



Court stays movie on Chanda Kochhar
NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Saturday stayed the makers of upcoming Bollywood film *Chanda: A Signature that Ruined a Career* from screening, exhibiting or marketing (till further orders) the movie, which is allegedly based on the life of former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar. P.11

BJP diluting progressive laws, claim activists

Every institution is under attack, says Medha Patkar

STAFF REPORTER PURI

Activists on Saturday expressed concern over the "dilution of progressive laws and throttling of the people's movements under the BJP government." They called for a sustained campaign to safeguard individual liberty and for preserving the multi-cultural and multi-religious fundamentals of the Indian society at the three-day biennial national convention of the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) here. "We are living in a difficult time. Every institution is under attack. The present party is running the government by crushing the unity of the nation. If it is not checked now, society as well as the country are likely to

School pulled up for leasing land to godman
NEW DELHI
The CBSE has issued a show-cause notice to a school in Ahmedabad where land was leased out to Nithyananda's ashram. A report was sought earlier from the Education Department on how land was leased out without its permission. P.11

Court disapproves of banning temple festivals
CHENNAI
The Madras High Court has disapproved of the common practice of revenue and police officials banning temple festivals whenever there is a difference of opinion among worshippers in the conduct of such festivals. The court held that such a move would transcend the barrier of citizens' right to worship.

Miscreants lob grenade at BSF outpost in Imphal
IMPHAL
A day before the commencement of the Sangai Tourism Festival in Manipur, unidentified persons lobbed a hand grenade at a BSF outpost, police said. No casualties were reported. The incident comes a day after bombs were hurled near the state Assembly building, injuring two CRPF personnel. P.11

be disintegrated," NAPM national convener Medha Patkar said. Teesta Setalvad, known for her fight for justice for the victims of Gujarat communal violence, said, "The government is actually not led by the BJP. The government is controlled by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. We have to under-



Expression of solidarity: Activists were also concerned about the state of the judicial system. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

stand the mindset of the RSS, which is trying to establish a Hindu Rashtra. A new danger, called National Register of Citizens, is looming large on Indian citizens." Activist Aruna Roy said the government was out to snatch the right to expression and freedom. "Whoever is raising voice, he or she is being sent to jail," she said.

Congress protests against Centre's policies

Slogans raised against high unemployment rate, economic slowdown

STAFF REPORTER VELLORE

Workers of the Congress party staged a demonstration near Anna Kalai Arangan on Anna Salai here on Saturday to protest against economic slowdown in the country.

Party members led by District Congress Committee president Teeka Raman gathered at the spot and raised slogans against the BJP government for ignoring people's welfare. This was part of the party's nationwide protest against the BJP government's "misrule".

Valla Prasad, Tamil Nadu in-charge, said the country was facing a big economic crisis and the growth rate

had dwindled. Be it the private industry, construction sector, industries the people are facing severe obstacles due to the economic policies of the ruling BJP government, he said. The ruling party failed to find a policy to check the downward trend and this had resulted in large-scale unemployment, especially among youth.

The Congress sought to drive home the point that under the BJP, unemployment had touched a 45-year high, the economy was on a downturn and farmers were in distress. The protesters voiced their anger against the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, party leaders said.

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: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karikal, Kerala and Mahe.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	Kozhikode	..	33.0	23.0
Ahmedabad	..	31.0	23.0	Kurnool	..	29.0	19.0
Aizawl	..	26.0	12.0	Lucknow	..	..	..
Allahabad	Madurai	2.0	29.0	23.0
Bengaluru	Mangaluru	..	..	..
Bhopal	..	26.0	18.0	Mumbai	..	31.0	24.0
Bhubaneswar	Mysuru	..	26.0	19.0
Chandigarh	..	24.0	16.0	New Delhi	..	28.0	13.0
Chennai	..	31.0	24.0	Patna	..	27.0	18.0
Coimbatore	..	26.0	21.0	Port Blair	..	29.0	28.0
Dehradun	..	24.0	14.0	Puducherry	..	29.0	23.0
Gangtok	Pune	..	27.0	18.0
Goa	Raipur	..	28.0	17.0
Guwahati	..	26.0	18.0	Ranchi	..	25.0	16.0
Hubbali	Shillong	..	..	..
Hyderabad	..	27.0	18.0	Shimla	..	12.0	7.0
Imphal	Srinagar	..	8.0	1.0
Jaipur	..	26.0	18.0	Thiruvananthapuram	..	30.0	25.0
Kochi	..	32.0	24.0	Tiruchi	..	29.0	22.0
Kohima	..	22.0	11.0	Vijayawada	..	..	..
Kolkata	..	29.0	19.0	Visakhapatnam	..	28.0	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	
Ahmedabad	119	125	14	114	104	..	
Bengaluru	..	52	39	..	..	..
Chennai	19	24	35	..	..	..
Delhi	20	56	57	358	280	..	
Hyderabad	20	73	30	242	..	..
Kolkata	39	127	40	308	277	..	
Lucknow	..	5	48	346	..	..
Mumbai	12	82	29	218	169	..	
Pune	79	11	58	178	130	..	
Visakhapatnam	..	8	50	32	118	110	..

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.

Patients with rare diseases wait for support

Applications of about 190 patients seeking treatment aid await the approval of Health Ministry

SERENA JOSEPHINE M. CHENNAI

The wait for financial support for treatment is getting longer for patients with rare diseases. The applications of about 190 patients – a majority of them children suffering from Lysosomal Storage Disorders – seeking treatment support has been pending with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for several months. And a National Policy for Treatment of Rare Diseases is yet to be finalised. Patient advocacy groups

including the Lysosomal Storage Disorders Support Society (LSDSS) and the Organisation for Rare Diseases in India (ORDI) have been repeatedly representing the case of patients with rare diseases with the Union Health Ministry. There are about 50 Lysosomal Storage Disorders.

Non-committal response
Early this year, the patient groups appealed to the Centre to grant interim support for patients till the national policy was finalised



but had received a "non-committal" response from the Union Ministry, the groups said. Manjit Singh, president of

LSDSS, said there were more than 2,000 identified children with rare diseases across the country. Of this, 500 patients required lifetime treatment. "Their applications are still pending," he said. Many of these patients require Enzyme Replacement Therapy. In its reply to ORDI's appeal for timely formulation of the policy, in July, the Union Health Ministry had said that it had formulated a National Policy for Treatment of Rare Diseases in 2017. But the government had decided

to review the policy in the light of new information and updates. **Letter to MPs**
Prasanna Shirol, co-founder of ORDI, said they had written to 500 Members of Parliament seeking their support. "We have recently written to Parliamentary Standing Committee members on the issue," he said. The expert committee is likely to finalise its draft report soon, the Ministry had stated in its reply to an RTI application, Mr. Shirol said.

Hindi newspaper restrained from using name, image of Indian Express Group founder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court, in an interim order, has restrained publisher Prashant Goenka and others from using the name and image of Indian Express Group founder Ramnath Goenka in his newspaper *Sajaga Samachar Parivartan* Ka. Justice S.C. Gupta also directed defendants Mr. Prashant

and others not to use Ramnath Goenka's name and image on their websites and social media platforms until further orders. The court was hearing an infringement suit filed by the Indian Express Group. It said Prashant Goenka and passing off his newspaper as part of the Indian Express Group.

The group sought an order restraining Mr. Prashant from using the name and image of its founder in his Hindi newspaper, which is circulated in Bengaluru. Justice Gupte, after hearing brief arguments, noted that the plaintiff (the Indian Express Group) had prima facie made out a case for interim relief. "The question before the

court is should the defendant be allowed to trade with the name and image of Ramnath Goenka in view of the newspaper and to collect funds and other concerns," the court said. "Prima facie, at this stage, it seems the answer is negative. The plaintiff has clearly made a case for ad-interim injunction in suit for perpetual injunction," it said.

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E-Tender No: TPJ-E-29-2019-2020 Date: 21.11.2019
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Rahman, U2 collaborate on new track Ahimsa

It comes ahead of band's India visit



U2's first show in the country will be at Mumbai on December 15. •FILE PHOTO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Marking Irish rock band U2's first visit to India, the outfit, fronted by the legendary Bono, have collaborated with Academy award-winning composer A.R. Rahman to release a new track *Ahimsa* before their concert.

modern world and it is incredible timing to collaborate with U2, with their amazing legacy, to revive this movement." Mr. Bono said their band was somewhat shaped by Martin Luther King, a student of Mahatma Gandhi. "The fight against injustice has always been so important to us. Martin Luther King said, 'The moral arc of the universe is long but it bends towards justice... I don't believe that any more; it doesn't bend towards justice, it has to be bent towards justice. We have to be actively involved in our democracy to preserve it and show people how we feel and what we care about. We come as students to the source of inspiration: that is *ahimsa*.'" U2's first show in India will be on December 15 in Mumbai, as part of the band's Joshua Tree Tour.

Assam bodies weigh options against Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Individuals and organisations batting for the interest of indigenous groups in the northeastern States are weighing legal options against the "communal and unconstitutional" Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, or CAB, that the Centre proposes to reintroduce in Parliament.

The Bill seeks to fast-track the process of granting citizenship to non-Muslims who have allegedly fled religious persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Protests across the northeastern States have intensified since November 18, when the winter session of Parliament began. Most of these protests have been coordinated by the North East Students' Organisation. The Assam-based Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, a peasants' body, has also been spearheading a parallel protest. Former teacher and activist Hiren Gohain, said that it might not be enough to just hit the streets against the "divisive and communal" Bill. "The BJP and its allies enjoy the majority and can have the CAB passed in both Houses. But we have the window of challenging any discriminatory legislation in the Supreme Court," he said.

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