

IN BRIEF



'Crimes against women linked to failure of duties'
NEW DELHI
President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said the failings in human rights, like in cases of violence against women, often stemmed from the failings in fulfilling fundamental duties. The President was speaking at a National Human Rights Commission's event here.

Portal on Indian culture launched by Ministry
NEW DELHI
The Culture Ministry on Tuesday launched an online portal to showcase India's culture. Launching the portal - indianculture.gov.in - that was developed by a team from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel said the project was a part of the Digital India initiative.

Unnao rape case verdict on Dec. 16

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
A city court on Tuesday reserved the judgment in the Unnao rape case against former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and his alleged accomplice for December 16. The girl, then a minor, was allegedly sexually assaulted by the accused in June 2017. She alleged that a few days later, she was again kidnapped and gang-raped by his associates.
In the first case, the CBI completed its submissions on Monday. The recording of the statements of defence witnesses concluded on December 2. Based on the chargesheet, the court had framed charges against Mr. Sengar and co-accused Shashi Singh. The two were accused of conspiracy, kidnapping, rape and offences under the POCSO Act.

Google liable for defamation cases before Act change: SC

Company faces action for defamatory content published by third parties

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI
In a shock for online platforms like Google, the Supreme Court on Tuesday held that internet intermediaries cannot be protected from criminal defamation cases registered against them prior to October 27, 2009.
It was only on October 27, 2009 that Parliament amended the Information Technology Act of 2000 to protect online intermediaries from liability for criminally defamatory content published in them by third parties. The amended Section 79 of the 2000 Act provided that “an intermediary shall not be liable for any third party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by

Too big, too fast

What the government said in the Supreme Court on the Internet traffic and the role of intermediaries

- Internet offers information on a mind-boggling variety of subjects. High speed and high volume render pre-censorship difficult
- Viewers exercise choice as to what content they wish to view or read. There is automatic uploading without any application of mind on the part of the website/platform

- 3.5 billion people in the world accessed the Internet in 2015
- 3 million photographs were uploaded on Facebook per day
- 510 comments, 2,93,000 statuses are posted per minute

him.” The amendment gave almost blanket protection to intermediaries from legal action under Section 499/500 (criminal defamation) of the Indian Penal Code.
A Bench of Justices Mohan

on the basis of a complaint filed by M/s Vishaka Industries, a manufacturer of asbestos cement sheets. Vishaka accused the co-ordinator of a Google group called ‘Ban Asbestos India’ and Google India for authoring/hosting defamatory articles against their products in 2008. The accused were asked to appear in court in September 2009 - that is before the amendment in Section 79 came into existence.
“We hold that Section 79 of the Act, prior to its substitution, did not protect an intermediary in regard to the offence under Section 499/500 of the IPC,” Justice Joseph, who wrote the judgment, concluded. The verdict noted that Google India argued it was not a publisher of third-party content.

‘Akbar’s misconduct forced me to quit’

Witness recalls ‘harrowing experience’

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
Senior journalist Ghazala Wahab told a Delhi court on Tuesday that the “sexual misconduct” of former Union Minister M.J. Akbar, while he was editor of *Asian Age* newspaper, compelled her to quit her job there.
Ms. Wahab, who was called as a witness in support of journalist Priya Ramani in a criminal defamation complaint filed against her by Mr. Akbar, narrated her “harrowing experiences” working as his subordinate at the newspaper. It started when Ms. Wahab, then a feature writer, was shifted to a desk outside the cabin of Mr. Akbar.
The arrangement of her desk was such that “if his door was slightly open he could watch me,” she said,

adding, “Many times, I saw him watching me.” Later, she said, he started sending private messages pertaining to her clothes and appearance in the newspaper’s intranet messaging service.
She recounted that sometime in August-September 1997, he called her to his cabin on the pretext of looking for a word in the dictionary and “sexually harassed” her. “I ran out of his cabin into the toilet to cry. The enormity of violation, humiliation overwhelmed me completely,” she said.
“The next day, he called me to his cabin and sexually harassed me again,” Ms. Wahab said. When she narrated the incident to the bureau chief, she was told there was little that could be done about it and that it was “entirely my call.”

PU withdraws circular on Kashmiri students

They were asked to give affidavits regarding their attendance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH
The Panjab University on Tuesday withdrew a circular - which sought self-attested affidavits from Kashmiri students with ‘short attendance’ following the clampdown in the Valley - to testify that they were not involved in any unlawful activity.
“Keeping in view the welfare of Kashmiri students, Panjab University has withdrawn the circular regarding their attendance, thereby allowing them to be able to appear in exams,” said an official statement.
The university authorities withdrew the circular after facing flak over it.
The circular issued on December 6 by the university to its department heads

directed that “a self-attested affidavit may be sought from the Kashmiri students that they have not been involved in any unlawful activity during their absence from the university and their stay in Kashmir during clampdown in the Valley”.

CM tweets
Amid the controversy, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder tweeted, “Kashmir and Kashmiris are an integral part of India.@OfficialPU shouldn’t seek any special declaration from Kashmiri students & the affidavit request is completely unjustified. Have taken up this issue with the V-C to withdraw it.”
The circular also said that in view of clampdown in the Valley, all chairpersons/directors/coordinators are advised to allow Kashmiri students to appear in the examination and also allow them to deposit fee without late fees, so that they should not lose an academic year.

Amid complaints, farmers’ body to revise guidelines

PepsiCo cited the FAQ section to justify cases filed by it

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ NEW DELHI
A document which food and beverages giant PepsiCo India cited to support its charges against Gujarat potato farmers earlier this year is being revised by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), following complaints from major farmers groups.

The Frequently Asked Questions or FAQ document had claimed that “only small and marginal farmers involved in subsistence farming” are eligible to claim rights under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001. The FAQ also said these rights are not for “commercial farmers” and are only meant for “small scale” use.
PepsiCo has used the same argument in an ongoing case at the Authority over its registered potato variety used for Lays chips. The company has also cited the FAQ document to justify dragging more than nine farmers to court in 2018 for growing and selling its registered variety.
The company faced product boycotts and major protests across the political spectrum for slapping a ₹4.2 crore lawsuit against four farmers, and ultimately withdrew all cases after go-



PepsiCo had faced major protests for slapping a ₹4.2 crore lawsuit against four farmers •SUSHANTA PATRONOBISH

vernment intervention just before Lok Sabha elections in May 2019.
The PPV&FR Act allows a farmer to “save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under this Act”. The legislation itself does not include any stipulation that only small and marginal farmers will be protected, or mention the scale of use.
Calling for change
On Tuesday, Gene Campaign chairperson Suman Sahai sent a complaint letter about the FAQ document to PPV&FRA chairperson K.V. Prabhu.
The letter was endorsed by over 130 other farmers groups including major players such as the RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, the Bharatiya Kisan Union and the Shetkari Sangathana.
Dr. Prabhu told *The Hindu* that an expert committee has now been set up to revise the document. “There were some statements that could have been explained in simpler language and some could be interpreted differently from what is provided. Hence taken out for revision,” he said.
The ongoing case at the PPV&FRA revolves around PepsiCo’s FL-2027 variety of potatoes, which it grows through a collaborative farmers programme, wherein the company sells seeds to 12,000 farmers and has an exclusive contract to buy back their produce to make its chips.
The company introduced the variety to India in 2009 and registered it under the PPV&FR Act in 2016.

India proposes extended deadline for commitments at climate summit

‘Developed countries have not met Kyoto Protocol targets’

JACOB KOSHY NEW DELHI
India on Tuesday proposed that developed countries make good commitments on providing finance to developing countries by 2023, instead of 2020.
“It is time for reflection and assessment as we near the end of the pre-2020 period. Has the developed world delivered on its promises? Unfortunately, an-

nexed [developed] countries have not met their Kyoto Protocol targets... I propose that we have three more years to fulfill the pre-2020 commitments till the global stock take takes places for bridging emission gaps,” Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar said in Madrid, Spain, on Tuesday. He was stating India’s position at the 25th Session of the Conference of Parties

under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25), currently under way.
According to Mr. Javadekar, India is on its way to achieving voluntary targets it has set for itself to curb emissions. It has reduced emissions intensity of GDP by 21% and is “on track” to achieve the goal of 35% emissions reduction as promised in Paris, he 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 Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	28.5	16.5	Kozhikode	.....	35.4	24.4
Ahmedabad	29.1	15.0	Kurnool	.....	31.6	20.0
Aizawl	9.5	.....	Lucknow	.....	24.2	10.3
Allahabad	26.4	12.4	Madurai	.....	31.4	21.3
Bengaluru	26.4	17.9	Mangaluru	.....	37.9	21.6
Bhopal	27.0	13.2	Mumbai	.....	37.9	21.6
Bhubaneswar	29.6	17.7	Mysuru	.....	28.0	17.2
Chandigarh	21.6	7.7	New Delhi	.....	23.5	17.4
Chennai	31.0	23.5	Patna	.....	26.6	12.6
Coimbatore	30.2	19.8	Port Blair	.....	29.8	25.6
Dehradun	23.2	7.8	Puducherry	.....	31.0	20.6
Gangtok	6.4	.....	Pune	.....	30.4	18.0
Goa	34.4	23.5	Raipur	.....	29.2	16.2
Guwahati	26.8	12.8	Ranchi	.....	23.8	12.0
Hubballi	28.0	18.0	Shillong	.....	16.6	6.6
Hyderabad	28.0	18.6	Shimla	.....	16.0	5.9
Imphal	23.2	5.8	Srinagar	.....	3.2	2.4
Jaipur	24.0	10.2	Thiruvananthapuram	.....	33.4	23.6
Kochi	33.0	24.6	Tiruchi	.....	30.8	24.2
Kohima	20.5	6.8	Vijayawada	.....	30.9	21.4
Kolkata	28.1	16.5	Visakhapatnam	.....	30.3	21.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	66	48	21	194	126	.....	In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 421 indicating a dangerous level of pollution. In contrast, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 29.
Bengaluru	04	57	86	40	63	.....
Chennai	14	21	32	64	.....	.....
Delhi	05	46	49	430	365	.....
Hyderabad	14	59	41	138	.....	.....
Kolkata	19	110	22	189	181	.....
Lucknow	21	36	52	355	.....	.....
Mumbai	32	51	39	197	133	.....
Pune	103	24	54	170	119	.....
Visakhapatnam	09	52	35	43	88	.....

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

2 CRPF men shot dead by colleague

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel - Assistant Commandant Shahul Harshan B, 28, and Assistant Sub-Inspector Purnanand Bhuyan, 47 - were killed when one of their colleagues, Deepender Yadav opened fire on them in Jharkhand. Deepender, injured in the incident, was said to be ‘drunk’. The CRPF men were deployed for election duty in Bokaro.
The incident took place on Monday around 9.30 p.m.
A CRPF official said an inquiry had been ordered.
This is the second incident of fratricide in the central armed police force in less than a week.
(With PTI inputs)

IndianOil LNG PUBLIC TENDER

IndianOil LNG Private Limited is inviting for Public Tenders for the following:

(1) Carrying out Handling & Up-keeping works at IndianOil LNG Pvt. Ltd.
Tender No: IOLPL/2019-20/PT-03/**HANDLING**
Tender Sale Period: 12.12.2019 (10:30 Hrs.) - 26.12.2019 (17:30 Hrs.) (Both days inclusive)

(2) Supply & Erection of 50,000 LPH Water Treatment Plant at IndianOil LNG Pvt. Ltd.
Tender No: IOLPL/2019-20/PT-04/**WTP**
Tender Sale Period: 12.12.2019 (10:30 Hrs.) - 24.12.2019 (17:00 Hrs.) (Both days inclusive)

Site Location: IndianOil LNG Pvt. Ltd., Inside Kamarajar Port Limited, Ennore, Vallur Post, Thiruvallur District, Chennai-600120.

For all others details please visit our website:
<http://indianoilling.com/Tender>

Any Corrigendum/addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on the said website and not be published in newspapers separately.