

IN BRIEF



Two 2 BJP leaders to be chargesheeted

SHAHJAHANPUR (U.P.)
The Special Investigation Team probing the sexual harassment allegations against former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand will file a chargesheet in court in the related extortion case on Wednesday against six accused, including two BJP leaders, a senior police officer said. "The pen drive which was snatched from the victim in Dausa (Rajasthan), has been recovered from BJP leaders D.P.S. Rathore and Ajit Singh," SIT chief said.

HC to hear ED plea in Vadra case on Nov. 25

NEW DELHI
The Delhi HC said it would hear on November 25 final arguments on a plea filed by the ED challenging the anticipatory bail granted to Robert Vadra in a money laundering case. Justice Chandrer Shekhar listed the matter for further hearing after the ED's counsel informed the Bench that the Solicitor General was busy in the Supreme Court. PTI

2,200 Sikhs reach Pak. for Kartarpur opening

LAHORE
Over 2,000 Sikh pilgrims from India arrived at Gurdwara Nankana Sahib in Pakistan's Punjab province to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, ahead of the opening of the landmark Kartarpur Corridor this week. PTI

Farm fire numbers go up in Punjab

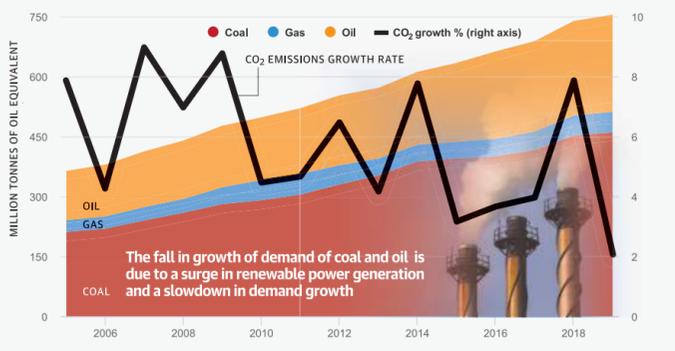
CHANDIGARH
Punjab on Tuesday reported the season's highest farm fire count at 6,668 as farmers continued to defy a ban imposed on stubble burning, triggering fears of upending the gradual improvement in air quality registered over the past two days.

Economic slowdown may lighten India's carbon burden

Carbon dioxide emissions are poised to grow at their slowest since 2001 due to a lower demand for coal in power and manufacturing sectors: study

Blessing in disguise

India's CO₂ emissions in the first eight months of 2019 grew by 2%, the slowest since 2001. The growth in demand of both coal and oil in 2019 has weakened, compared to that in 2018



JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

There's a silver lining to India's economic slowdown. Carbon dioxide emissions are poised to grow at their slowest – a 2% rise from last year – since 2001, according to an analysis published in Carbon Brief, a site that tracks emission and carbon dioxide trends.

The rise in CO₂ emissions from India sees wild swings – from 7.7% in 2014 to 3.5% the next year and then back to 7.8% in 2018. This is the first time that emissions are expected to grow below 3% from the previous year.

"Our analysis, based on data from various Ministries responsible for electricity, coal, oil, gas and foreign

trade, shows that emissions increased by 2% in the first eight months of the year, a lower rate than any annual increase since 2001," said the research note by Lauri Myllyvirta, an energy and pollution analyst with the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air and Sunil Dahiya, analyst and campaigner with GreenPeace East Asia.

Mr. Dahiya told *The Hindu* that though the analysis was restricted to August, the remaining months were unlikely to change the year's trend. "Coal generation trends are unlikely to change given the lack of demand and the contribution of renewables."

"Slower growth in coal-based power generation will

also benefit the country's air quality efforts, as essentially all coal-fired power plants lack pollution controls commonly required in, say, the EU and China," the analysts projected.

Rise in renewables

Industrial coal use fell dramatically in 2017 because of a slowdown in the construction sector and bounced back in 2018. "The combined total of coal sales from state-owned mines to consumers outside the power sector and imports of coking coal and coke fell 14% in 2017 and rose 15% in 2018. But it increased by just 3% in the first eight months of 2019," the analysis noted.

Wind generation rose by

17% in the first six months of 2019 compared to the same period a year earlier, with solar up 30% and hydro increasing by 22%.

Last year, a report by the International Energy Emissions Agency said India's per capita emissions were about 40% of the global average and contributed 7% to the global carbon dioxide burden. The U.S., the largest emitter, contributed 14%.

As per its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, India has promised to reduce the emission intensity of its economy by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. It has also committed to having 40% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Ban proposed on sale, ads of junk food in schools

FSSAI releases draft regulations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aimed at enabling children to eat and grow healthy, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Tuesday released draft regulations titled Food Safety and Standards (Safe Food and healthy diets for School Children) Regulations, 2019.

"At the heart of these regulations is a fundamental idea to make it clear what is healthy for children and what is not," said a senior FSSAI official.

One of the important regulations proposed is that foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) cannot be sold to children in school canteens/mess premises/hostel kitchens or within 50 m of the school campus.

Schools should adopt a comprehensive programme for promoting healthy diets among children. The school

campus should be converted into 'Eat Right School' focussing on local and seasonal food and no food waste as per the specified benchmarks.

According to studies, about 8% of schoolchildren are obese. FSSAI has also proposed that children have to be encouraged to consume balanced diet in the school as per the guidelines issued by the National Institute of Nutrition. "Nutritionists, dieticians may be engaged by the school to assist in the preparation of menu periodically. Also it has been proposed that there should be regular inspection of school premises where safe, healthy and hygienic food should be served to students," noted FSSAI.

The FSSAI has invited suggestions and objections from stakeholders within 30 days.

'Indian lungs under extreme stress'

Acute respiratory infections affect children the hardest, say experts

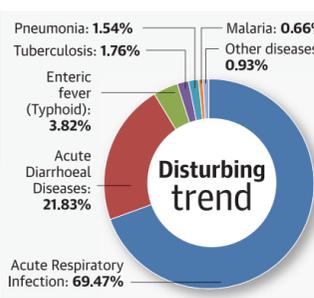
BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Acute respiratory infections (ARI) accounted for 69.47% of morbidity last year which was the highest in the communicable disease category, leading to 27.21% mortality.

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal reported a large number of patients and fatalities due to ARI as per the National Health Profile-2019, which was recently released by the Union Health Ministry.

According to World Health Organisation, acute respiratory infection is a serious ailment that prevents normal breathing function and kills an estimated 2.6 million children annually every year worldwide. Indians face the double burden of heavy air pollution in addition to the high rate of ARI which hits children the hardest, said experts here.

Percentage distribution of morbidity reported in communicable diseases in 2018



"When you breathe in polluted air, particles and pollutants penetrate and inflame the linings of your bronchial tubes and lungs. This leads to respiratory illness such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, heart disease, asthma, wheezing, coughing and difficulty in breathing. Children seem to be most vulnerable to the harmful effects of air pollution," noted Samantha Castellino, consultant paediatrician, Surya Hospitals,

Mumbai. Dr. Castellino said with the air quality deteriorating, parents should ensure their kids get minimum exposure to pollutants and are well protected to prevent respiratory issues.

Archana Dhawan Bajaj, gynaecologist, Nurture IVF Centre, said: "The current level of air pollution poses a high risk to pregnant women and the baby. The foetus receives oxygen from the mother, and if she is breath-

ing polluted air, it can increase the health risk of unborn babies. Pregnant women in the first trimester need to be more careful as risk increases and pollution can cause a medical condition called intrauterine inflammation. Prenatal exposure to pollutants increases risk of pre-term delivery and low birth weight, factors that can lead to developmental disabilities later on."

Manav Manchanda, senior respiratory specialist, Asian hospital, Faridabad, explained that children are particularly susceptible as they "breathe through their mouths, bypassing the filtering effects of the nasal passages and allowing pollutants to travel deeper into the lungs." "Children may ignore early symptoms of air pollution effects, such as an asthma exacerbation, leading to attacks of increased severity," he said.

Indian cow's milk has gold, says BJP leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The BJP's chief in West Bengal, Dilip Ghosh, has said that the hump of Indian cows could produce gold.

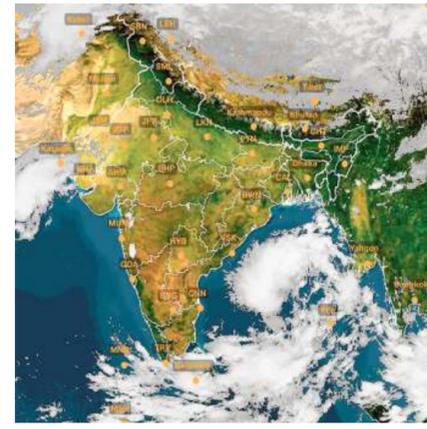
Speaking at an event on Monday organised by the Ghosh community in Bardhaman on the welfare of cows, he said, "Foreign cows are not mothers but aunties."

"The special characteristic of Indian cow milk is that it has gold in it. The hump of cow has a blood vessel in it which can produce gold as sunray touches the hump. That is a reason why milk of desi cows is a little yellow," he said.

He further added that "foreign cows like Jerseys" produce impure milk unlike Indian cows and that the milk of such cows should not be used in Hindu rituals.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at a few places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat region and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Konkan & Goa, Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	32.4	21.1	Kozhikode	...	34.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	...	33.0	23.0	Kurnool	...	33.9	23.7
Aizawl	...	24.6	...	Lucknow	...	30.5	16.4
Allahabad	...	31.8	23.8	Madurai	...	33.6	24.0
Bengaluru	...	30.4	18.2	Mangaluru	...	33.5	24.0
Bhopal	...	30.8	19.4	Mumbai	...	34.2	24.6
Bhubaneswar	...	31.4	20.8	Mysuru	...	30.1	16.3
Chandigarh	...	28.9	16.7	New Delhi	...	30.6	17.5
Chennai	...	33.6	24.8	Patna	...	31.0	20.2
Coimbatore	...	33.0	22.0	Port Blair	...	53.1	27.7
Dehradun	...	29.2	13.3	Puducherry	...	33.3	22.7
Dhantok	...	21.1	17.0	Pune	...	30.8	20.8
Goa	...	33.0	25.1	Raipur	...	31.8	22.5
Guwahati	...	31.3	20.5	Ranchi	...	27.8	17.6
Hubballi	...	29.0	21.0	Shillong	...	19.3	11.5
Hyderabad	...	32.2	20.5	Shimla	...	19.8	9.6
Imphal	...	4.7	27.7	Srinagar
Jaipur	...	31.0	18.0	Thiruvananthapuram	...	33.1	23.8
Kochi	...	0.4	31.8	Tiruchirappalli	...	33.5	24.0
Kohima	...	24.2	12.0	Vijayawada	...	34.1	23.5
Kolkata	...	31.2	22.8	Visakhapatnam	...	32.5	24.4

(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	...	204	44	156	115	...
Bengaluru	...	12	76	53	243	...
Chennai	...	15	24	76	285	...
Delhi	75	55	357	284
Hyderabad	...	18	50	29	249	...
Kolkata	...	08	55	56	285	194
Lucknow	...	03	52	39	439	...
Mumbai	...	10	71	118	49	58
Pune	...	90	11	76	47	47
Visakhapatnam	...	23	84	46	263	216

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

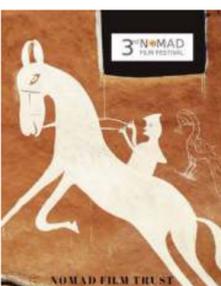
Nomad film fete aims to draw local talent

Workshops will be organised for young members of the community

NAMRATA JOSHI
MUMBAI

"Challenging the stigma. Changing the narrative" is the motto of the Nomad Film Festival. One of India's most sharply focussed, the festival is dedicated to showcasing films dealing with the denotified and nomadic tribes of the country.

The idea is to harness cinema in directing focus on their struggles and problems, to change the mindset of people about them and help fight the slurs and blots associated with them; misconceptions like they are criminal tribes, thieves and



law-breakers. "We used to organise conferences and discussions but found that cinema has a far bigger impact [with such issues]," says

Mayank Sinha, the secretary of the Nomad Film Trust, the force behind the festival.

However, the acuteness of the festival's vision and its commitment also makes it disadvantaged in another way. "There are very few films made on the denotified tribes, nomads or gypsies. It gets difficult to organise the festival every year," says Mr. Sinha.

The last two festivals were held in 2016 and 2018 and the organisers are gearing up again to hold the third edition on February 15, 2020 in Delhi. The call for entries has begun and four films

have landed in the organisers' kitty. In the new edition, the big idea is to raise sufficient sponsorship and use it to bring the marginalised tribes into the mainstream by giving them opportunities for cinematic self-expression. So film-making workshops will be organised for young members of the community so that they can tell their own stories themselves, through 10 or 15-minute films.

The films could be about identity politics but the larger aim is to help the tribal people find a strong creative voice.

Bangladesh anthem now in Sanskrit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The national anthem of Bangladesh has been given a Sanskrit makeover on the eighth death anniversary of the State's cultural icon – Bhupen Hazarika.

Ranjan Bezbaruah, the man behind an II-song audio album released on Tuesday, negated any political motive behind accommodating the Sanskrit version of *Aamaar Shonar Bangla*, the national anthem of Bangladesh that Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore had composed, and *O Mor Aapunaar Dekh*, the State anthem of Assam. The latter was written by Lakshminath Bezbaruah, who revolutionised modern Assamese literature.

Aamaar Shonar Bangla features in *Anandini*, a new Sanskrit album that Mr. Bezbaruah conceptualised, as *Ayee Swarnila Bangla*, while *O Mur Aapunaar Dekh* as *Aho Atmanah Desha*.

Veterans up in arms over proposed code of conduct

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The veterans community has expressed concern and outrage on social media against the Army's proposed "code of conduct" for them. "Just before superannuating last week, Adjutant General Lt. Gen. Ashwani Kumar said in an interview to a news channel that the Army was in the process of finalising the code for the officers after their retirement."

Lt. Gen. Kumar said as armed forces who are entitled to keep their rank post

retirement, "it is anticipated that they will continue to follow the code of conduct more or less in the same way as was being done while in service" but there have been some cases that "we find that needs to be refreshed, fine tuned".

This caused a barrage of reactions from the veteran community, including some sharp response from senior officers. Former Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash said in a post on Twitter, "Let us first implement an Honour

Code or Code of Conduct for our serving senior officers. Keeping "arm's length" from political posturing should be one of the Key Result Areas (KRA)."

While all serving personnel are governed by the respective Service Acts, veterans are governed by civil laws. "Indian Constitution is our 'code of conduct'. And Supreme Court is there to protect that," Maj. Gen. S.S. Chohan (retd.) tweeted. Another veteran Brig. V. Mahalingam observed that "India is not China yet."