



Filmmaker Manmohan Mahapatra passes away

BHUBANESWAR
Manmohan Mahapatra, renowned Odia filmmaker and winner of eight consecutive national awards, passed away here on Monday. He was 69. He was suffering from multiple ailments. An alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), he had carved a niche for himself in parallel cinema. His film, *Seeta Raati*, had won the Rajat Kamal in the National Film Awards, 1982.

Navy adopts fuel with higher specifications

NEW DELHI
The Indian Navy in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has adopted a new fuel with higher technical specifications, High Flash High Speed Diesel (HFHSD - IN 512), which was formally launched on Monday. "The new specification will not only ensure a better quality fuel but also result in a reduced carbon footprint," the Navy said in a statement.

Four persons get life term for rape in T.N.

THANJAVUR
The mahila court in Thanjavur on Monday awarded life sentence till death to four persons found guilty of raping a woman in Kumbakonam on December 1, 2018. The victim, a 27-year-old woman from New Delhi, had arrived in the town at night to attend a training programme as part of her job. She was on her way to a lodge when she was gang-raped.

Minor injured in firing by cousin while playing

SHIMLA
A four-year-old girl was injured after her five-year-old cousin shot her using her grandfather's licensed gun while playing in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district on Monday, police said. The incident took place in Sharnal village under Rampur police station. The girl, Ninika, sustained a bullet injury on her right hand, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Abhimanju Verma said. PTI

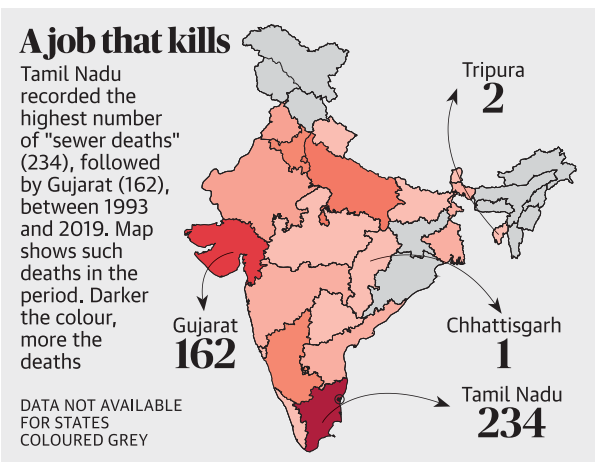
Maharashtra, Gujarat lag behind in compensation for sewer deaths

Committee reviews implementation of manual scavenging prohibition law

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Of the 926 deaths inside sewers in the country, from 1993 till December 31, 2019, families of 172 victims were yet to receive compensation, with Gujarat having the highest number of cases where the amount was not paid or the payment was unconfirmed (48), while Maharashtra was yet to pay or confirm payment of compensation in any of its 32 cases, according to data from the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis (NCSK).

Lagging behind
During a meeting of the Central Monitoring Committee under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, which is meant to review the implementation of the law, on January 8, States that were found lagging behind in the rehabilitation of manual scavengers



were asked to comply soon, NCSK Chairperson and Member of the Committee Manhar Valjibhai Zala said on Monday. He added that in most of the sewer death cases since 1993, when the NCSK was established, compensation to the families of the victims had been paid.

Tamil Nadu, which had the highest number of such deaths, had paid compensa-

tion in all but seven of the 234 cases. Gujarat was yet to pay or confirm payment in 48 of the 162 sewer deaths recorded in the State, and in 31 of those cases, the legal heir could not be traced, the data showed.

Practice continues
According to the NCSK, a total of 53,598 people, of which 29,923 were in Uttar

SC asks for response to homebuyer's plea

Notice to govt. on Insolvency Ordinance

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the government to respond to a petition challenging the newly promulgated Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance of 2019, which retrospectively prohibits individual homebuyers from initiating insolvency proceedings against builders.

A Bench led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman issued notice to the government and ordered status quo in the case of insolvency applications already filed by homebuyers in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The order was based on a petition filed by a



homebuyer, Manish Kumar. Section 3 of the ordinance prescribes a minimum threshold for initiating insolvency proceedings before the NCLT. It required that NCLT need to take cognisance only if it receives an application for insolvency process jointly filed by 10% or 100 in number of the total allottees/homebuyers, whichever is lesser, from the same project.

CBI books IRP, his accomplice on graft charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a first, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an Interim Resolution Professional (IRP), along with the director of an asset reconstruction firm, for allegedly demanding and receiving a bribe from a former consultant to a Hyderabad company.

The accused have been identified as Arun Mohan, the IRP, and Paresh Kumar, the director and the chief executive officer of the Multimax Asset Reconstruction Private Limited. Provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act have been invoked against them. The case has been registered on the basis of a complaint filed by the victim's husband.

Govt. launches road accident database

System will be piloted in six States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Monday launched a central accident database management system that will help in analysing causes of road crashes and in devising safety interventions to reduce such accidents in the country.

The IT tool, known as the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD), has been developed by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) and will be implemented by the National Informatics Centre. The project costs ₹258 crore and is being supported by the World Bank.

The system will be first piloted in the six States with

highest fatalities from road crashes - Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

The IRAD will be improved on the basis of the learnings from the trial, following which it will be rolled out across the country.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the IRAD at the road safety stakeholders' meet. Mr. Gadkari said that around 30,000 tablets would be distributed to police personnel across the country to record data on accidents.

DGCA provides IndiGo relief, extends deadline

'Engines to be replaced in 4 months'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has provided relief to IndiGo and extended the deadline for replacing all snag-prone Pratt and Whitney (PW) engines in the airline's fleet by four months, though the engine maker recently identified a new problem.

In November 2019, the DGCA instructed IndiGo to replace 120 engines on its PW-powered A320neo planes by the end of January 2020, following four instances of mid-air engine shutdowns in the span of a week. However, on December 16, 2019, PW notified a new cause for glitches in the

low-pressure turbine in engines - "fracture of Mid Turbine Frame (MTF) Piston seal" - and advised boroscopic inspection of the engines. Following this, another 15 engines were identified for replacement. The watchdog has now said that the airline can replace all its engines by May 31, 2020.

In a statement, the DGCA said that IndiGo will be able to replace only 70% of these engines by the January 31 deadline. "The procurement of modified engines was adversely impacted due to holidays during Christmas and New Year at MRO [maintenance, repair and overhaul] facilities," the DGCA reasoned.

Register your drones or face penalty: govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has asked all drone owners to voluntarily register their drones before January 31, failing which they would be penalised with a prison sentence of up to two years or a fine of up to ₹10 lakh.

As per the rules framed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), all drones in India must be registered on the Digital Sky portal and must have a unique identification number. All drone operators must also have an Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP). Both came into effect from December 1, 2018.

According to the rules, if a person operates a drone without registering it, he or she may be booked for endangering someone's life or for negligence with respect to machinery- both of which are crimes under the Indian Penal Code and carry a punishment of up to six months.

The Hindu Young World Quiz to be held in 17 cities

It will be launched on January 18

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The 20th edition of *The Hindu Young World Quiz* will be held in 17 cities across the country from January 18.

It is one of the longest running and largest live school quizzes as *The Hindu Young World* steps into the 30th year.

Two categories

The competition is open to students in two categories - Juniors (classes 4 to 6) and Seniors (from classes 7 to 9). Each team must have two members and register online. Any number of teams can take part from the same school by paying a registration fee of ₹200 per team.

However, the team members must be from the same



school/branch and cross teams are not allowed. All entrants would get participation certificates and there would be audience prizes too.

The quiz would be held in Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kozhikode, Kochi, Vijayawada, Coimbatore, Hyderabad and Delhi on different dates from January 18.

For registration and further details, log on to www.thehindu.com/yw-quiz.

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 Tuesday: Rain/Thundershowers observed at most places over Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and east Rajasthan and at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, north Haryana, Saurashtra and Kutch.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	—	21.5	12.4	Kozhikode.....	—	33.0	22.4
Ahmedabad.....	—	29.5	17.5	Kurnool.....	—	33.1	18.2
Aizawl.....	—	18.6	—	Lucknow.....	—	16.0	6.2
Allahabad.....	—	22.9	7.2	Madurai.....	—	32.6	21.4
Bengaluru.....	—	27.4	17.4	Mangaluru.....	—	36.6	20.8
Bhopal.....	—	—	—	Mumbai.....	—	30.1	21.5
Bhubaneswar.....	—	26.0	11.4	Mysuru.....	—	28.5	15.2
Chandigarh.....	—	18.7	11.3	New Delhi.....	—	23.4	8.0
Chennai.....	—	29.2	21.2	Patna.....	—	15.2	8.2
Coimbatore.....	—	30.7	20.4	Port Blair.....	—	29.4	22.0
Dehradun.....	—	21.9	9.5	Puducherry.....	—	30.4	19.4
Gangtok.....	—	15.2	6.2	Pune.....	—	29.5	15.9
Goa.....	—	33.0	21.4	Raipur.....	—	29.0	11.8
Guwahati.....	—	25.0	9.6	Ranchi.....	—	25.2	7.2
Hubballi.....	—	29.0	17.0	Shillong.....	—	17.0	5.1
Hyderabad.....	—	32.0	14.8	Shimla.....	9.0	11.0	7.7
Imphal.....	—	—	4.8	Srinagar.....	—	—	—
Jaipur.....	—	23.2	11.4	Thiruvananthapuram.....	—	32.5	21.5
Kochi.....	—	31.6	21.6	Tiruchi.....	—	31.6	21.6
Kohima.....	—	16.0	6.2	Vijayawada.....	—	30.0	19.2
Kolkata.....	—	24.2	11.1	Visakhapatnam.....	—	27.1	18.2

(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.....	78	28	38	257	177	■
Bengaluru.....	11	68	53	90	99	■
Chennai.....	36	33	53	233	—	■
Delhi.....	15	72	48	436	379	■
Hyderabad.....	03	74	44	155	131	■
Kolkata.....	32	105	28	227	225	■
Lucknow.....	48	47	83	425	—	■
Mumbai.....	03	19	36	211	128	■
Pune.....	74	26	83	188	134	■
Visakhapatnam.....	19	82	62	193	193	■

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

Schoolboy injured as javelin pierces skull

HOWRAH

A sports event turned into a nightmare as a student was injured when a javelin pierced his skull at Shyampur here on Monday, a police officer said. He was operated upon at the State-run SSKM Hospital in Kolkata, where he was admitted in a serious condition, sources said.

The Class VI student was kept under observation at the hospital after the javelin was taken out, which perforated a side of his skull, sources said. PTI

Woman ostracised for going to court

Forced to migrate from village over her engagement as an anganwadi worker

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

A woman and her family have allegedly been ostracised for seven years in Odisha's Puri district for defying her village's diktat and opting to go to court to settle a dispute over her engagement as an anganwadi worker.

Villagers, including her own parents staying in Bhatpada village under Brahmagiri block, have stopped talking to her in public due to an unwritten decree since 2013, said Bhanumati Pradhan, who along with her husband and children were forced to migrate from the village.

In 2007, the State govern-

ment had issued an advertisement for the vacant post of an anganwadi worker, offering a monthly remuneration of ₹1000. A government panel had found her suitable for the post among the short-listed candidates. Three months later, the government came up with revised guidelines for the post and due to the changes, Kanchanmani Jena, another candidate, was selected and issued an engagement letter.

Ms. Pradhan challenged the government order, both at the District Collector's office and the Orissa High Court, stating it was illegal to come up with guidelines when the selection process was almost complete. In



Bhanumati Pradhan

2012, the High Court ruled in her favour.

This did not go down well with the villagers who reportedly wanted Ms. Jena to continue. The villagers refused to receive food from Ms. Pradhan, as a result of which her engagement as an anganwadi worker did not

last long. The case is now pending before the Supreme Court after another candidate challenged the High Court order in the apex court.

"I was pressurised to withdraw my claim over the post. On failing to do so, my family would have faced social boycott. I had agreed to withdraw the case in lieu of the ₹60,000 I had spent for fighting court cases. But, the villagers wanted the case to be withdrawn immediately," Ms. Pradhan said.

"When the agreement collapsed, my in-laws were socially boycotted. Since 2013, we have not been getting any help from the villagers," she said.