



Congress yet to finalise ministerial candidates

PUNE With the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party apparently ready with their list of ministerial candidates for the Cabinet expansion, the Congress is yet to reveal its cards as its leadership is taking time to ensure all sections of society are represented in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, say party sources.

Minor raped, killed by three boys in Bihar

PURNEA An eight-year old girl was allegedly raped and killed by three minor boys in Bishunpur village in Bihar's Purnea district, police. The girl's body was found soaked in blood near a shop on Monday. Two of the accused, aged 14 and 16, were arrested on Monday evening, police said, adding that search operations were underway to nab the third minor. PTI

Chinese signboards put up at 5 monuments

NEW DELHI Signboards in Chinese have been put up at five Archaeological Survey of India-protected sites in Uttar Pradesh — Sarnath, Chaukhandi Stupa, Kushinagar and the Mahaparinirvana Temple, Piparahwa and Shravasti — to help Chinese tourists, Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel said on Tuesday. He said signboards in foreign languages would be put up at all iconic archaeological sites.

Maharashtra Cabinet green signal to ₹10 meal

MUMBAI The State Cabinet on Tuesday cleared the proposal to set up a centre at every district headquarters to provide citizens meals at ₹10, as promised in the common minimum programme of the Maha Vikas Aghadi. The Shiv Bhojan scheme will run on an experimental basis for three months, and each centre will have the daily capacity to provide 500 meals. The government will subsidise each meal.

Dhankar not allowed into university

Bengal Governor forced to leave from convocation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar was on Tuesday forced to leave the Jadavpur University without presiding over its convocation by members of the university's staff association, which is backed by the ruling Trinamool Congress.

Holding black flags and posters, the protesters remained defiant even as university officials urged them to make way for the Governor, who is also the Chancellor of the State-run university.

Representatives of the employees union said that as the Governor supported the Citizenship (Amendment)



Strong defiance: Jagdeep Dhankar trying to reason with the protesters at Jadavpur University on Tuesday. ■ ANI

Act (CAA), he had no business on the campus and he should return.

After waiting for almost 90 minutes, Mr. Dhankar left for Raj Bhavan.

Students, who wore badges against the CAA and the

National Register of Citizens, did not block the Governor's convoy. Some of them said they would not have accepted degrees had the Governor presided over the function.

"The State government has brought the situation to

this level that the education system has become totally politicised," Mr. Dhankar said. He accused Vice-Chancellor Suranjan Das of not taking any steps to diffuse the situation.

"The Vice-Chancellor said, Sir, I am helpless. If you are helpless then give it up," said Mr. Dhankar, adding that the protests have been engineered. Those whose job was to control the situation had "set the house on fire," he said.

‘Unfortunate strategy’

Later in the day, the Governor held a press conference at the Raj Bhawan, where he said: "the strategy to compromise the position of Chancellor is unfortunate and counterproductive."

Mr. Dhankar also announced a meeting of all Vice Chancellors of universi-

ties on January 13, 2020.

Drawing the attention of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to the issue, he said that "she cannot afford to be in non-functional mode at such dangerous developments in the temples of education."

Call for discussion

"She needs to engage in her role as the executive head. The designed confrontation with the Chancellor is not at all in the interest of the education or State," said the Governor, adding that he wants Ms. Banerjee to discuss the issue with him.

On Monday, the Governor's presence at the university triggered protests by a section of students who asked him about his opinion on the CAA and the attack on protesting students in different parts of the country.



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: Cold day conditions and fog likely in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim. Dense fog likely over north Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	21.0.....	12.0.....	Kozhikode.....	.....	36.0.....	25.0.....
Ahmedabad.....	28.0.....	15.0.....	Kurnool.....	.....	30.0.....	19.0.....
Aizawl.....	19.0.....	6.0.....	Lucknow.....	.....	16.0.....	8.0.....
Allahabad.....	17.0.....	9.0.....	Madurai.....	.....	31.0.....	24.0.....
Bengaluru.....	27.0.....	18.0.....	Mangaluru.....	.....	34.0.....	24.0.....
Bhopal.....	26.0.....	13.0.....	Mumbai.....	.....	34.0.....	22.0.....
Bhubaneswar.....	28.0.....	15.0.....	Mysuru.....	.....	28.0.....	17.0.....
Chandigarh.....	13.0.....	9.0.....	New Delhi.....	.....	17.0.....	6.0.....
Chennai.....	0.1.....	30.0.....	Patna.....	.....	22.0.....	9.0.....
Coimbatore.....	30.0.....	22.0.....	Port Blair.....	.....	30.0.....	24.0.....
Dehradun.....	21.0.....	7.0.....	Puducherry.....	.....	27.0.....	22.0.....
Gangtok.....	12.0.....	6.0.....	Pune.....	.....	29.0.....	18.0.....
Goa.....	34.0.....	23.0.....	Raipur.....	.....	28.0.....	17.0.....
Guwahati.....	22.0.....	10.0.....	Ranchi.....	.....	24.0.....	12.0.....
Hubballi.....	29.0.....	19.0.....	Shillong.....	.....	14.0.....	4.0.....
Hyderabad.....	29.0.....	18.0.....	Shimla.....	.....	14.0.....	2.0.....
Imphal.....	22.0.....	4.0.....	Srinagar.....	.....	7.0.....	-4.0.....
Jaipur.....	23.0.....	7.0.....	Thiruvananthapuram.....	.....	33.0.....	25.0.....
Kochi.....	32.0.....	25.0.....	Tiruchi.....	.....	29.0.....	23.0.....
Kohima.....	18.0.....	5.0.....	Vijayawada.....	.....	30.0.....	21.0.....
Kolkata.....	23.0.....	14.0.....	Visakhapatnam.....	.....	29.0.....	22.0.....

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad.....	85	23	44	.....	87	.....	.....
Bengaluru.....	16	34	44	.....	72	.....	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 431 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Mysuru, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 57.
Chennai.....	13	36	38	.....	115	.....	.....
Delhi.....	12	.....	106	.....	429	.....	.....
Hyderabad.....	16	43	39	.....	164	.....	.....
Kolkata.....	25	73	43	.....	346	.....	.....
Lucknow.....	4	20	78	.....	354	.....	.....
Mumbai.....	8	32	54	.....	295	.....	.....
Pune.....	91	33	104	.....	213	.....	.....
Visakhapatnam.....	11	48	48	.....	209	.....	.....

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

In a jam



Journey interrupted: A truck carrying an abandoned India Post aircraft got stuck under a bridge in Durgapur in West Bengal on Tuesday. ■ ANI

SC uses extraordinary powers to grant divorce to couple

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Marriages are said to be made in heaven and broken on earth, the Supreme Court said while using its extraordinary powers to do "complete justice" and grant divorce to a couple whose

marriage had irretrievably broken down to the state of a "dead letter".

A Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and K.M. Joseph said said while using its extraordinary powers to do "complete justice" and grant divorce to a couple whose

court had to resort to its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to dissolve irreparable marriages, which remains outside the statutes despite two reports by the Law Commission of India recommending its insertion.

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

To ensure that important government matters don't get delayed owing to conflicting hierarchical and departmental priorities, the Haryana government has introduced a "Run Through Files" mechanism, which would be personally monitored by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

"... A file shall be marked as Run Through Files only by the Chief Minister in the CFMS. Every file marked as RTF has to be cleared on priority greater than that is currently being accorded to the files marked top priority. At whichever level any contribution other than mere signing on the file is made, the same will also be uploaded on CFMS portal. A system generated SMS and email will automatically be sent on each downward or upward movement of the file," said the communication letter sent by the Chief Secretary office to all departmental heads and other officials concerned.

"...the movement of these



Only the CM will be able to mark and close files under the RTF system.

files and time taken in clearing the file shall be personally reviewed by the Chief Minister and only he will be able to mark and close the file as 'Run Through File', " said the order.

Mr. Khattar had last month directed the Finance department to develop a mechanism for expeditious disposal of important files.

He had also suggested to the officials to prepare a checklist of queries for the department concerned to facilitate quick disposal of important files by the Finance department and the Chief Minister's Office.

CBI books CIAL, its directors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against Corporate Ispat Alloys Limited and its directors Manoj Kumar Jayaswal, Ravindra Jayaswal and Siddhartha Jaiswal. The agency

also named the company's former directors Abhishek Jayaswal, Prakash Jayaswal, V.S. Garg, Rajendra Kumar Ghantrara, and M.S. Kapur for allegedly causing a loss of over ₹136 crore to Punjab National Bank.

Airbus engine trouble haunts GoAir again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

For the second time in as many days, engine troubles on the Airbus 320 Neo returned to haunt GoAir with a Guwahati-Kolkata flight carrying 132 passengers being grounded after an engine stalled mid-air.

Officials said the aircraft reported a loud bang and vibrations followed by the engine stalling. While the airline did not confirm this, officials said passengers also reported a tailpipe fire. On December 22, an Airbus Neo had made a turn back to Mumbai after taking off for Chandigarh.

"GoAir flight G8-546 from Guwahati to Kolkata did an air turn back due to a tech-



On December 22, another GoAir flight had to turn back due to a glitch.

nical glitch ... The aircraft is being inspected and rectified by the GoAir engineering team," an airline spokesperson said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation said it would check engines that have clocked over 3,000 hours.

Liquor ban dampens Christmas in Mizoram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Mizoram government has ushered in the first dry Christmas in the State in more than a decade. The new rules prescribe a prison term of up to five years and a fine of ₹1 lakh for violations.

More than 87% of Mizoram's population is Christian.

Banning the bottle was one of the promises of the Mizo National Front, a member of the BJP-helmed North East Democratic Alliance. The State's Assembly passed the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Act, 2019, in

March. The Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Rules, 2019, is likely to be tabled in the next Assembly session in March. "The Act prohibits import, export, transport, manufacture, possession, sale and consumption of alcohol in the State," Excise and Narcotics Minister K. Beichhua said.

Former liquor vendors said prohibition had been in place since April without the rules, effectively making this year's Christmas one of the driest since 2015 when the former Congress government had allowed controlled drinking, despite opposition by the Church.