

Cool cat



Out of the wilderness: A two-day-old leopard cub was rescued by forest officials from Yewoor hills in Thane on Wednesday, after morning walkers alerted them.

SC against spike in air traffic over Taj

Gives nod for extra airport terminal

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday prima facie agreed to the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) request to build an extra terminal at Agra airport, but forbid any increase in air traffic to the detriment of the world heritage site of Taj Mahal, other monuments and the people living in the area.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde directed the Centre to consider an alternative site in case of any anticipatory increase in air traffic to and from the airport.

'Involve the Railways'

It also asked the Centre to consider providing "more excellent trains like the 'Palace on Wheels', to ferry tourists and passengers" from the new airfield to the protected Taj Trapezium Zone in Agra.

The court asked the Centre to involve the Railways to tackle the anticipated increase in tourists and "bear in mind the fact that it

will serve nobody's interest to have the area polluted with a resultant damage to the people and the heritage monuments."

'File report'

The court asked the Centre to file its report within three months.

"In the meanwhile, the interim prayer for restraining the Centre from allowing increase in air traffic will be considered after the Union of India files its response by January 2020," the court said.

It, however, reiterated in its order that "it will be difficult to permit an increase in the air traffic."

The hearing was based on a plea made by the AAI to build an additional terminal at the existing Agra Airport.

However, the court took into account the "sound objection" made by advocate-petitioner M.C. Mehta that the authorities intend to allow an increase in air traffic with it. This would prove hazardous to the environment, it said.

'No major retrenchment in IT sector'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

As per the inputs received from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), there isn't any massive retrenchment of employees in the IT sector, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar has said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"According to the National Association of Software and Service Companies, the IT sector directly employs around 41.4 lakh people, with an addition of around 1.7 lakh people [to the workforce] in the financial year 2018-19, and continues to be a net hirer in this fiscal," he said.

"The IT sector, both globally and in India, is witnessing unprecedented, technology-driven changes. These demand new sets of skills and are opening opportunities for newer job roles," Mr. Gangwar said in his reply.

Govt. procured only 3% of pulses, oilseeds proposed for this season

PM-AASHA target was 37.59 lakh metric tonnes; just 1.08 lakh tonnes purchased

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Less than 3% of this season's sanctioned amount of pulses and oilseeds have actually been procured so far under the once-hyped PM-AASHA scheme, Agriculture Ministry data show. Arrivals of these crops began in October and will end by February.

A total of 37.59 lakh metric tonnes of procurement had been sanctioned under the Centrally-funded scheme.

However, only 1.08 lakh tonnes have been procured so far, according to data placed in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. In fact, of the eleven States that opted for the scheme this season, procurement has not even started in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

The PM-AASHA or Prad-



Arrival of pulses and oilseeds began in October and will end by February.

han Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan, was announced with great fanfare in September 2018, as an effort to ensure that farmers growing pulses, oilseeds and copra actually get the minimum support prices

they are promised for their crops each year.

Apart from initiatives to allow cash payment to farmers or procurement by private traders, PM-AASHA's main feature was a price support scheme whereby Central agencies would procure pulses and oilseeds directly from farmers.

'Holistic approach'

The Centre had budgeted ₹15,053 crore over two years to implement the scheme apart from an additional government credit guarantee of ₹16,550 crore for agencies undertaking procurement.

"The government is working with a holistic approach...Increasing MSP is not adequate and it is more important that farmers should get full benefit of the announced MSP," said a Cabinet

net statement at the time of launch.

The main crops covered under the scheme this season are moong, urad, arhar, groundnut and soyabean.

The late arrival of the monsoon means that harvests and crop arrivals also began slightly later than expected, especially for arhar or tur dal, so procurement is likely to continue, though tapering, until February. However, procurement is still lagging badly in most States.

The highest sanctioned procurement is in Maharashtra, where 10 lakh tonnes of soyabean procurement were sanctioned, apart from 58,000 tonnes of moong and urad dal.

However, barely 1,709 tonnes have been procured in the State, including just 14 tonnes of soyabean.

IN BRIEF



ED records statement of former Haryana CM

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday recorded the statement of former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda in connection with the alleged Gurugram land scam case. Mr. Hooda appeared before the agency in Chandigarh. The ED probe is based on an FIR registered by the CBI, alleging irregularities in the acquisition of 1,417 acres in Gurugram.

Officials under scanner for ₹500-cr. NH scam

NEW DELHI

Several administrative officers have come under the Enforcement Directorate's scanner in connection with a ₹500-crore scam of alleged fraudulent compensation claims for the land acquired to widen the NH-74 in Uttarakhand's Udhham Singh Nagar. The scam was detected over two years ago.

Govt. to run school caught in ashram row

AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Wednesday decided to take over the management of the Delhi Public School (DPS) Ahmedabad East till the end of the academic year to ensure that more than 800 students of the school are not affected. The institution is embroiled in controversy after it leased out its premises to godman Nithyananda's ashram.

Release ₹7,825 crore due to T.N.: Stalin to Centre

CHENNAI

DMK leader M.K. Stalin on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release ₹7,825 crore due to Tamil Nadu by way of GST and other dues. In a letter to the Prime Minister, he said the finances of Tamil Nadu was in doldrums and the amount was necessary to improve the financial health of the State.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

Table with 3 columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various cities like Agartala, Ahmedabad, Aizawl, etc.

Table with 3 columns: CITY, SO2, NO2, CO, PM2.5, PM10. Lists air quality data for various cities like Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, etc.

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.

Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM Addendum / Corrigendum to the advertisement No.05 dt. 22.11.2019, No.06 dt. 22.11.2019 & No.07 dt. 22.11.2019 for Recruitment of Executives in OMECL.

एचएलएल लाइफकेयर लिमिटेड HLL Lifecare Limited TENDER NOTIFICATION - MANPOWER SUPPLIER HLL Lifecare Ltd. (A Govt of India Enterprises) a Central Public Sector Enterprises under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is a global provider of high quality health care products & services.

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED "A MINI RATNA COMPANY" E-TENDER NOTICE NIT No: SECL/BSP/CMC/e-Tender/365, date 25.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019_SECL_156935_1, Location of work: Tehsil: Gharghoda, Dist: Raigarh, State: Chhattisgarh, Estimated Cost: Rs. 34,52,20,650 (Excluding GST).

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED "A MINI RATNA COMPANY" E-TENDER NOTICE NIT No: SECL/BSP/CMC/e-Tender/366, date 25.11.2019, Tender ID : 2019_SECL_156936_1, Location of work: Tehsil: Gharghoda, Dist: Raigarh, State: Chhattisgarh, Estimated Cost: Rs. 25,32,51,600 (Excluding GST).

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES Bengaluru - 560 001 No: CAH/VMS/Silos/Short Term Tender/2019-20 Date: 04-12-2019 TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Mode Only) The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru hereby invites Short Term Tenders through e-Procurement (Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from eligible tenderers, for purchase of Liquid Nitrogen Storage Tanks (Silos) for the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services through e-Procurement for the year 2019-20 with a validity period upto one year.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES Bengaluru - 560 001 No: CAH/VMS/LN2Container/Short Term Tender/2019-20 Date: 03-12-2019 TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Mode Only) The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru hereby invites Short Term Tenders through e-Procurement (Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from eligible tenderers, for purchase of Liquid Nitrogen Container for the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services through e-Procurement for the year 2019-20 with a validity period upto one year.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE Dr. V.K.V.R. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072. www.isec.ac.in No.D/1/2019 December 5, 2019 APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR The Institute for Social and Economic Change, (ISEC), Bangalore, was established in 1972, and well known for its inter-disciplinary research in the social sciences. is looking for a Director. This position will fall vacant as the term of the present Director will be coming to an end in January 2020.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA GLOBAL TENDER ENQUIRY Procurement & Consultancy Services Division of HLL INFRA TECH SERVICES LTD. (A Govt. of India Enterprise) for and on behalf of MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE - GOVT. OF INDIA invites e-tenders from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of medical equipments as brought below:

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED (WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA) NOTE MUDRAN NAGAR, MYSURU - 570 003 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID (OPEN TENDER) 1. CONSTRUCTION OF OPEN VEHICLE PARKING PLACE NEAR PLANT AREA AT BRBNMPL, MYSURU - Tender No. 077/MYS/CIVIL/2019-20 - Estimated value: ₹ 30.00 Lakh.