

NEARBY



**Woman dead, 20 injured as van falls into gorge**

**KODAIKANAL**  
A woman was killed and 20 others were injured after a tourist van from Gujarat plunged into a gorge while on its way from Kodaikanal to Palani on Thursday.

**Govt. plans new rules for private security firms**

**NEW DELHI**  
With private security agencies becoming one of the major job generators in the country, the government plans to frame new rules for the sector's development and employees' welfare. The Ministry of Home Affairs, in a notification, has invited from individuals and organisations suggestions on the draft Private Security Agencies Central (Amendment) Model Rules, 2019. PTI

**CRPF jawan killed in encounter with Naxals**

**NEW DELHI**  
A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan was killed in an encounter with Naxals in Chhattisgarh on Thursday, officials said here. The encounter took place in the Tonguda-Pamed area of Bijapur district at about 4 a.m., they said. The State police was out for an operation in the jungles, the officials said. Some Maoists are also suspected to have been killed in the exchange of fire, they said. PTI

**JEE: TMC to protest against Centre's 'bias'**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOLKATA**

Escalating her fight with the Centre over alleged bias against regional languages in conducting JEE (Main) tests, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday her party will hold State-wide protests against it on November 11.

She also asked other States to organise similar protests.

The TMC supremo is up in arms against the Centre over inclusion of only the Gujarati language in the JEE (Main) examination held for admission to engineering colleges.

She claimed States were not consulted about it, a charge dismissed by the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the examination.

**Maharashtra tops in justice delivery**

Report brings to light key issues across four pillars: police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Maharashtra has topped the list of 18 large-medium States in the overall first-ever ranking of Indian States on justice delivery, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana.

In this category, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom, while among seven smaller States, Goa leads the group.

This is according to the India Justice Report 2019, released on Thursday by the Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, among others.

**Public data**

The report is based on publicly available data from different government entities on the four pillars of justice

**Justice meter**

While Maharashtra emerged as the overall topper among large/medium States in justice delivery, Tamil Nadu and Kerala fared better in individual categories

\*Scores out of a total of 10 points

**Policing**  
Tamil Nadu topped with a score of 6.49\*  
U.P. was at the bottom with a score of 2.98, whereas Bihar got 3.77

**Prisons**  
Kerala ranked on top with a score of 7.18  
Jharkhand fared the worst with a score of 3.46, whereas Uttarakhand scores 3.72, Punjab 4.35, Andhra Pradesh 4.35 and U.P. 4.42

**Judiciary**  
Tamil Nadu was on top with a score of 6.99 | Bihar was the worst performer with a score of 2.41, while U.P. scored 3.7, Karnataka 3.76, Uttarakhand 4.17 and Jharkhand 4.3

**Legal aid**  
Kerala topped with a score of 6.58 | U.P. fared the worst, followed by Uttarakhand, Bihar and Odisha

delivery – police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

Releasing the report, Justice (Retd.) Madan B. Lokur called it a pioneering study and said: "The findings establish beyond doubt very serious lacunae in our justice delivery system. It is an excellent effort to mainstream the issues concerning our

justice system, which in fact affect every aspect of society, governance and the economy."

The report highlights the fact that even the best performing States scored less than 60% in their performance on capacity across the police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

The country has about 18,200 judges with about 23% sanctioned posts vacant, notes the report, adding that women are poorly represented in these pillars, constituting just 7% of the police.

"Prisons are over-occupied at 114%, where 68% are undertrials awaiting investi-



**Cloudy skies:** According to IMD, moderate rainfall is expected due to Cyclone Maha's impact. •EMMANUAL YOGINI

**'Bulbul' likely to bring heavy rain to Odisha**

RAF teams sent to coastal districts

**STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR/AHMEDABAD**

The cyclonic storm 'Bulbul' over east-central Bay of Bengal may skip Odisha coast, but the State government has taken no chance and has kept its coastal districts prepared for the storm, which is likely to bring heavy rainfall.

While three districts – Jagatsinghpur, Balasore and Puri – announced closure of schools on Friday, schools will remain close in nine districts on Saturday.

"We have sent two units of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force each to nine districts and units of National Disaster Response Force have moved to six coastal districts," said P.K. Jena, Special Relief Commissioner on Thursday. "The cyclonic storm 'Bul-

bul' over the east-central Bay of Bengal moved north-westwards with a speed of 21 kmph during past six hours and lay centred about 560 km south-southeast of Paradip (Odisha), 680 km south-southeast of Sagar Islands (West Bengal) and 740 km south-southwest of Khepupara (Bangladesh)," says IMD bulletin.

**'Maha' spares Gujarat**

In a major relief to the people of Gujarat, cyclone 'Maha' fizzled out into the Arabian sea as a depression without making a landfall, the IMD said on Thursday.

The cyclone is likely to move east-northeastwards and weaken into a well-marked low pressure area off the south Gujarat coast during the next 12 hours, it said.

**Railway vendor faces flak for recruitment ad on caste lines**

IRCTC reprimands firm after backlash on social media

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI**

A railway vendor, which alluded to caste preferences in its recruitment advertisement, has been ticked off by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) after severe backlash on the social media.

Brandavan Food Products sought 100 male candidates for three posts: train catering manager, base kitchen manager and store manager.

In the recruitment advertisement it said candidates should belong to "Agrawal



The advertisement said candidates should belong to "Agrawal Vaish Community."

Vaish Community" and have a "good family background," besides educational qualification of '10+2'.

The IRCTC said the company has removed the human resource personnel who posted the advertisement.

The vendor also wrote to the IRCTC apologising for the advertisement and said that it was a "clerical mistake."

Netizens lashed out at the advertisement on Thursday. "Shameful and disgusting! Even the private operators will give job on the basis of caste? Haven't we divided our Country enough?" said a Twitter user.

**Woman raped in moving car in Odisha**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR**

A woman was allegedly raped in a moving car and dumped in a critical condition near a college in Odisha's Khurda district, police said.

Bhubaneswar DCP Anup K. Sahoo said the accused was arrested. "We cannot say for sure if more than one person was involved," SP (Rural) Ajay Pratap Swain said.

**Family alleges starvation death in Jharkhand**

State Food Minister denies charge

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA RANCHI/GIRIDIH**

A family in Jharkhand's Giridih district has alleged that one of its members died of starvation. But the State's Food and Civil Supplies Minister Saryu Roy on Thursday said official reports failed to prove the claim.

The Minister said a perfectly laid out protocol to prevent death due to starvation is in place in the State.

Ramesh Turi of Chirudih in Giridih district had told the media that his 48-year-old wife Savitri died of starvation on Tuesday last.

The Minister said: "there is a perfect protocol to give ration under the Annapurna Yojana to the needy even if they don't have ration cards; there are grain banks and ₹10,000 is given to Mukhias who can be approached for assistance."

**Kerala on its way to achieve 100% Internet penetration**

It has the second highest coverage, report shows

**VARUN B. KRISHNAN CHENNAI**

Kerala's Finance Minister Thomas Isaac tweeted on Thursday that the Kerala Fibre Optic Network project, pegged at ₹1,548 crore, would provide Internet to every household in the State. "For 20 lakh BPL households it will be free," the tweet read.

The project is slated for completion by December 2020.

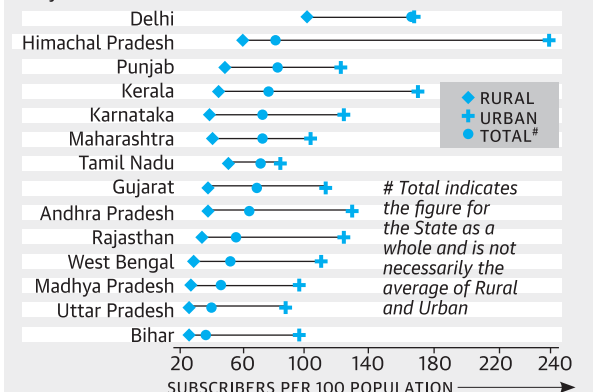
However, going by data in a recent report by the Internet And Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), Kerala is already halfway to its goal of 100% coverage.

According to the report, titled 'India Internet 2019,' the State's Internet penetration rate is the second highest in the country (54%), next only to Delhi NCR with 69% penetration.

The Internet penetration rate (defined as number of individuals aged above 12 per 100 population who accessed the Internet in the last month; survey period Ja-

**Online footprint**

Chart shows Internet subscriptions per 100 population for major TRAI service areas\* as of June 2019



\*List of States under each service area can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2pR10GH>

nuary-March 2019) was the lowest in Odisha (25), Jharkhand (26) and Bihar (28).

The report also notes that Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi have the highest proportion of female Internet users.

**Better urban services**

TRAI data as of June 2019 also show that Kerala is well-placed in terms of Internet connections. It stands fourth among all telecom service areas in terms of Internet subscriptions per 100 population, behind Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. In

urban areas, it does better – it ranks second behind Himachal Pradesh.

The data also show that Kerala has about 70 Internet subscriptions per 100 population across service areas.

While Bihar has the lowest number with 29 subscriptions per 100 population, Uttar Pradesh's number stands at 34.

It is to be noted that Kerala is among the States with a huge gap between the number of rural and urban Internet connections. This is also the case in Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

**Two women among winners of Infosys Prize**

Recipients chosen from six categories

**STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU**

A professor from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, is among the six winners of the Infosys Prize 2019, which were announced by the Infosys Science Foundation here on Thursday. The winners' list also included two women.

The recipients, who were chosen from 196 nominations for their contributions in six categories – Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences – will receive a gold medal, a citation and a prize purse of \$1,00,000 (or its equivalent in rupees) each.

**The winners**

The winners are: Engineering and Computer Science: Sunita Sarawagi, Institute Chair Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay; Humanities: Manu V. Devadevan, Assistant Professor, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi; Life Sciences: Manjula Reddy, Chief Scientist, Centre for

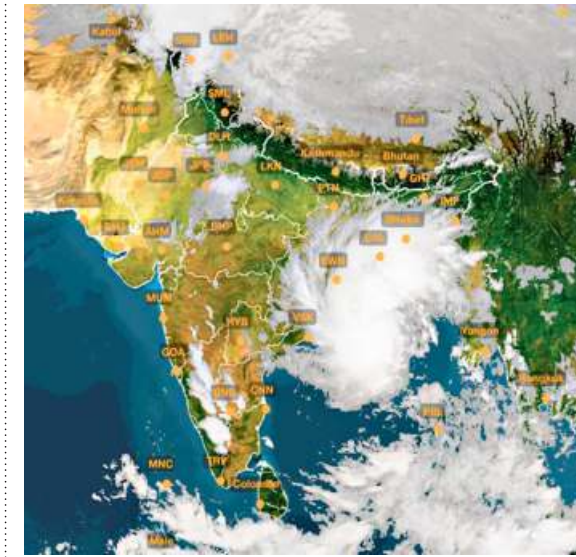
Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad; Mathematical Sciences: Siddhartha Mishra, Professor, Department of Mathematics, ETH Zürich; Physical Sciences: G. Mugesh, Professor, Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru; Social Sciences: Anand Pandian, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University.

Trustees of the foundation, including S.D. Shibulal, Kris Gopalakrishnan, Narayana Murthy, Nandan Nilekani, K. Dinesh and Sri-nath Batni shared the dais.

"We have to increase the overall spending on research. The government plans to increase this to 1%. The private sector needs to do something too. The other area is translation, where the spending is very little. Industries are not involved with academic institutions. Industries should come forward to pay for proof of concept," said Mr. Gopalakrishnan, adding that youngsters should pursue fundamental research enthusiastically to solve problems plaguing India.

**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 Friday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Odisha, Kerala, Mahe, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over interior Karnataka. Sea condition likely to be very high over central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal; rough along and off Odisha coast.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	31.0	20.0	Kozhikode	...	34.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	0.2	31.0	23.0	Kurnool	...	33.0	24.0
Aizawl	...	25.0	14.0	Lucknow	...	29.0	18.0
Allahabad	...	30.0	17.0	Madurai	...	35.0	25.0
Bengaluru	...	30.0	19.0	Mangaluru	5.3	32.0	23.0
Bhopal	...	31.0	20.0	Mumbai	...	32.0	25.0
Bhubaneswar	...	31.0	22.0	Mysuru	...	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	7.6	26.0	16.0	New Delhi	...	23.0	18.0
Chennai	...	33.0	26.0	Patna	...	31.0	17.0
Coimbatore	...	33.0	23.0	Port Blair	...	31.0	23.0
Dehradun	...	27.0	14.0	Puducherry	...	31.0	24.0
Gangtok	...	19.0	11.0	Pune	...	7.8	31.0
Goa	1.6	33.0	24.0	Raipur	...	31.0	21.0
Guwahati	...	32.0	20.0	Ranchi	...	26.0	15.0
Hubbali	...	28.0	21.0	Shillong	...	5.8	23.0
Hyderabad	1.9	32.0	21.0	Shimla	...	5.6	12.0
Imphal	...	27.0	14.0	Srinagar	...	1.7	10.0
Jaipur	...	19.0	18.0	Thiruvananthapuram	...	34.0	25.0
Kochi	...	32.0	25.0	Tiruchi	...	35.0	26.0
Kohima	...	26.0	13.0	Vijayawada	...	33.0	23.0
Kolkata	...	29.0	21.0	Visakhapatnam	...	31.0	25.0

(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
Ahmedabad	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bengaluru	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chennai	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delhi	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hyderabad	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kolkata	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lucknow	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mumbai	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pune	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visakhapatnam	...	...	...	...	...	...

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

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 435 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 40.

Yesterday