

IN BRIEF
Madras HC moots setting up of T.N. Press Council
CHENNAI
The Madras HC has embarked on an exercise to weed out 'bogus' journalists who use the identity to indulge in criminal activities. The court asked the State why it should not constitute a statutory body, such as the Press Council of India.

Pilot's licence suspended for runway incursion
NEW DELHI
Aviation regulator DGCA has suspended the pilot-in-command of an AirAsia India flight for three months for a runway incursion incident at the Mumbai airport on November 5, 2019, an official said on Saturday. The pilot had admitted his lapses, the official said.

Man booked for planning attacks in Bengaluru
BENGALURU
The Central Crime Branch police officials on Saturday booked Mehboob Pasha, a member of a suspected terror outfit that was allegedly planning to carry out subversive activities in and around Bengaluru. Pasha, who was allegedly involved in the murder of a Hindu organization leader in Tamil Nadu has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Six dead, 20 injured as bus overturns in Gujarat
JUNAGADH
Six persons were killed and at least 20 others injured after a private bus in which they were travelling overturned in Junagadh district of Gujarat on Saturday, said the police. The incident occurred at Lalpur village in Visavadar taluka in the afternoon. The injured were rushed to Junagadh civil hospital. Around 50 people were on board the bus, said a police official.

LCA Navy variant successfully lands on INS Vikramaditya

'Technologies specific to deck-based fighter jet operations proven in the test'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
In a major technological advancement, the naval variant of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1 successfully completed the first arrested landing on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya on Saturday.
'After completing extensive trials on the shore-based test facility (SBTF), the naval version of the LCA did a successful arrested landing on the INS Vikramaditya at 10:02 hours today [Saturday],' the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said in a statement. Commodore Jaideep Maolankar carried out the maiden landing.
The naval LCA-Mk1 made its maiden flight in April 2012. Two prototypes have been flying as part of the development. The SBTF in Goa, which replicates the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, was specifically built to train naval pilots in the complex manoeuvres of landing on the short flight deck of an aircraft carrier.
'With this feat, the indigenously developed niche technologies, specific to the deck-based fighter operations, have been proven, which will now pave the way for developing and manufacturing a twin-engine deck-



In top gear: The LCA-Mk1 during its successful landing on the INS Vikramaditya on Saturday.

based fighter for the Indian Navy,' the Navy said.
Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said in December 2018 that the DRDO offered to develop a new twin-engine deck-based fighter jet for the Navy, tapping into its experience of developing the naval LCA, and it should be ready by 2026.
The Navy is finalising the

quality requirements for the new jet.
The contributions of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited include the landing gear, the arrestor hook and the support staff at the SBTF, said HAL Chairman and Managing Director R. Madhavan.
Significant upgrade
The naval LCA is fitted with stronger landing gears to absorb forces exerted by the ski-jump ramp during take-off, as it has to be airborne from 200m, and land within 100m, against the 1,000m required for normal fighter jets.
The Navy operates the MiG-29K fighter jets from the INS Vikramaditya. These Russian jets will also fly from the first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant once it enters service. The force is also evaluating global tenders for 57 carrier-based, twin-engine fighter aircraft.

Eight killed in Gujarat gas plant blast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT AHMEDABAD
A blast in a medical and industrial gas manufacturing factory in Gujarat killed eight persons and injured as many on Saturday.
The explosion took place at Aims Industries near Gavasad village in Padra tehsil near Vadodara.
Most of the victims were workers in the factory. The injured were taken to a hospital in Atladara near Vadodara.
'At least eight persons were killed and as many persons were injured,' SP (Vadodara Rural) Sudhir Desai said. A team of forensic science laboratory officials was on the spot to investigate the cause of the blast which apparently took place when gas was being refilled in cylinders.
'We will register an FIR based on the evidence the FSL team collects and ensure that those responsible for the explosion get maximum punishment,' the SP said.

WEATHER WATCH
RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY
[Map of India showing weather data]
Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rain/snow likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir. Cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets over east Uttar Pradesh, east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha and Odisha. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.
Table with 3 columns: CITY, RAIN, MAX, MIN. Lists weather data for various cities across India.

Bus-truck collision and fire leave at least 10 dead

U.P. CM announces an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to next of kin of the deceased

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KANNAUJ (U.P.)
Charred bodies of 10 people have been recovered after a private sleeper double-decker bus burst into flames after colliding with a truck in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district late on Friday, District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar said on Saturday.
Several others suffered serious burn injuries, said the official.
There were 45 passengers, including three staff, in the Jaipur-bound bus travelling from Farrukhabad. The accident occurred on the Grand Trunk Road near Chhibramau, police said. One of the deceased has been identified as Rinku Yadav, 32, the driver of the truck which collided with the bus.

PM offers condolences
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi have conveyed their condolences to the families of the victims.
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister



Tragic ride: People gather near the charred remains of the Jaipur-bound bus, in Kannauj on Saturday.

Yogi Adityanath announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 to the injured. He has also sought a report from the district magistrate about the incident.
Kanpur Inspector general, Mohit Agarwal, said both

the bus and the truck caught fire after the collision and exact death toll can be established only after DNA tests.
Soon after the incident, the locals rushed to the spot and rescued many passengers by breaking the window panes. The injured are undergoing treatment at the Tirwa Medical college hospital and the district hospital, the IG said.
State Excise Minister Ram Naresh Agnihotri also inspected the site of the accident.
State Congress President Ajay Kumar Lallu met the injured at the hospital and assured them of full support.

Transgender Persons Act comes into effect

Activists raise concerns about requirement of a gender certificate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
The Social Justice Ministry issued a notification on January 10, 2019, notifying the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, which was passed by Parliament on November 26 and given Presidential assent on December 5, 2019.
The Act aims to end discrimination against transgender persons in accessing education, employment and healthcare. It also recognises

the right to self-perceived gender identity and provides for certification from a district magistrate; in case a transgender person has had a gender-change surgery, the law says they can obtain a certificate from the medical facility where they had the operation, and apply for a change in their certificate.
However, many in the community have raised concerns about the requirement of a certificate from the district magistrate.

Activists have expressed concerns about the lack of awareness and sensitisation. Lovely Kumari, a transwoman, who had participated in the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer's campaign to boost turnout among transgender voters in last year's the Lok Sabha elections, said that trans people found it difficult to get papers.
'During the elections, we went door-to-door ... It was difficult because many of us have two different names on

our documents. People don't have any knowledge about this [about the transgender identity certificate under the Act], she said.
However, Dr. Manabi Bandopadhyaya, who became India's first transgender college principal in 2015, said certification was needed to prevent misuse of welfare measures. 'Transgender people are deeply deprived. Nothing will change till there is sensitisation of common people,' she said.

Committee completes probe into scientific papers

An article in The Hindu had flagged papers published with problematic images

R. PRASAD CHENNAI

An independent committee, formed in early June 2019, to investigate the issue of image duplication and manipulation in papers published by researchers of the Lucknow-based Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), has submitted its report to Shekhar C. Mande, Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
The committee was formed in response to an ar-

ticle published in The Hindu about 130 scientific papers that had problems with images.
Elaborate exercise
According to Dr. Mande, the remit of the committee was expanded to cover four-five CSIR laboratories that had similar problems with images.
'It was a massive exercise as the committee looked into each case of the alleged image duplication and/or manipulation in published,' says Dr. Mande.



Shekhar C. Mande

The committee had given all scientists an opportunity to defend their case and tell the committee what action they had taken. 'The directors of each CSIR laboratory

will follow the CSIR administrative procedures and give the scientists an opportunity to defend their case and take action where necessary,' said Dr. Mande.
In June 2019, immediately after the committee was formed, Dr. Mande told The Hindu: 'The CSIR has a zero tolerance policy on the issue of scientific integrity ... If anyone is found to be guilty of manipulations, thereby leading to deliberate scientific fraud, the person will face suitable disciplinary action.'

Mumbai Police hopes to gather clues on old cases from Lakdawala

Arrested gangster has worked with Dawood Ibrahim, Chhota Rajan

GAUTAM S. MENGLE MUMBAI

The 'keep your enemies closer' axiom that the underworld operates on is expected to work in the Mumbai police's favour, with the Crime Branch milking arrested gangster Ejaz Lakdawala dry for information not only about his own activities, but also other gangland figures like Rajendra Nikhalje alias Chhota Rajan and Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar.
Lakdawala was arrested on Wednesday in Patna by the Anti-Extortion Cell (AEC) of the Crime Branch after being on the run for over 20 years. He was subsequently remanded in police custody and is currently being interrogated by the AEC.
What makes Lakdawala a significant catch is that he has worked with both Kaskar and Rajan before starting his own gang, said Crime Branch officials.
'The underworld operates heavily on grapevine, as it is an operational requirement for any criminal gang to keep close tabs on their rivals. This is mainly to ensure that they get to know of any impending attack by the rivals as well as to pass on the occasional tip about the gang's members to law enforcement agencies



Ejaz Lakdawala

as a way of eliminating the competition,' a Crime Branch officer explained.

Vital information
The officer added that in Rajan's case, Lakdawala - who worked with him till 2008 - could provide vital information in cases that date back all the way to the early 1980s.
Rajan was arrested in Bali in October 2015 and subsequently extradited to India.
He is currently lodged in the Tihar Jail in Delhi, with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) having taken over all the cases against him.
'Rajan is still facing trial for

many of the cases, which were registered when Lakdawala was a part of his gang. His interrogation could provide crucial information about these cases which would be useful as evidence. It could also help identify any others who were acting as foot soldiers for Rajan in Mumbai when he was still operational. Any relevant details will be passed on to the CBI,' the officer said.
Lakdawala could be an important source of information about Kaskar's activities as well.
Another officer said, 'His terrorist tag notwithstanding, Kaskar still continues to be a legend in the underworld and every gangland element still wants to know what he is doing. While we are not expecting any direct information about Kaskar himself, data about the gang's footsoldiers and criminal rackets in India would help to a great extent and can be shared with multiple law enforcement and anti-terror agencies both at the State as well as the Central level.'
Lakdawala, 50, who fled the country some time between 1998 and 1999, was wanted in a string of cases, including murder, attempt to murder and extortion, registered since 1989.

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
R-127, Second Main Road, TNHB, Ayapakkam, Chennai - 600077.
Phone: 044-26136311 / 251.
WALK-IN INTERVIEW / WRITTEN TEST
Candidates are invited for Walk-in Interview or Written Test on 5th February 2020 at NCD Division, Health and Family Welfare Department, Health Secretariat Building Tashiling-737103 for PROJECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANT (Senior Treatment Supervisor) - 02 posts on contract basis under the project 'India Hypertension Control Initiative' in Sikkim.
For application Proforma and other details regarding qualification and experience, etc., please refer to www.nie.gov.in

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD J.J.NAGAR DIVISION
SEALED OFFER - CUM - OPEN AUCTION NOTICE
Tamil Nadu Housing Board, J.J.Nagar Division, has proposed to sell the Industrial plot with 78 MIG Row type houses (GF+FF) in dilapidated condition on 'as is where is condition' in Special and Hazardous Industrial Area, comprised in Chennai District, Ambattur Taluk, Greater Chennai Corporation, Zone-7, Ambattur Village, S.No.530/IA, Extent 1.95 Acres through Sealed Offer - Cum - Open Auction.
The details are as follows.
Sale of Application form, From 13.01.2020 to the previous working day of the auction between 11.00 A.M to 4.00 P.M
AUCTION DATE. 12.02.2020
Please also visit www.tnhb.tn.gov.in website for the details regarding land Extent, Upset Price and Application Cost, 15% Cost of land along with Application, Period of sale of application, Allotment conditions etc., For, further details, kindly contact the following address.
Office of the Executive Engineer & Ado, J.J.Nagar Division, Tamil Nadu Housing Board, 3rd Floor, TNHB Shopping Complex, Thirumangalam, Chennai - 600 101, Phone No. 044 - 26154577.

ATAL INCUBATION CENTRE - CENTRAL COFFEE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AIC-CRI) COFFEE BOARD
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
First Floor, Coffee Board Head Office No. 1, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001.
NOTIFICATION
AIC-CRI, recently established by the Coffee Board with the support of NITI Ayog'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. 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 24.01.2020 (Friday).
CEO & SECRETARY

Indian Institute of Technology Madras CHENNAI - 600036
IITM - Summer Fellowship Programme 2020
Applications are invited for IITM Summer Fellowship Programme from the students pursuing 3rd year of B.E. / B.Tech / B.Sc. (Engg.) / Integrated M.E. / M.Tech. programme, 1st year of M.Sc. / M.A. / MBA with outstanding academic background in terms of high ranks (within three ranks) in university examinations. IIT students are not eligible. The fellowship is for a maximum period of two months with stipend of Rs.6000/- per month. For details please visit: https://sfpi.iitm.ac.in
12.01.2020 Joint Registrar (Courses)

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