantum of punishment would be pronounced on November 25, Mr. Dinkar said.

91 witnesses

The prosecution produced 91 witnesses and enough evidence to nail the culprits for cheating by personation, cheating, dishonesty, forgery, forgery for cheating and forging document under IPC Sections 419, 420,

467, 468 and 471, Mr. Dinkar said.

Of the 12 imposters writing the examination on behalf of other candidates, six were arrested from Bhopal and the others from Datia, he said.

Irregularities in exams

The Vyapam scam refers to the irregularities in exams held by the MPPEB for admission to professional courses and State services over several years. The scam hit national headlines three years ago. The MPPEB is now known as Professional Examination Board.

ISRO defers Cartosat-3 launch by two days to November 27

Satellite will offer 25-cm high resolution earth imageries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has postponed the launch of Cartosat-3 by two days, to November 27. The earlier date was November 25.

"Thirteen small customer satellites from the U.S. are also riding on the PSLV-C47 rocket. The launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota, is tentatively scheduled at 9.28 a.m. IST on November 27 subject to weather conditions," an



The satellite will be placed in a sun-synchronous or polar orbit of 509 km at an inclination of 97.5 degrees. ■PTI

official release said on Thursday. Cartosat-3, the first of third generation advanced remote-sensing and mapping satellites, will offer

25-cm high resolution earth imageries. It will be placed in a sun-synchronous or polar orbit of 509 km at an inclination of 97.5 degrees.

M.P. man held in Pak. is mentally ill, say police

He had been missing since 2017

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

The man from Madhya Pradesh who was recently taken into custody by Pakistan for allegedly crossing over without valid documents had been missing since 2017 and was mentally ill, say the police.

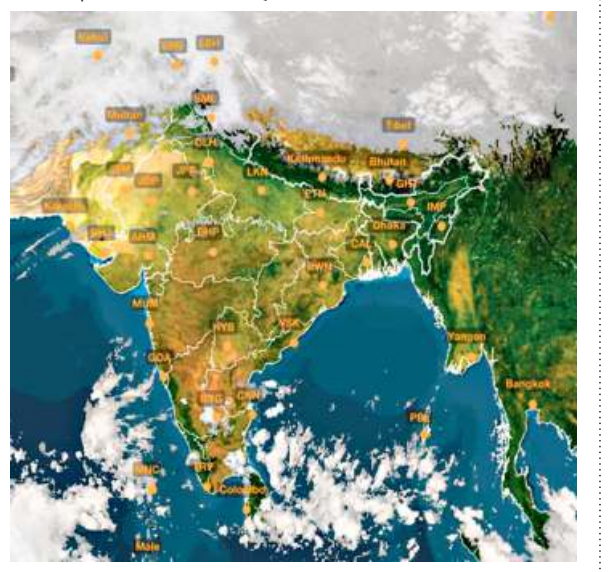
Bari Lal from Damoh district is the sixth "mentally ill" person from Madhya Pradesh to be detained by Pakistan in the past six years. Bari Lal was arrested along with Prasanth Maidam from Telangana. As media reports about

their arrest began trickling in on Tuesday, police matched his details with a missing-person report filed by the family in March 2017, said Vivek Singh, Damoh Superintendent of Police.

"The complaint said he was mentally ill. We recently visited his house at Shisapur Patti village. The family confirmed they consulted a doctor for his illness," said Mr. Singh.

Madhya Pradesh police spokesman Ashutosh Chouhan said they were in touch with the Centre to bring back the man.

WEATHER WATCH



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

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

Table with columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN, CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various cities like Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Gangtok, Goa, Guwahati, Hubballi, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur, Kochi, Kohima, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Kurnool, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Mysuru, New Delhi, Patna, Port Blair, Puducherry, Raipur, Ranchi, Shillong, Shimla, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam.

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Table with columns: CITIES, SO, NO, CO, PM2.5, PM10, CODE. Lists air quality data for various cities like Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune, Visakhapatnam.

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 water to form 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.

Six bank unions call for dharna on December 10

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Six bank employee unions have said they will stage a dharna before Parliament on December 10 to protest against the government's bank merger announcements and 'anti-people banking reforms', besides several other issues.

"Experience of mergers in the country and across the globe has clearly shown

that no benefit accrues to any of the stakeholder," the unions said.

The unions are the All India Bank Employees Association, the All India Bank Officers' Confederation, the All India Bank Officers Association, the Bank Employees Federation of India, the Indian National Bank Employees' Federation and the Indian National Bank Officers' Congress.

MP seeks Centre's help in missing girl case

18-year-old from Meerut left home on November 8 to teach in a nearby school

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GHAZIABAD

The case of the Meerut girl who went missing on November 8 reached the Lok Sabha on Thursday, as Meerut MP Rajendra Agarwal asked for the government's intervention in the case.

"Travelled to Delhi when her father lodged a complaint, her call detail records revealed her last location as the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi," said Vijendra Pal Rana, Station House Officer, Kankarkhera.

"We checked with the Foreigner Regional Registration Office, and found that she had taken a flight to Dubai. Her Facebook and Instagram account details showed that she was in touch with a person called Nadeem. As she is 18 years 4 months old, it is not a case of kidnapping. We lodged a missing [person] complaint," said Mr. Rana, adding that the police did not have much of a role left in the case.

Ms. Gupta's father Kapil Gupta, who runs a flour mill in Meerut, told *The Hindu* that his daughter was studying B.Com in Meerut College. "At the school, she was filling in for her mother Priyanka Gupta, who was recuperating from a fracture. On November 8, around 3 p.m., we got a call that Shrishti hadn't reached the school," he said.

Mr. Gupta said Ms. Shrishti had received her passport on November 4.

ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ISO 9001:2015 Certified) Advertisement for PGDMA-2020. Includes details on eligibility, application procedure, and contact information.

Southern Railway E-Tender No. EWS-OT-05-2019 Dated 19-11-2019. Advertisement for filling up of Regular Posts at INCOIS, Hyderabad. Includes details on posts, pay, and application process.