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NEARBY



Police want SIT on Anaj Mandi fire tragedy
NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police Crime Branch has written a letter to the Delhi Home Department requesting it to set up a SIT to probe the fire tragedy that claimed 43 lives in central Delhi's Anaj Mandi, an officer said on Tuesday.
CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Varsity withdraws circular on Kashmiri students
CHANDIGARH
The Panjab University on Tuesday withdrew a controversial circular, seeking self-attested affidavits from Kashmiri students testifying that they were not involved in any unlawful activity in the Valley.
NATION ▶ PAGE 9

Unnao rape case verdict on December 16
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.
NATION ▶ PAGE 9

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 7

SC flags delay in appointment of judges

Bench seeks details on 213 names pending with government and Collegium

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI
Two hundred and thirteen names recommended for appointment to various High Courts are pending with the government/Supreme Court Collegium, the Supreme Court said in a judicial order. At least the names on which the Supreme Court Collegium, the High Courts and the governments had agreed upon should be appointed within six months, the order said.

"If recommendations of the High Court Collegium meet with the approval of the Supreme Court Collegium and the government, at least their appointments

Empty chairs
38% of all sanctioned posts for judges in High Courts are lying vacant as of December 1, 2019. The six HCs with most vacancies:

Name of High Court	Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Vacancies	% of vacancies
A.P.	37	15	22	59.46
Rajasthan	50	21	29	58
J&K	17	8	9	52.94
Patna	53	27	26	49.06
Odisha	27	14	13	48.15
Gujarat	52	28	24	46.15

must take place within six months. This is not to say that in other cases the process should not be completed within six months," a Bench of Justices Sanjay

Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph said in an order dated December 6 and made available on Tuesday. It emphasised that the appointments required "a con-

tinuous, collaborative and integrated process, where the government is an important consultee". The order is significant, coming at a time when inordinate delays in the appointment of High Court judges and depleting numbers in the higher judiciary threaten to affect the justice delivery mechanism. The court has asked for a list with details of the 213 names, including when their files were forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the time taken by the Law Ministry to forward them to the PMO.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Muslim professor facing student protest at BHU switches faculty

Quits SVDV, joins Sanskrit dept. of Arts stream

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW
Feroze Khan, who was appointed as an assistant professor in the Literature Department of the Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vijnan (SVDV) of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), resigned after a month-long protest against his selection, an offi-



cial said on Tuesday. Mr. Khan submitted his resignation on Monday and

expressed his wish to teach in the Sanskrit Department of the Arts faculty, said Professor Kaushalendra Pandey.

A compromise
"Feroze Khanji has resigned from here. And expressing wish to teach in the Sanskrit department, he has joined there," Mr. Pandey said. The change in his department is seen as part of a compromise deal.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

RTI activist shot dead in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR
An RTI activist and leader of an anti-liquor movement, Abhimanyu Panda, 54, was shot dead in broad daylight at Baliguda in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Tuesday. According to police sources, the incident occurred on Tuesday morning near Patra Street under Baliguda police station limits.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 6

Violence mars protests against Citizenship Bill

Internet, SMS services suspended in Tripura for two days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI/AGARTALA

An 11-hour shutdown against the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill disrupted large swathes of the northeastern States on Tuesday, with protesters resorting to violence in some places and clashing with the police.

Several people, including security men, were injured as protesters damaged vehicles and shops in Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya's capital Shillong.

In Tripura, the government ordered suspension of Internet and SMS services for two days as paramilitary personnel opened fire in the air and lobbed teargas shells to disperse violent protesters in some areas.

Intense in Valley
The protests, spearheaded by the North East Students' Organisation (NESO), were the most intense across the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam and Tripura, the two States perceived to bear the brunt of migrants from Bangladesh who could be made citizens under the Bill if it becomes a law.

The other northeastern States, "insulated" by the Sixth Schedule status and the Inner Line Permit regu-



Troubled times: Protesters burning tyres during the bandh in Guwahati on Tuesday. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

lation, either shut down or held token protests to express solidarity with Assam and Tripura.

The Bill seeks to fast-track the process of granting citizenship to people belonging to six non-Muslim religious groups, who fled persecution from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan till December 31, 2014.

Anger against the Bill had been brewing over a week, affecting life and businesses in Assam and Tripura. On Tuesday, it snowballed into a spontaneous movement with local residents, including senior citizens, taking to the streets.

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U.S. PANEL RECOMMENDS
SANCTIONS ON SHAH ▶ PAGE 13

Rajya Sabha will debate Bill today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday, will be taken up for consideration and passage in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Six hours have been allocated to debate the Bill to grant citizenship to undocumented non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, who came to India before December 31, 2014.

DIMPUR UNDER ILP ▶ PAGE 13

Why no protection for persecuted Rohingya Muslims, ask settlers

Refugees at Kalindi Kunj camp fear for their future after Lok Sabha passed CAB

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

The voice of TV news anchors talking on the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) passed by the Lok Sabha late on Monday night filled the shanty of Shobir*, a Rohingya refugee settled at a camp in Kalindi Kunj, as a few others sat around intently watching videos on his smartphone on Tuesday afternoon.

The Bill, which has been proposed as a measure to extend protection to certain persecuted religious minorities from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan, does not include persecuted Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar.

"We have faced things you would not believe," said Shobir. "Children were killed, daughters raped, our rights seized. No one wants to leave their country and settle somewhere else like this. We were forced to flee."

Ramad*, who escaped from Myanmar in 2012, said the same persecution faced by minorities in other countries was faced by them, if not worse. "We were oppressed in the Buddhist-majority Myanmar. We couldn't travel, get married, have children, our citizenship was taken away," he said.

To go back to Myanmar was "unthinkable" for these people. "You might as well throw us into the sea," he



The Rohingya refugee camp in Kalindi Kunj; refugees listening to news on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill on their phone. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR/SIDHARTH RAVI

said.

Residents of the settlement here live in abject squalor – open defecation on muddy roads, absence of proper drainage system and fragile makeshift housing which witnessed a massive fire last year. Despite this, Ramad said they manage al-

right. "We get nothing from the government but at least our children get to go to school here. It's even worse for our relatives living in Bangladesh."

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise, currently under way in Assam, was also on their minds. "If

the NRC is conducted all over India and refugees are removed, they will all be Muslims," said a despondent Anwar*. "I am thinking about my children. They are so young, they don't even know which country they live in. Would we have to move again? Where will we go?" he asked.

The CAB is being viewed as an "injustice" here. "We believed in the virtues of this country, in India's democracy," said Shobir. "But this [CAB] has turned all that on its head. It is very disappointing."

"I wish I weren't a Muslim," said Anwar. "That's the only reason I am in this situation. If we were Hindu or Christian or something else, we wouldn't have to face this problem."

(All names have been changed)

Fire tragedy: Delhi police write to Home Department to set up SIT

3D laser scanning of the spot likely to be completed today

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has written a letter to the Delhi Home Department requesting it to set up an SIT to probe the fire tragedy that claimed 43 lives at central Delhi's Anaj Mandi, said an officer on Tuesday.

He added that the SIT will ascertain the actual cause of the fire as combustible items, open electricity wire and inflammable chemicals were found in the building.

"We suggest the Delhi Home Department to form an SIT that comprises officials from the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and BSES (power unit)," the officer said.

Meanwhile, a team from the Delhi police went inside the building with Furkan, manager of the building owner Rehan. According to police officials, a 3D laser scanning of the place of incident was done for the ground and first floor and the exercise is likely to be completed by Wednesday.

Till now, the post-mortem of 40 bodies has been conducted and a team of Central Forensic Science Laboratory, CBI (CFSL), will visit the spot on Wednes-



The fire at central Delhi's Anaj Mandi had claimed 43 lives on Sunday. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

day. The team from Forensic Science Laboratory, Rohini had visited the site on Sunday and Monday and collected samples.

Police recorded the statement of six more injured persons on Tuesday. On Monday, they had recorded the statement of 7 injured persons.

The debris will be cleared from the site by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation after the visit by the CFSL team.

The police have also contacted the SDM for the dog squad of the National Disaster Response Force to explore any possibility of anyone being stuck under the debris.

On Sunday, the police had arrested the building owner Rehan and his man-

ager Furkan. Rehan told the police that a portion of the building was owned by his brother-in-law Suhail and another by his brother Imran. Police are conducting raids to nab Suhail and Imran to ascertain whom they had rented out their portions to, they said.

During investigation, it has been found that there were 18 rooms/portions which were let out. Also, there were four power connections and illegal sub-meters were installed for tenants, the police said.

The Delhi government has ordered a magisterial probe into the tragedy, the worst fire accident in the Capital since the 1997 Uphaar cinema blaze, and sought a report within seven days.

Too early to interfere in Anaj Mandi fire: HC Bench

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a petition seeking a judicial inquiry and an investigation by the CBI or any other independent agency into the Anaj Mandi fire in Delhi which claimed 43 lives.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar remarked the fire occurred on December 8 and it was too early for the court to interfere as the authorities were dealing with it.

The court said if there is inaction on the part of the authorities with regard to the incident after a reasonable period of time, then lawyer Avadh Kaushik, the petitioner in the case, can move a fresh plea.

Citing news reports, the petition said 43 people had died and several others were injured when the fire swept through a factory in a four-storey building located in Anaj Mandi.

Besides seeking a judicial inquiry by a retired judge and a probe by an independent agency into the incident, the petition had sought compensation for the victims and framing of guidelines to prevent such incidents in future.

Union Ministry spreading false claims: Jain

AAP govt. contests Ministry's statement on Anaj Mandi fire, calls it 'factually inaccurate'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said that a statement issued by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation on the Anaj Mandi fire, blaming the AAP government, had glaring factual "inaccuracies" and "errors".

A statement released by the Ministry on Sunday stated: "MPD-2021 mandates MCD [municipal corporation] to prepare the Redevelopment Plan for Special Area. This was prepared by North DMC and cleared by technical committee of DDA. The finalised plan was approved by the corporation in March 2017.

Why did it [Ministry] not cooperate in the proposal submitted to it for the redevelopment of Shahjahanabad in accordance with the zonal plan?

SATYENDAR JAIN
Delhi Urban Development Minister

"It was sent to the Urban Development Department of Delhi Government for notification in official Gazette in April 2017. But despite providing all clarifications sought from time to time, it is still pending for notification. What were these departments waiting for?"

Responding to Ministry's

claim, an official statement by the Delhi government on Tuesday said, "Not only did Delhi Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain receive this file on August 26 this year, he cleared it in less than 24 hours." "The Union Ministry is spreading false claims about the Redevelopment Plan for Special Area. It owes an answer as to why it chose to remain silent and why did it not cooperate in the proposal submitted to it for the redevelopment of Shahjahanabad in accordance with the zonal plan? It would have paved way to redevelop Old Delhi in a much integrated manner," the statement said.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri termed Mr. Jain's

statements as "misleading" and "covert propaganda".

'Misleading claims'

"The content of the statement are as astonishing as they are misleading. Those in the highest echelons of power in Delhi Government have not realised the seriousness of the loss of 43 lives in a devastating tragedy. So they continue to engage in frivolous statements," Mr. Puri said.

"To begin with, I am surprised that instead of undoing the wrong and taking corrective action to prevent tragedies like the one we unfortunately witnessed on Sunday, politicians ruling Delhi are engaging in such covert propaganda," he added.

DAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN CAPITAL

Protests against CAB spill on to city streets

People won't have a choice but to convert to Hinduism if the Bill goes through, say protesters

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

The Capital witnessed multiple demonstrations against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, (CAB) by different groups on Tuesday. The protesters raised slogans against the government and some of them burnt copies of the Bill as a mark of protest.

Protesters denounced the Bill which proposes to grant citizenship rights to members of certain religions, excluding Muslims from Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh, ostensibly as a measure to extend protection to minorities of these countries.

"There is no pretence left that it is against Muslims. It is extremely discriminatory," said Ufaqque Paiker a PhD candidate at JNU holding a poster of the Preamble of the Constitution. The Bill would pave the way for India to transform on the lines of Israel model, she argued.



Students and activists burning copies of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill as a mark of protest at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday; people from the Northeast staging a protest. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA/ SANDEEP SAXENA

"It is Islamophobic," said Manisha Gulati, a student protesting at Jantar Mantar, condemning the move as "an attempt to homogenise people of the country to make a Hindu rashtara".

"Many people won't even have a choice but to convert to Hinduism if the Bill goes through," she said.

The Bill was against the very idea of India, argued others. Commenting on the suggestion that the Bill was introduced to protect religious minorities, Sumit Samos, another protester, highlighted the persecution of Uighur in China and Rohingya in Myanmar and asked why they were not

included.

Chanting "CAB, roll back", "CAB murdabad" amidst drum beats, several students from Northeast States also took part in demonstrations at Jantar Mantar.

"The Bill is against the secular ethos of the country and will destroy the cultural, linguistic and demo-



graphic balance of Assam," said Rimpi Bora, 28, who is pursuing her PhD from JNU. "It will also dispossess us of our tribal and indigenous history."

Terming the Bill a part of communal agenda to disallow people of a specific religion, Rohit, a student at DU, said: "Savarkar and Jinnah had come up with the

two-nation agenda and the Bill is going back to it."

Protest demonstrations were held under the banner of students groups, including AISA, KYS and also by Socialist Democratic Party of India, "#Notinmyname" and "United Against Hate."

With inputs from Nikhil M Babu

Rally taken out to protest anti-student policies of govt.

Students form united front to counter 'attacks' on education

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Tuesday carried out a 'Chatra Adhikar' rally from Mandi House to Parliament Street against the anti-student measures being taken by the Modi government and the rising unemployment in the country.

The march ended in a sabha where several Congress leaders addressed the gathering. They spoke about fee hike and privatisation of education.

The police had to disperse the protesters after some of the students tried to run towards Parliament House. The NSUI alleged that several student activists were injured while being detained. The Delhi police, however, denied that any force was used.

Several students' unions, including the NSUI, came together on Tuesday to announce an "All India Forum to Save Public Education" and to intensify struggle for affordable education across the country.

Student leaders belonging to non-right-wing organisations from the leading universities in the city came together so that they could put up a united front against the "attacks" on higher education by the Central government.



NSUI activists during the 'Chatra Adhikar' rally at Parliament Street on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

The student leaders said that the current movement against fee hike and IHA hostel manual in JNU was not an isolated struggle and that the concern over increase in cost of higher education is shared by all the students across the country.

"Students of IIMC-Delhi, AIIMS, IITs, AUD, and Ayurveda Medical Colleges in Uttarakhand are protesting against increase in fee. The government has responded to the genuine demands of students across the country either with apathy or by suppressing agitations through force. The lathi-charge against protesting students of JNU by the Delhi police and on students of Ayurveda Medical Colleges by the Uttarakhand police shows the approach of the government," said Mayukh Biswas, general secretary of

the Students Federation of India.

'Students threatened'
Students alleged that university administrations were not allowing student unions to be formed and were threatening students that they will lose their hostel facilities if they were seen supporting the union. "The deliberate attempt by the JNU administration to not recognise the JNUSU is case in point. Students of Jamia and other universities have constantly demanded for a recognised students' union, but to no avail. This is to be read as a conscious attempt to destroy the democratic atmosphere on the campuses," the students said. The new forum was born out of an urgent need for coordination between students' movements, they said.

DUTA holds rally on North Campus demanding absorption of ad hocs

Police used water canons to disperse them, but didn't succeed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Thousands of teachers of Delhi University, who have been on an indefinite strike since last week, held a rally at North Campus on Tuesday demanding the absorption of ad hoc teachers.

"The inhuman and exploitative conditions under which ad hoc teachers have been forced to work for years, including the denial of minimum employee rights like maternity leave and others, can only be mitigated through absorption," the Delhi University Teachers' Union (DUTA) said in a statement.

A few injured

When the protesting teachers attempted to move towards Mall Road,



police used water canons on them. "How can they tell us where we can go on our own campus?" asked Rajesh Jha, a member of the university's executive council, who alleged that a few teachers were injured in the melee.

"The government and the university administration must understand that the demand for justice cannot be defeated by use

of force," said DUTA, adding "Police barricade, use of force and water cannon did not deter teachers who marched through the campus and carried out a brief symbolic sit-in on the Ring Road."

Calls for dialogue

While the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) was quick to accede to the union's immediate demands to withdraw a controversial circular calling for the appointment of guest teachers, the demand for one-time appointment and others such as counting of total years of service for promotions were not addressed, the union said, calling for the initiation of further dialogue by authorities.

Fee hike row: JNUSU office-bearers meet HRD Ministry officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union on Tuesday held a meeting with the HRD ministry officials and reiterated its demand for a complete rollback of the hostel fee hike and the postponement of exams.

The semester-end ex-

aminations are scheduled from December 12 and the students' union has called for an exam boycott till their demands are met.

Sources said the Ministry officials assured the students that they will try to get the exams postponed and also talk to the university administration about notifying the stu-

dents' union.

The Ministry officials held a meeting with the JNU administration too to end the stand-off between the administration and the protesting students, the sources said.

The JNU students have been on a strike for over a month now over the hostel fee hike issue.

Kaho na pyaaz hai!



daCumar/AB/676

Nirbhaya convict moves SC for review

'Executions kill criminals, not crime'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

One of the four condemned men in the Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case moved the Supreme Court on Tuesday for a review of its 2017 judgment confirming his death sentence, saying "executions only kill criminals, not the crime."

"The state must not simply execute people to prove that it is attacking terror or violence against women. It must persistently work towards systematic reforms to bring about change," Akshay Kumar Singh, who faces the gallows, urged in his plea to the court to reconsider his fate.

Akshay, who is 33, along with Mukesh, 30, Pawan Gupta, 23, and Vinay Sharma, 24, brutally gang-raped a 23-year-old paramedical student in a moving bus on the night of December 16-17, 2012.

She died of injuries a few days later. The case led to the tightening of anti-rape laws. Rape, especially gang-rape, is now a capital crime.

Pleas dismissed

The Supreme Court had dismissed the review petitions of Mukesh, Gupta and Sharma in July last year. They are left with the extremely rare remedy of filing curative petitions in the Supreme Court. Akshay, however, had not joined them, opting to file his review petition now when the authorities are reportedly making preparations for their execution.

One of the accused in the case, Ram Singh, allegedly committed suicide at Tihar Jail here.

A juvenile, who was among the accused, was convicted by a Juvenile Justice Board. He was released from a reformation home after serving a three-year term.

Dummy execution carried out to check gallows

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The Tihar jail administration has carried out 'dummy execution' to check status of gallows and their preparedness, said an officer on Tuesday.

The officer added that they have also placed order for the supply of ropes that is to be used for hanging.

"A platform where gallows are placed has been cleaned and required civil work has been done. The 'phansi kothi' is located in

jail number 3. The last hanging was that of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru in 2013," said the officer.

The jail administration has arranged gallows. But for hangman, they have approached two different jails in Uttar Pradesh. The final confirmation will come in a couple of days.

On Sunday, all convicts in the Nirbhaya case were shifted to Tihar. A senior officer at Tihar jail confirmed it.

DELHI TODAY

Music Talk: "Ntupians: Crossover Aesthetics in Music" an illustrated lecture with archival recordings by music critic and columnist, S.Gopalakrishnan at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Dance and music: Second day of 5th Ibtida Music and Dance Festival will feature Jashn-e-Khushboo, a Kathak recital by Vidhushi Mahua Shankar. Accompanying artists: Ustad Akram Khan (tabla), Murad Ali Khan (sitar), Fateh Ali Khan (sitar), Shuheb Hasan and Zohaib Hasan (vocal and harmonium), Ashish Gangani (pakhawaj), Nupur Shankar (pandant). This will be followed by poetry recitation by Aalok Shrivastav, accompanied on the sitar by Fateh Ali Khan. The event will conclude with a performance by an ensemble cast, featuring French composer & musician, Titi Robin (guitar & buzouq), Murad Ali Khan (sitar), Mahua Shankar (Kathak), Gulabo Sapera (Sapera dance), Shuheb Hasan (vocal), Aman Ali Khan (tabla), Shuheb Hasan and Zohaib Hasan (vocals), Dino Banjara (percussion) at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Talk: Seminar on "China in Zambia: Notes from the field" by Veda Vaidyanathan, Research Associate, Ph.D. Centre for African Studies, Mumbai University at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies, Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

Exhibition: "Family is Plural", an exhibition of recent works by Artist Probir Gupta at Bikaner House, Pandara Road, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Nature of the city", an artwork show by Alka Jhamb at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205 Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

9 out of 35 monitoring stations record 'severe' levels of pollution

But overall air quality stays in 'very poor' category

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The overall air quality of Delhi stayed in "very poor" category on Tuesday, but nine out of 35 monitoring stations recorded "severe" level air pollution by evening. The air quality is expected to improve on Thursday due to western disturbance, said government-run monitoring agency, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

On Tuesday, the average level of PM2.5 - deadly respirable particles, which is a chief pollutant - was (212.1 ug/m3) more than three times the safe limit (60ug/m3) as per Indian standards in Delhi and NCR at 9 p.m., according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). On November 3, the PM2.5 level in Delhi and NCR had hit 625 ug/m3 - more than 10 times the safe limit.

Delhi	369	Gurgaon	331
Ghaziabad	421	Faridabad	363
Noida	395	Greater Noida	395
■ Good 0-50 ■ Satisfactory 51-100 ■ Moderate 101-200			
■ Poor 201-300 ■ Very poor 301-400 ■ Severe >401			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB			

But the level is more than eight times the safe limit (25 ug/m3) set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

People are advised to avoid all outdoor physical activity and keep medicine handy if they suffer from asthma.

"Stop outdoor activity at early morning and after sunset. Avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Go for a short walk instead of a jog and take more breaks. Stop any activity level if you experience any unusual coughing, chest discomfort, wheezing, breath-

ing difficulty, or fatigue," read an advisory issued by SAFAR on very poor air quality.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) on Tuesday was 369, up from Monday's 343, according to the 4 p.m. bulletin by the CPCB, which is the average of the last 24 hours.

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to Delhi's pollution was only 3% on Tuesday, which is very less compared to the high of 44% earlier this season, as per SAFAR.

"However, under the influence of approaching western disturbance, increased wind speed and scattered rainfall is expected by December 12, leading to improvement in AQI towards poor category by December 13. AQI is forecast to touch the lower end of the poor to moderate category by December 13," SAFAR said.

Western disturbance to bring rain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Under the influence of western disturbance, the Capital is likely to receive rain between December 11 and 13. The rain is likely to bring down the daytime temperature.

The IMD forecast for the city reads: "On December 12, rain will lash parts of the city. Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and hailstorm is likely to occur at isolated places. The maximum and minimum temperature is likely to settle between 21 and 11 degrees Celsius."

According to the forecast, on December 13, rainfall may occur at many places and thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and hailstorm at isolated places over northern parts. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle between 21 and 10 degrees Celsius.

Two more metro stations get e-bicycle facility

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

To improve last-mile connectivity at metro stations, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday extended e-bicycle services to Malviya Nagar and Saket Metro stations.

DMRC Director/Operations A. K. Garg inaugurated the service and said the specially designed battery-operated cycles would be helpful in providing last-mile connectivity to its commuters and de-congest the road traffic by propagating environment-friendly modes of transport.

He said the DMRC was trying its best to incorporate eco-friendly initiatives in all its spheres of functioning. Those who want to use the service will have to download the app – Mobyzy Zipp – and get a one-time registration.

In September, the DMRC had partnered with Yulu Bikes Pvt. Ltd. at seven metro stations. The services since then have been extended to 25 metro stations, the DMRC added.

7 foreigners detained after visa expiry

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Seven foreign nationals, who were detained on Monday after their visas expired, have been deported from the country, the police said on Tuesday.

The persons were from Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon and Sierra Leone, the police added.

Cases of 2018, 19

In 2019, Dwarka has taken actions against 175 foreign national, in which 144 were deported and 31 arrested under different criminal cases. The 31 foreign national were arrested under Excise Act (3), NDPS Act (7), cheating cases (12) and nine under Foreign Act, the police said. In 2018, actions were taken against 149 foreign nationals, who were found either involved in illegal criminal activities or were overstaying after expiry of visa, a senior officer said. In 2019, the Uttam Nagar police station detained 35 African nationals and deported them for overstaying, the police added.

Transport Minister flags off 100 more buses under cluster scheme

'20 buses will ply between Uttam Nagar and IGIA Terminal 2'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Tuesday flagged off 100 more buses to be operated under the cluster scheme at the Rajghat bus depot here.

The fourth lot

The vehicles constitute the fourth lot from a consolidated number of 1,000 semi low-floor buses which began being delivered in October this year, the government said.

"These are 37-seater buses. All the buses have hydraulic lifts for the convenience of differently abled, 14 panic buttons, and three CCTV cameras," the statement said.

The government said 20 buses from the new lot will ply between Uttam Nagar and Terminal 2 of the Delhi Airport and from the IGI Airport to the Inderlok metro station respectively.

Bus routes

Similarly, 19 buses will ply between Lumpura Border and the Old Delhi railway station, 16 between Tilak Nagar and Dorala Border, 10 between the Narela Terminal and the Delhi Secretariat, 8 buses between Holambi Kalan JJ Colony and



Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot during the inauguration of new buses at Rajghat bus depot. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

These are 37-seater buses. All the buses have hydraulic lifts for the convenience of differently abled, 14 panic buttons, and three CCTV cameras

DELHI GOVERNMENT

Shivaji Stadium in addition to 7 from Ketrava Village to the Old Delhi Railway Station. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had flagged off 100 such buses last month, was accused by the BJP of "trying to hide his failures" in relation to the

city's transport sector before the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections by introducing "100-100" buses in spurts.

'Why not DTC?'

Meanwhile, the BJP questioned why the government was "giving more importance" to private buses instead of inducting vehicles into the fleet of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC).

"Why has no bus been included in the DTC's fleet in 58 months," asked Delhi BJP media in-charge Pratyush Kanth.

Capital takes steps to help India better its ease of business ranking

Govt. bodies take the online route to achieve higher position in World Bank report

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

To improve India's position in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking, different government bodies in Delhi are taking the online route and also interacting with stakeholders such as architects following directions from the Centre.

Different departments are also working to make various processes in starting businesses easier, said officials.

"The country has continued to improve its performance in Ease of Doing Business under Construction Permits indicator achieving 27th rank in World Bank's Doing Business Report [DBR], 2020 as against 52 in DBR, 2019. Now, our target is to get into the top 10 countries in Ease of Doing Business in Construction Permits," a letter written by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to the Delhi Chief Secretary on November 26 read.

The ranking has different categories such as acquiring construction permits, starting a business, trading across borders and resolving insolvency. The rankings in the case of India are based

Report in details

The gap between the government's claim and feedback received by the World Bank in **construction permits**

	Delhi		
	DBR 2019	DBR 2020	Our claim
Number of procedures	16	11	07
Total time (days)	91	113.5	37
Cost (%)	4.2	2.8	2.75
Quality index	14	15	15
Country rank	52	27	Better than 10
Standalone rank of Delhi	28	13	Better than 10

India ranks **63** in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (overall) 2020 survey **190** Total countries

SOURCE: UNION GOVERNMENT

on samples and audits done in Mumbai and Delhi only.

Review meeting

In Delhi, the municipal corporations are meeting architects and other professionals, who are also consulted by the World Bank before deciding on the ranking, to know why they have given an adverse review of the government in terms of obtaining construction permits. Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajaj also took a review meeting of the same on Tuesday.

"We have been doing it since the ranking last year but the processes have been

intensified after this year's ranking," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

Construction permits

In terms of construction permits, the letter said: "It will be possible [improve ranking] if the procedures and time claimed by the municipal corporations are recognised by the World Bank Doing Business Team."

For instance, though the government claims that only 37 days are needed to get all permits for construction from different departments in Delhi, the World Bank states that the time taken is 113.5.

The official said they are trying to fix this. "For example, in case of a big project, people will apply for one water connection at the starting of a project and apply for the rest of the connections later. So the total time for getting connections calculated by the World Bank will be longer than actual. Now, we are asking people to apply all connections at the beginning itself," the official added.

The official also said they were undertaking a "ground-truthing" of the zone maps. "We are fixing the zone maps of Delhi because. For instance, there is a road somewhere on the map but in actual, it is not there. These things slow down different processes," the official said.

"After we undertake all the measures, the Centre will try to convince the World Bank that the actual steps and time taken are less than what it has said and also urge them to improve our ranking," the official added.

"This week we have made the process of 'factory registration' online. We will soon make its renewal process online. We were supposed to do 17 reforms and have completed 13 of them," said another government official.

HC seeks Centre's response on blocking 'dowry calculator'

Action against website arbitrary: plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response of the Centre on a petition which challenged blocking of a website hosting a "dowry calculator".

'As a satirical comment'

The website's owner, in its petition, said it was created as a satirical comment on the existing dowry demand in society.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar issued notice to the Ministries of Electronics and Information Technology, Women and Child Development and Communication, seeking their stand on the petition.

The owner said the site was blocked by the government in September last without giving him a hearing.

It has sought quashing of the action and directions to restore access to it. The plea said the site – dowry calculator – was launched in 2011 "as a satirical comment on the existing state of dowry demand in India".

The petition has claimed the website was designed as an online form that visitors could fill up with options from drop-down menus, on social, educational and personal characteristics of a groom, to arrive at a "fictional dowry amount" that he could attract.

The petition has termed the action taken by the government "arbitrary, excessive and unconstitutional" and claimed it "unreasonably restricts his right to freedom of speech and expression and the public's right to know".

CM reviews party's poll preparations

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday reviewed Aam Aadmi Party's preparations for the upcoming Assembly election and directed party workers to go to people and raise funds for the poll campaign.

"All party workers are encouraged to go to the people and raise funds for election campaign," an official statement read. During the meeting, Mr. Kejriwal took feedback from MLAs on the ongoing Jan Samvad campaign, which is the fourth phase of the party's campaign. AAP Delhi Convener Gopal Rai said, "Today all the MPs, MLAs, councillors and district in-charges of AAP met Kejriwal. We discussed the road map for the upcoming Assembly poll and also spoke about the feedback regarding the ongoing campaign at booth-level."

Court allows man to recover ₹5 lakh from his friend

Plaintiff gave him loan to pay tuition fee

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has allowed a man to recover ₹5 lakh loan from a borrower, who was his close friend, along with interest.

It also dismissed the borrower's defence that he had repaid the loan in cash to his friend as he insisted on cash payment. The loan had been paid to him through RTGS.

According to the complaint, the borrower had taken a loan of ₹5 lakh from the plaintiff to deposit the tuition fee of his daughter. But the loanee instead brought a luxury car immediately after taking the loan in the name of his daughter.

Lame excuses

After making lame excuses, the borrower stopped replying to the demand for repayment of the loan. Thereafter, the plaintiff filed a complaint for a decree to recover ₹5 lakh from the borrower.

Additional District Judge Vineeta Goyal said: "The existence of liability stands established against the defendant. The defendant has failed to lead any cogent and convincing evidence in

All eyes



Line of sight: A family travels in an autorickshaw on a cold morning in New Delhi. *V.V. KRISHNAN

Trio opens fire at four men; manhunt on

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Three men allegedly opened fire at four others after a fight over a mobile application on Monday in Agar Nagar, the police said on Tuesday.

The victims have been identified as Ravi Sharma, Rajender, Himanshu Pal, and Sanjeev Kumar. "On getting information about the incident, a team rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to hospitals," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) S.D. Mishra.

During investigation, it was found that the two groups attended a wedding on November 29 where the accused told the victims not to shoot a TikTok video. This led to an argument between them. The next day, the accused had beaten one of the victims after a quarrel over the same, the police said.

A few days later, the victims went to take revenge but could not find any of the accused. On Monday night, three men barged into their room and opened fire. A case has been registered and manhunt is on for the accused, the police added.

'CM is the biggest hindrance to regularisation of colonies'

Govt. delaying matter for 5 years: Tiwari

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party Delhi chief, Manoj Tiwari, on Tuesday accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of being "the biggest hindrance" in relation to the regularisation of unauthorised colonies here.

Speaking at a public meeting in West Delhi's Vikas Nagar, he said the government, which came to power on the issues being faced by the residents of such colonies, has been keeping the matter "pending for five years".

"With the efforts of the Centre, the registration work of the properties in unauthorised colonies will begin on December 16 and the people will get ownership of their houses," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

'Hellish conditions'

The residents of such colonies were forced to live under "hellish conditions" and had been betrayed by both the previous Congress and the current government in this regard, the North East MP said.

These residents had requested the then Congress government "again and again" to regularise their

With the efforts of the Centre, the registration work of the properties in unauthorised colonies will begin on December 16 and the people will get ownership of their houses

MANOJ TIWARI
Delhi BJP chief

colonies and provide basic amenities but the party misled them on the issue just like the government, he said.

He added that the BJP is working to connect Delhi with the mainstream development "but with the help of costly advertisements, AAP is trying to show that they are working for the city".

Centre to AAP govt.

"All the seven MPs of Delhi were sending proposals to regularise unauthorised colonies in their respective areas and taking further action on this issue. The Centre wrote many letters to the government but it sought time for taking steps to regularise these colonies and delayed this process," he added.

High Court stays proceedings against Kejriwal in criminal defamation case

'He re-tweeted defamatory video circulated by YouTuber'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday put on hold the proceedings in a criminal defamation complaint against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for re-tweeting an allegedly defamatory video circulated by a YouTuber in May, 2018.

Justice Suresh Kait also issued notices to the State and the complainant, seeking their stand on a plea by Mr. Kejriwal challenging the summons issued to him in the case by a local court here.

Over 4,000 re-tweeted

The counsel appearing for Mr. Kejriwal said over 4,000



people had re-tweeted the alleged defamatory tweet and more than 6,000 had liked it but the complainant had not made any of them an accused in the case.

The court also noted that even the YouTuber, who posted the original tweet, was not an accused in the complaint. It listed the mat-

ter for further hearing on January 31.

The Magisterial court had summoned Mr. Kejriwal to appear before it on August 7 after a criminal complaint by Vikas Sankrityayan, the founder of social media page – I Support Narendra Modi – alleged that the AAP leader had re-tweeted the defamatory video.

The Chief Minister had challenged the Magistrate's order before a sessions court which had dismissed his plea. He has challenged the sessions court's order in the High Court, saying the trial court failed to appreciate that his tweet was not intended at or likely to harm the complainant.

Congress to give tickets to young party workers in Assembly election, says Chopra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress chief Shubhash Chopra on Tuesday said the party was looking to cultivate youth leaders.

"The Congress will give tickets to young and dynamic party workers in the upcoming Assembly election in Delhi," he said while ad-

addressing a large number of youth Congress workers at the DPCC office.

It was decided at a meeting that the young leaders in the party would actively participate in the Bharat Bachao Rally that is scheduled to be held at Ramlila Maidan on December 14.

Mr. Chopra said the Modi

government at the Centre and the Kejriwal government in Delhi were only making hollow promises without any intention to fulfill them.

He appealed to the youth to counter these false promises with all their might and promised full backing of senior leadership.

Punjab govt. staff on pen-down strike for 2nd day

They have not received their salaries for the month of November, says Sanjha Mulazim Manch

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH**

The government employees of at least three departments observed a pen-down strike for the second day on Tuesday across the State as a mark of protest against non-payment of their salaries for the month of November.

Hitting out the ruling Congress government, the Shiromani Akali Dal demanded that all benefits to Ministers, advisers and chairpersons be stopped till the time regu-

lar salaries are dispatched to the State employees.

Strike to go on

Several employees of the Irrigation, Technical Education and Industries departments are on a pen-down strike while the staff of PWD (B&R) also registered their protest against non-payment of salaries, said Sanjha Mulazim Manch convener Sukhchain Singh Khaira.

"Employees of the Industries department got their

salaries today but those who have not received their salaries will continue their strike," said Mr. Khaira, who is also president of the Punjab Civil Secretariat Association.

Former Finance Minister and Akali leader Parminder Singh Dhindsa alleged that while the Congress government was defaulting on payment of salaries to government employees, it had crores of rupees to splurge on Chief Minister Amarinder

○ The govt. has crores of rupees to splurge on Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's foreign visits and on appointments of advisers

PARMINDER SINGH DHINDSA
Ex-Finance Minister and Akali leader

Singh's foreign visits and on appointments of advisers to accommodate the party leaders at the expense of the State exchequer.

"It is condemnable that a government which was collecting the highest taxes in the country was unable to pay the November salaries of more than 70,000 employees. Despite this, the government released the salaries of Ministers and advisers. This shows that the Congress is only interested in looting the State exchequer by doling out benefits to its own party men," said Mr. Dhindsa.

The Akali leader also de-

manded that all benefits being given to the Ministers, advisers and chairpersons be stopped immediately.

Poor GST collection

Stating that this crisis was self-inflicted, Mr. Dhindsa said the Punjab government's performance vis-a-vis GST collection was the worst in the country with the State recording maximum shortfall of 44% in revenue collection through GST in the first five months of 2019-20.

M.P. Assembly restores BNP MLA's membership

Prahlad Lodhi was disqualified on Nov. 2

**SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPLAL**

The Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday notified the restoration of BJP's Prahlad Lodhi's membership.

Disqualified on November 2 upon being held guilty by a lower court for attacking a revenue official in 2014, Mr. Lodhi moved the High Court, which ordered a stay on his conviction and two-year prison sentence.

When the Congress petitioned the Supreme Court, it upheld the stay last week, paving the way for the restoration of the membership.

Unconstitutional: BJP

The BJP had assailed Speaker N.P. Prajapati for his "unconstitutional" method of declaring the seat vacant.

The Congress, with 115 seats, is looking to secure a majority of 116 in the 230-seat House.

Daily chores



Farmers collecting vegetables on a cold, foggy morning on the outskirts of Srinagar. ■NISSAR AHMAD

Dying declaration strong evidence: DGP

It will be used to nail Unnao rape victim's killers, say Uttar Pradesh police

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW**

The dying declaration of the 23-year-old Unnao rape victim, who was set ablaze last week by five men, including the two accused of raping her earlier, is a "strong evidence" and will be used to nail her killers, Uttar Pradesh Police chief O.P. Singh said on Tuesday.

The police will go in for the prosecution of the five accused in a fast-track court, the DGP said a day after the Cabinet decided to set up 218 new fast-track courts - 144 to try rape cases and 74 for sexual offences against children.

'Deposed before SDM'

"Dying declaration is a very strong evidence, and certainly, it will be used. Before dying, the girl deposed before a Sub-Divisional Magistrate that these five persons

attacked her," Mr. Singh said. "When she was taken to Delhi and admitted to the hospital, she also had a chat with doctors. We will try to get the statement of the doctor also in this regard. These will be strong evidence to chargesheet these five criminals," he added.

Mr. Singh also said the police will soon file the chargesheet in the murder case. "We will be chargesheeting them within a few days. We want to fast-track the entire case," he said. "We are also exploring the possibility of going for the DNA test of the accused."

Explaining the rationale behind the DNA test, Mr. Singh said the victim also had a mobile phone and a purse, which have already been sent for forensic test to ascertain if those items came in contact with the accused and carry their fingerprints

or traces of their sweat or hair from which the DNA sample of the accused could possibly be lifted.

"We would then match the DNA samples of the accused to those found on the victim's items," said Mr. Singh.

Circumstantial evidence

"We also have several strong pieces of circumstantial evidence in the case," he said.

In her statement to SDM Dayashankar Pathak, the woman had said she was attacked when she reached Gaura turn near her home on her way to the court to attend hearing in her rape case. She had specifically named Harishankar Trivedi, Ram Kishore Trivedi, Umesh Bajpai, Shivam Trivedi and Shubham Trivedi as the persons who set her on fire.

She had also said Shivam and Shubham Trivedi had

abducted and raped her in December 2018. The FIR in the case, however, was registered in March. After being set on fire, the woman had run amok in a ball of fire, crying for help for a while, before people rushed to help her and called the police.

After the chilling incident, the woman was first taken to a community health centre from where she was sent to the district hospital and then to a hospital in Lucknow, before finally being airlifted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi where she died a day later.

All the five men involved in the Thursday morning attack were arrested within hours of the crime.

In a video, which surfaced on the social media on Tuesday, family members of Shivam Trivedi said, "All I want from the government is a CBI probe into the matter. We want justice."

Rajasthan HC to go paperless in a year

Vision document with details of resources, manpower is being prepared

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR**

After the inauguration of its new building in Jodhpur last week, the Rajasthan High Court has decided to make its functioning largely paperless and digitise its records within the next year. A vision document for the State's judiciary, with the details of resource mobilisation and utilisation as well as manpower, is also being prepared.

High Court Chief Justice Indrajit Mahanty said at the principal seat in Jodhpur that the process for filing of cases would be converted into the electronic format and the court would deliver e-orders in the next six months to a year. "Lawyers will not be required to carry paper files with them during the hearings," he said.

The High Court has already started releasing the daily cause lists in the digital format. Justice Mahanty said the vision document would

assess the requirements of lower courts and ensure optimum utilisation of the resources.

The Chief Justice said the High Court would shortly work out a model to promote pre-litigation mediation in order to bring out-of-court resolution of disputes. This would help address the huge backlog of undecided cases, especially those relating to matrimonial and property disputes.

A Full Court with all the 21 judges of the High Court at its Jodhpur principal seat and the Jaipur Bench was convened in the new building, situated at Jhalamand in Jodhpur, on Monday. This was the first instance after 1976 that all the judges sat and conducted hearings in Jodhpur. The High Court's Jaipur Bench was established in 1976.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the new building on Saturday and called upon the judiciary to make justice accessible to the poor and the marginalised people. Mr. Kovind said the provision of free legal aid and the applications of technology would go a long way in making justice accessible to all.

Jats in Haryana protest against Panipat

'Film depicts legendary Jat ruler Maharaja Surajmal in an unseemly light'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH**

A day after a prominent Jat body demanded a ban on the screening of Ashutosh Gowariker's *Panipat*, several community members on Tuesday held protests at various places in Haryana alleging that the film depicts legendary Jat ruler Maharaja Surajmal in an unseemly light.

Facts distorted

Protests were held at various places including Faridabad, Ballabhgarh and Kaithal in the State.

All-India Jat Aarakshan Sangarsh Samiti's national president Yashpal Malik had earlier alleged that the historical facts have been distorted in the film.

The AIJASS had held a meeting of its core committee at Jassia in Rohtak district on Monday and sought ban on the film by the Haryana government and initiating legal action against the film's producer.

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Tuesday said film-makers who make films on historical characters should thoroughly go into all facts associated with various characters they are going to

Screening stopped in Rajasthan

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR**

The screening of Ashutosh Gowariker's *Panipat* has been discontinued by the management of nearly half of theatres in Rajasthan in the wake of protests against the film, a trade body said on Tuesday.

"The film's screening has been stopped at almost half of the cinemas. The screening has been completely stopped in Jaipur and also at other places in the State including Bikaner, Nagaur, Ganganagar, Jodhpur, Hanu-mangarh since yesterday," Raj Bansal, general secretary of Rajasthan Film Trade and Promotion Council, said on Tuesday.

He said that the film was released in 55-60 cinema

show in their film.

'Consult historians'

It would be better if film-makers seek advice from noted historians on such topics, this is the only way to avoid controversies and hurting public sentiment, Mr. Vij said.

halls across the State.

Mr. Bansal said the censor board should have reviewed the film's content before it issued a certification. "Cinema halls are just screening the film which has been passed by the board. Such controversies affect the business and create an adverse environment," he added.

Meanwhile, a minor protest occurred in front of a cinema hall in Jaipur despite the management's decision to discontinue the screening. Jat groups and leaders, including Tourism Minister Vishvendra Singh, Education Minister Govind Singh Datasara, former CM Vasundhara Raje, have criticised the portrayal of Maharaja Surajmal.

Asked to comment on the protests against the film, he said while everyone has a democratic right to protest in a peaceful manner, no one would be allowed to take law and order into one's hands.

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda

too said the film-makers should do their homework properly while making films on historical characters.

"I am not saying this with regard to this film only, but I would say any film-maker should not twist historical facts for commercial gains. Maharaja Surajmal is known as a brave and generous ruler. Before any film on such topics is made, producers should thoroughly verify the historical facts," Mr. Hooda, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, said.

On the demands to ban the film, Mr. Hooda said, "Objectionable scenes should be removed from the film."

Earlier, Mr. Malik had alleged that the film, featuring Arjun Kapoor and Kriti Sanon, portrays Bharatpur king Maharaja Surajmal in an unseemly manner. "The legendary ruler, Maharaja Surajmal, has been depicted in an unseemly light and historical facts have been distorted in the film *Panipat*," he had alleged.

The film is based on the third battle of Panipat fought between the Maratha empire and Afghan king Ahmad Shah Abdali in 1761.

CAB violates tenets of secularism, equality: M.P. rights groups

'Not just human rights, the Bill is an attack on people's citizenship, which is protected by the Constitution'

**SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPLAL**

Calling upon the Centre to take back the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, several rights groups and residents hit the streets of Bhopal on Human Rights Day on Tuesday, stating that it violated principles of equality and secularism that formed the basic tenets of the Constitution.

Protecting democracy

"Everyone's human rights are in danger more than ever. Not just that, it's an attack on their citizenship, which is protected by the Constitution," said Madhuri Krishnaswamy of the Jagrit Adivasi

Dalit Sangathan. "As institutions have failed us, we've come together to protect democracy."

Under the aegis of the Madhya Pradesh Democratic Rights Front, groups and residents formed a human chain at Iqbal Maidan. "Where is secularism? Everyone's blood is red in colour", "The country is ours, it's our pride, then why have doubts about our identity?" and "Stop politics over religion and caste" read the posters held by scores of participants.

Stating the protesters' demands, Asha Mishra, member of the Bharat Gyan Vigan Samiti, said if at all, all



Social workers forming a human chain in Bhopal on Tuesday against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

the neighbouring countries should be included in the legislation and not just Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh and not just non-Muslims, everyone, ir-

respective of a religious identity, should have the right to flee persecution of any kind and seek refuge in India.

"The Modi government is attacking the Constitution,

crafted painstakingly after years of struggle. Laws should be formed in conjunction with its principles. It espouses the principles of equality, brotherhood and secularism, which this government is openly violating with the Bill," she said.

Facing oppression

Stating that it must be illustrated on Human Rights Day that every human in the country was under distress, Ms. Mishra said, "The education system is in a shambles and women, Dalits and farmers, all are facing oppression."

Meanwhile, Mr. Krishnaswamy pointed out that im-

plementing the National Register of Citizens across the country would deal a blow to the marginalised more significantly.

"This means, like Assam, you'll have to stand in queues to prove citizenship. If you're unable to do so, you'll be rendered stateless. And thrown in detention camps," the MPDRF said in a note. The group asked the government what would happen to those who're not even able to prove their caste or tribal identity at this point? How will tribals, who are unable to stake claim to land under the Forest Rights Act, get documents to prove citizenship?

Woman tries to kill self over police inaction in rape bid

The woman, a dancer, performs at weddings, and accused is orchestra group owner

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KURUKSHETRA**

A 30-year-old dancer attempted suicide here on Tuesday accusing police of inaction in a case against a man who allegedly tried to rape her. The dancer, a resident of Shahbad Markanda here, performs at weddings and other events.

The woman was rushed to a hospital by her family members where her condition was stated to be stable.

A video in which the woman alleges police inaction in the case has gone viral on social media.

In the video, the dancer alleged that the police initially refused to register her complaint and now she was being pressured by some officers to settle the matter with the accused. She has also named four police officers.

According to the woman's husband, she approached the police on November 10, but they initially registered a case against the

accused on less serious charges under sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 354-A (making sexually coloured remarks) of the IPC.

Shahbad Markanda Deputy Superintendent of Police Surinder Manhju denied allegations of inaction, saying a case has been registered. He alleged that the complainant did not appear before the magistrate for recording her statement despite many police reminders.

The accused is an owner of an orchestra group.

The woman's husband said that she went to perform with the group on November 9 and after the programme, the accused offered her a lift in his car. On the way, the accused tried to rape the woman and thrashed her when resisted him, he said.

"She remained in the civil hospital at Shahbad Markanda for 10 days. Even after one month of the incident, the police have failed to take any action against the accused," the woman's husband said.

The DSP said investigation is under way.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health. Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 am -7.30 pm

AMU students organise protest march against CAB

'Bill satisfies dreams of hate preachers'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD**

The Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union organised a protest march from the University Library canteen to the University gate on Tuesday evening to condemn the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Thousands of students participated in the protest which was also joined by some teachers.

'Reject it'

They resolved to reject the Bill and challenge it at all public fora. Local sources said copies of the Bill were burnt during the protest. "As the

Bill is to be presented in the Rajya Sabha, we call upon all parties to stay alert and ensure that all MPs reject this Bill of hate and divide. Any political party that supports the Bill will be considered anti-Muslim, Islamophobic and enemy of united India," said AMUSU president Salman Imtiaz.

He said the students feel the Bill satisfies the "dreams" of "hate preachers like Savarkar, Golwalkar and Hedgewar" and "murders the vision of Gandhi." The "tragic" aim of "Modi-Shah bonhomie", he added, was to force India to become another Israel.

Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11
RISE 07:03 SET 17:25
RISE 16:53 SET 05:54
THURSDAY, DEC. 12
RISE 07:04 SET 17:26
RISE 17:41 SET 06:54
FRIDAY, DEC. 13
RISE 07:05 SET 17:26
RISE 18:34 SET 07:55

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	23	07
Safdarjang	23	07
Palam	20	09

Delhi Palam Today
23°C Shallow fog to moderate fog during morning, clouding increase gradually towards day. Pollution level will remain very poor.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
20°C Rain and thundershower with gusty wind and isolated hailstorm would affect the city towards afternoon and evening.

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THE HINDU

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Bengal Assembly session adjourned amid TMC protest against Governor

Members accuse Dhankhar of withholding crucial Bills; he calls it 'dirty politics'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The winter session of the West Bengal Assembly was abruptly adjourned on Tuesday amid ruling Trinamool Congress' charges that Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was "wilfully withholding" his assent to a clutch of Bills, and the latter dismissing the allegation as "dirty politics" by the ruling party.

Scores of Trinamool MLAs gathered near the statue of B.R. Ambedkar on the Assembly premises, holding placards and raising slogans against the delay in passage of legislations, particularly The West Bengal State Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2019. The legislators alleged that the Governor was delaying important Bills which needed to be tabled in the As-



West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar recently had to wait outside the Assembly as the gates were locked. ■ FILE PHOTO

sembly for discussion.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Partha Chatterjee said that the despite speaking to Raj Bhavan on numerous occasions, the Bill had not been cleared. "The Raj Bhavan is calling our officials and asking several questions," Mr. Chatterjee said.

The Governor in a communication to the Speaker said

that under Article 338 and 338A of the Constitution, the field (of the Bill) has been occupied by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission of Schedule Tribes. In the six-page communication, the Governor highlighted that he accorded highest priority to legislative work and that he had raised certain questions

about the Bill to the officials for which he had not yet received any response.

The Governor accused the Trinamool Congress of taking political mileage of the developments. "That they have involved the Assembly in this is most unfortunate," he said.

Meanwhile, the State government on Tuesday tabled in the Assembly a new rule under which universities in Bengal will have the power to call meetings of their highest decision-making bodies without consulting the State's Governor, their Chancellor. The government denied that the rule will have an impact on the powers of the Chancellor.

Mr. Dhankhar has been at loggerheads with the TMC government over a number of issues, since assuming charge as the Governor.

(With inputs from PTI)

RTI activist shot dead in Odisha

Two bike-borne assailants fired at him from close range and fled

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

An RTI activist and leader of an anti-liquor movement, Abhimanyu Panda, 54, was shot dead in broad daylight in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Tuesday.

Police sources said the incident occurred on Tuesday morning near Patra Street under Baliguda police station limits. The victim was standing in front of his house when

two assailants on a motor-bike fired at him from close range and sped away.

The bullets pierced Panda's chest. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead. The body has been sent for post-mortem, said the police. The motive behind the killing is yet to be ascertained and efforts are on to nab the assailants, the police added.

Angry over the incident, a group of protesters blocked a road in Baliguda. The blockade was lifted following a promise of strict action by the police.

Panda was a former sarpanch of Bataguda gram panchayat and ex-vice-chairman of Baliguda block. Senior social activist Kailash Dandapat said Panda's death is a great loss for the anti-liquor movement in Baliguda.

Report on 'enclaves' highlights gaps in promise and delivery

'Protest has become essential part of their survival in India'

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

More than four years after the historic Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between India and Bangladesh, a report released by civil rights organisations on Tuesday on the situation in erstwhile enclaves states that "protest and resistance have become an essential part of their survival in India".

Former Supreme Court Judge Ashok Ganguly, who released the report on the International Day of Human Rights, said, for the citizens of erstwhile Indian enclaves who came from Bangladesh it is a breach of contract between the two countries.

"They are genuine Indian citizens. In this case when they are asked to move from the place where they were settled four years ago, it is a breach of the contract and violation of their human rights," Mr. Ganguly said.

He was referring to the condition of over 900 people living in three enclave settlement camps in Dinahata, Halibari and Mekhiliganj in Cooch Behar district who have now been asked to move into flats constructed by the State government.

The report, compiled by rights organisation Masum, researcher Prachi Lohia and Forum Asia, said that for seven decades as residents of



People at Mekhiliganj settlement camp in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal ■ FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

the enclaves they were placed outside this structure. After the LBA and exchange of enclaves, "they appear to be new faces in the theatre and their lives still appear to be far removed from the mainstream".

'Abandoned spaces'

"India and Bangladesh have claimed spaces that have been abandoned for over seven decades. However, the question remains who inhabits these spaces, the nation or its citizens," Ms. Lohia said.

Kirity Roy of Masum, while referring to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill passed in Parliament, said the country should look at the plight of its newest citizens who got rights after seven decades of stateless existence.

"The condition of the people is far from what they had

imagined. They are yet to get land records and nothing has been done for providing them employment," he said.

The report also recommended a constructive dialogue between the representatives of the three settlement camps of Dinahata, Halibari and Mekhiliganj on the problems related to their rehabilitation.

"A comprehensive survey should be undertaken to identify and assimilate the people whose names have been left out of the headcount previously, and all the benefits of being a citizen in India should be extended to them," one recommendation stated. Mr. Roy said the report "Erstwhile enclaves in India: A post-LBA analysis" also contained the names of 38 persons who were not in the headcount of 2015 on the basis of which people were accorded citizenship.

OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 11, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Are employers ready for the next future-shock?

The day may not be too far when an organisation's social and environmental track record will have a direct link to its survival, which includes talent retention

PRINCE FREDERICK



Employees of a company take part in a beach clean-up in Mumbai. PHOTO: VIJAY BATE

It's foaming like a cup of cappuccino, but yet to be savoured fully. Ironically, engaged in a high-falutin conversation about how good this brew is, the corporate world may be slowly allowing it to grow cold.

Considered dated, a message from the past lies unopened. The truth is the message can be "remastered" for today's organisations. Their very young workforce will lap it up.

The foaming cappuccino is the Triple Bottom Line concept. And the message, "The theory of self-actualisation", rooted in Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs".

The Triple Bottom Line, which author-and-serial entrepreneur John Elkington is said to have coined in the 1990s, recommends a model of organisational development that allows for two additional entries at the bottom of the accounting sheet, so to speak. Here, an organisation's success is measured not only by profits, but also its sustainability and social track records. In this day of information explosion, glaring spots in these track records can severely dent an organisation's reputation. Its performance in these two areas can impact its ability to attract the best talent, provide its young workforce with a larger meaning to live by, and draw "impact investing".

The environment component has never been more compelling. Due to the envi-

ronmental crises around us, we are forced to question our consumption patterns.

Aarti Mohan, co-founder of Sattva, which offers sustainability and social-impact solutions for organisations, points out that in certain spheres of business, companies are aligning their operations with United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs), because their survival hinges on it. "To give a random example, you can be in the tea industry only if there are tea plantations, and so it is in your best interest to ensure they are protected. In a do-or-die situation, there is no choice but to rethink one's approach to nature. Earlier, the hidden cost of business was not so obvious. Now that it is, more and more companies are aware that they have to put back what they have taken, in a form better than they found it. So, they are integrating natural-resources management into their business strategies. And of course, a good number of organisations instinctively understand that there are consequences to be faced for not

serving the interests of the people in the region of their operations, and that takes care of the social component," says Aarthi. Where "survival" is not at stake, adoption of sustainability goals is still lukewarm. "The intent to align themselves with sustainability development goals is higher than before, but intent does not translate into action as much as it should. Corporate social responsibility is mandated, but SDGs are not," she says.

Changing the order
But, the crisis may be round the corner, and hit home sooner than expected.

That takes us to what is often said about the workforce that is beginning to dominate corporate-scape.

Abraham Maslow's theory of "Hierarchy of Needs" is bang-on in as much as it attaches considerable importance to self-actualisation. However, its placement at the top of the pyramid, has often been called into question. The argument is that it is variable and can be anywhere along the line, depending on individual fac-

tors — may be, in the middle. The most strident criticism comes from a generation, much of which is likely not even aware of the theory.

Today's young workforce is silently demolishing this "order". Interestingly, they seem to be bringing it to the bottom of the pyramid.

"When we are dealing with today's workforce, we should understand that we are dealing with a generation that is in a hurry. Recently, at a conference in Mumbai, a millennial who took the stage, and addressed an imaginary group of Gen-Xers, said, "You are forty; your time is up! It is our time!" Though uttered tongue-in-cheek, this was highly revealing about the mindset of a generation. When they start out, this workforce wants to do everything together, and this usually includes giving back to society, through environment with social impact. They think they already have something to give back to society and the world. Not only youngsters working in companies that are mandated to have CSR activities, but also those in really small start-ups are drawn to causes, and manage to find time for them despite their long work schedules. Such youngsters, which are in the majority, will clearly want a prospective employer to tick social and environment initiative boxes. If they are in a company that doesn't, they will look for one that does, sooner than later," says Rinku Mecheri, founder of Chennai Volunteers.

Business ethics takes centre stage

A theatrical performance by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants grapples with the subject; the show is set to travel to many parts of the country

LIFY THOMAS

Two junior associates at a large pharmaceutical company are dumbfounded with disbelief, when their CFO, acclaimed as 'the smartest financial wizard', asks them to fudge the company's accounts.

They balk at the idea, but give in to his request, when they learn the CFO is under pressure to "hit the numbers". He has had a "directive" from the CEO.

In the end, the entire company is trapped in this web of deceit — it gets raided. With three back-to-back plays, a theatrical presentation on the topic of business ethics threw up situations where "employees" find themselves on the horns of a dilemma.

The plays were laced with humour, but managed to highlight the nature of financial frauds that are increasing in the digital world.

The multi-city theatrical performance is being organised by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), a global body for professional accountants, and staged by Yuki Elias and group for members and affiliates of ACCA.

At the Bengaluru event, the evening was made engaging with moderator Gaurav Kapur asking the audience to put themselves in the shoes of the characters on stage. A few members shared anecdotes from their life.

After the first play — 'Shall we cook the books?' — a senior member said professional intimidation was common in the field, but they had to be truthful to their mandate, which is being the gatekeepers of the organisation.



A scene from one of the three plays. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Finance is a function that brings discipline to the organisation, remarked a member. Another member spoke about the need to nip the problem in the bud. "Start signalling out" and "Raise it at the right forum" were among the suggestions. The Whistleblower Protection Act was discussed briefly.

Another play dealt with how vulnerable people have become in the digital world. A travel company fails to upgrade its digital systems as the CFO does not see an ROI, causing hackers to access the personal and professional information of its clients.

The play informed people on how an organisation was breaching the trust of its stakeholders by not investing in new technologies. Should finance professionals be up to date with technology? was one of the questions raised

The plays were aimed at exploring the vital role finance professionals play and the need to ensure young professionals see ethics as an integral part of business

by this play.

Social environment and value creation was the theme of the third play. The plays were aimed at exploring the vital role finance professionals play and the need to ensure young professionals see ethics as an integral part to business.

Md. Sajid Khan, head of international development, ACCA, said it's often debated if ethics can be taught? To ensure ethics is put into effective practice, learning must be engaging and interesting. "For professional accountants, it comes with specific expectations," said Khan, adding that leaders played a crucial role.

In 2007, ACCA introduced Ethics and Professional Skills module to impart those skills to students that are much in demand.

Raymond Jack, executive director, finance and operations, ACCA, spoke about the challenge in maintaining trust in a world where work is increasingly being delegated to machines.

The plays have already toured Mumbai and Delhi, and will be next staged in Kochi (December 14) and Chennai (December 15).

Where best HR practices are on display

LIFY THOMAS

Recently, sixty companies were shortlisted to showcase their best people practices at the 8th HR Showcase, organised by the Bengaluru chapter of National HRD Network. Smita Saha, honorary president, National HRD Network, Bengaluru chapter and VP — HR and HR Regional Lead, India at AstraZeneca spoke on

the sidelines of the event.

What goals does this event seek to meet?

Every year, the event has new components. This year, the Awards had five segments — HR Best Practices, Best CSR Practice, Best HR Startup, Best Research Proposal and Best Innovative Practice in Academia. Based on the pitch presented by companies, they were shortlisted

to be part of the event, and to finally compete for the grand awards. Besides recognising best practices, it provides companies with opportunities to compare notes, by presenting their most impactful HR practices and initiatives.

Can you discuss one best practice that you took to your organisation?

A couple of years ago, a tele-

com company whose booth was next to ours, had an interesting onboarding programme, and we introduced the same onboarding model at AstraZeneca. Getting ideas from other organisations is one of the essential features of HR Showcase, but finally, it is up to you to contextualise and customise these ideas to the needs of your organisation.

GENERAL

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3 Senior Manager (Electrical)	03 Posts (UR-02 & OBC-01)
4 Senior Manager (Naval Architecture)	02 Posts (UR-01 & OBC-01)
5 Senior Manager (Commercial)	02 Posts (UR-01 & ST-01)
6 Manager (Finance)	01 Post (UR)
7 Assistant Manager (Engineering)	03 Posts (UR-03)
8 Assistant Manager (Electrical)	03 Posts (UR-02 & OBC-01)
9 Assistant Manager (Welfare)	01 Post (UR)
10 Assistant Manager (HR)	01 Post (UR)
11 Assistant Manager (Finance)	03 Posts (UR-01 & OBC-01 & SC-01 (Backlog))

The details are available in HSL Website: <http://www.hslvizag.in>
Last date for online submission: 11th Jan 2020
Advt. No. HR/ES/01/102/05/2019
Dated: 11th Dec 2019
General Manager (HR) (AC)

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NOTIFICATION "RECRUITMENT OF FACULTIES"

Advt. No: 099 Date: 09/12/2019

Baliapal College of Physical Education, Baliapal, Balasore, Odisha invites application for recruitment of following Teaching Faculties. Eligible Candidates may apply in prescribed format available in the college website: www.bcpce.in, and submit the same along with self attested copies of testimonial and fees for interview call on or before 21/12/2019.

Name of the Post	No. of Post	Requisite Qualification
Assistant Professor	06	M.P.Ed. or Equivalent Degree with minimum 55% marks
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S/d. Prof. Dr. Srikantha Mishra, Member Secretary

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY-NOTICE

APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS MEMBER IN KERALA WATER AUTHORITY

Kerala Water Authority was established on 01.04.1994 as an autonomous body of the Government of Kerala by converting the erstwhile Public Health Engineering Department for the development and regulation of water supply and waste water collection and disposal in the State of Kerala. Government has decided to appoint an Accounts Member in Kerala Water Authority to provide leadership and guidance to the Authority in matters of finance and accounts.

Kerala Water Authority invites applications for the post of Accounts Member for its Head Office at Thiruvananthapuram on contract/deputation basis for a period of one year extendable for two more years subject to retirement age as applicable.

Sl No	Name of the Post	No. of Vacancies	Scale of Pay (Rs.)	Qualification	Age limit
1	ACCOUNTS MEMBER	One	93000-120400	1. The candidate shall be a qualified Chartered Accountant having a minimum of fifteen years of experience in a responsible position in a reputed commercial organization or Public Sector Undertaking. OR 2. The candidate shall be a member of the Accounts Service of the Central Government appointed by the Government.	Qualification 1. Shall not exceed 53 years as on 31.12.2019. Qualification 2. The age limit will be the retirement age as applicable to their respective department services.

Those who wish to apply for the above post may send their applications to the Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority with bio-data and copies of certificates to prove age, qualification, experience and NIC from the parent department, where required, on or before 5 PM on 14.01.2020. Late applications received will be summarily rejected. The decision of the Selection Committee will be final and binding on the candidates appearing for the interview. The Appointing Authority will be Government of Kerala. Web: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in Phone: 8547530030
MANAGING DIRECTOR
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PRINCIPAL

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NOTIFICATION

AIC-CCRI, recently established by the Coffee Board with the support of NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission to nurture innovative Coffee Startups, invites applications from the eligible Indian Citizens for the position of **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** purely on contractual basis. For details of the position, eligibility criterion, prescribed educational qualification & experience, tenure of engagement, terms and conditions etc., can be downloaded from the Coffee Board's Website: www.indiacoffee.org. The last date for receipt of filled in applications is 24.12.2019 (Tuesday).

SECRETARY & CEO

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IN BRIEF

**Disha case: bodies of slain accused shifted**

HYDERABAD

The bodies of four men accused in the rape and murder of Telangana woman veterinarian, Disha, who were killed in an alleged exchange of fire with the police on December 6, were on Tuesday shifted to the State-run Gandhi Hospital here from Mahabubnagar district. PTI

Koodathayi case: bail plea of accused rejected

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed the bail petition of Prajilkumar, third accused in the Koodathayi serial murder case. The prosecution's case was that Prajilkumar had supplied cyanide to the accused to facilitate the murder of Sily, the wife of Shaju. Sily had died in the presence of Jolly, prime accused in the case. Shaju had later married Jolly. Six persons were allegedly killed between 2002 and 2016 at Koodathayi village in Kozhikode district of Kerala.

Retain lessons on Tipu, says panel report

BENGALURU

The lessons pertaining to the 18th century Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan should be retained in school textbooks, the report submitted by a special committee formed to deliberate into this issue has said. The committee was formed by the government to look into whether the lessons should be retained, dropped or modified, following an appeal by BJP MLA Appachu Ranjan to do away with all content on the king from the syllabus. The committee consisting of subject experts who were involved in the revision of the textbooks, has concluded that there is no need to change any content.

Students skip school lunch without onions

Mid-day meal workers say at ₹120 a kg they have dropped the vegetable, along with eggs from menu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR

Soaring prices have led to the disappearance of onions and eggs from the mid-day meal served to students in government and Zilla Parishad High Schools (ZPHS) in the integrated Karimnagar district of Telangana for over a month now.

Mid-day meal workers removed them from curries and sambhar in the menu after onion prices shot up to around ₹120 per kg. Eggs too were off as they got dearer, at ₹6 per egg, in recent weeks. As school meals turned insipid sans onions, some students have been skipping them. Instead they carry packed lunches from home.

Until the change, the government included eggs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. But at ₹6 a piece, mid-day meal workers could not budget for them and cut down servings to a maxi-



No bulbs: Mid-day meal workers are using vegetables that are cheaper and including them in the sambhar. *FILE PHOTO

mum of two a week. The State government provides ₹4 per egg for students up to Class 8. Students in Class 9 and 10 are excluded.

Officials claim the government provides ₹6.81 per student, and ₹4 per egg for students till Class 8, and ₹8.81 per student in ninth and 10th classes. But the workers who prepare meals argue that at ₹6 per egg, they are unable to provide them thrice a

week, and have to sometimes skip them altogether.

Flat biryani

The number of students taking mid-day meals is higher in senior classes than in the primary and upper primary sections. "Due to the spike in onion prices, we have stopped making dishes using the bulbs including vegetable biryani every Saturday," said a worker.

Rashmita, a student of Government High School in Saphthagiri colony in Karimnagar town, said she had stopped having the mid-day meal at school as it was no longer tasty. "I take my lunch box from home," she said. About 30% of students skip school meals.

"Students are now forced to eat *neellapappu* (watery sambar or bendi *pulusu*) without any taste," said the headmaster of a ZPHS in Thimmapur mandal.

A worker in the meal scheme, Lalitha, said: "We survive on ₹1,000 per month honorarium for serving mid-day meals, and are left with nothing out of the government wages for preparing meals with eggs."

Cabbage in Bengaluru

It is a similar story in Bengaluru, where school managements have decided to use cabbage as a substitute.

D. Nagalakshmi, State secretary of the union of mid-day meal workers, said that schools were forced to make the switch due to budget constraints.

"They are looking at other vegetables that are cheaper and including them in the sambhar or dry vegetables," she said.

Officials of the Department of Public Instruction acknowledged this, adding that they were "helpless" as the price was extremely high and additional funds could not be given to schools.

In Karnataka, school meals from the centralised kitchens of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) do not include onion or garlic, while other NGOs that supply food and the decentralised kitchens at schools use these staples.

(With inputs from Bengaluru)

'A.P. needs to be more proactive'

Polavaram funds tied to information

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Andhra Pradesh government needs to be more proactive and fulfil its responsibility towards implementing the Polavaram national irrigation project, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, adding that the Centre could not release the remaining funds as the State was yet to provide certain information.

Replying to a calling attention motion moved by Congress MP K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao on the need for completing pending national irrigation projects, Mr. Shekhawat observed that Polavaram had been declared a national project after the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, had been passed. While the cost

of the project was initially estimated at ₹16,000 crore, the State government had later given an escalated cost of ₹55,548 crore following passage of the Land Acquisition Act in 2013. He said the Advisory Committee had approved this and the Finance Ministry had then set up a revised cost committee, which had had two meetings and had asked the State government for information about the land acquisition, land costs, etc.

Replying to a question by Congress MP T. Subbarami Reddy about when the Centre would release the remaining funds, the Minister said it would depend on when the A.P. government provided the information. He added that the State was yet to provide audit reports for ₹2,000 crore out of the ₹5,000 crore already spent.

Help from anganwadi staff ensures safe delivery on train

RAVIKUMAR NARBOLI
YADGIR

Geetha, 25, was in an advanced stage of pregnancy when she and her husband boarded the Udyan Express at Saidapur in Yadgir district. But she did not expect to get off the train with a child.

While travelling between Yadgir and Bengaluru, Ms. Geetha suddenly went into labour. Thanks to the prompt and efficient help from a group of anganwadi workers who were also on the train, she was delivered of a healthy baby boy.

Siddamma Kumbar, an anganwadi worker at Sugur village in Kalaburagi dis-



Anganwadi workers with the newborn on the train.

trict, was among the group on the train.

Around 2 a.m. on Tuesday, she woke up to the wail

of a woman when the train was nearing Ananthapur.

"I woke my colleagues up. We had little time to lose. We cordoned off a part of the compartment with saris and helped her deliver the child. We are happy that the mother and baby are healthy," said an elated Ms. Kumbar.

Her colleagues Malubai, Mahadevi, Anaveeramma, Mallamma, Jyothi, Basamma and others were thrilled about the unexpected turn of events on the train.

"It is a happy and proud moment for any anganwadi worker to help other women in need," said Ms. Kumbar.

Man takes cue from *Drishyam* to hide murder

He kills wife in Thiruvananthapuram, disposes of body in T.N. & phone on train

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A WhatsApp confession reportedly blew the lid off a murder that was initially reported as a missing person complaint to the Kerala police in September.

On Tuesday, the police arrested Premkumar, a hotel manager, and Sunitha, a nurse, for the murder of Premkumar's wife Vidya, who was reported missing by her husband from Kochi on September 23.

Romantic obsession

Infidelity, romantic obsession and the desperation to remove Vidya from their lives had prompted the accused to strangle her at a

rented house in Thiruvananthapuram and dispose of her body at remote Manur in Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu, according to the police.

The accused also took a cue from a successful whodunnit movie *Drishyam* to sidetrack the police investigation. They mimicked protagonist Mohanlal's actions by hiding Vidya's mobile phone on a long-distance train to indicate that she had gone off on her own volition.

The police detained Premkumar at an orphanage here when he arrived to say goodbye to his 13-year-old son whom he had admitted there recently.

"The suspects, who were

schoolmates, had become romantically engaged after renewing their friendship at a recent class reunion. They arrived with Vidya at the house in Peyyad here on September 20. They allegedly strangled Vidya on her bed with a rope early next day, hid the body in the trunk of their car, drove to Tamil Nadu and abandoned the corpse.

Missing complaint

Vidya's disappearance came to light when Premkumar filed a missing person complaint on September 23. He moved for anticipatory bail after a mobile phone meta-data analysis revealed the accused and Vidya at the same

location in the run-up to her disappearance.

Sensed danger

Officials said Premkumar sensed the law was closing in on him. He fell out with Sunitha, who blamed him for the situation. Beleaguered, Premkumar indicated on WhatsApp to an investigator that he wanted to confess to the murder.

The police have not ruled out the involvement of a third person in the conspiracy, possibly a schoolmate of the accused.

They produced the accused before a magistrate in Kochi and remanded them in judicial custody for 14 days.

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

M. Shantanagoudar and K.M. Joseph pronounced the 148-page judgment on the basis of an appeal filed by Google India Pvt Ltd.

The appeal was against a criminal defamation action

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 Raman 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.

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	7.4
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		Yesterday					
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE	
Ahmedabad.....	66	48	21	194	126	.....	.....
Bengaluru.....	04	57	86	.....	63	.....	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.
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.
PM_{2.5} & 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.

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 Sangathan.

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 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.