IN BRIEF



against Rajinikanth

COIMBATORE/SALEM The Dravidar Viduthalai Kazhagam petitioned the Coimbatore City Commissioner of Police seeking action against actor Rajinikanth for remarks he made about social reformer Perivar E.V. Ramasamv. He allegedly said Periyar undertook a rally in Salem in 1971 in which images of an unclothed Lord Ram and consort Sita were displayed

SC lets Karti withdraw ₹20 crore from registry

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed Congress MP Karti Chidambaram to withdraw ₹20 crore, which was deposited with the court registry as a condition for allowing him to travel abroad. The condition was imposed by the top court after the **Enforcement Directorate** opposed his plea for travel abroad. рті

Lt. Gen. S.K. Saini to be **Vice-Chief of Army Staff**

NEW DELHI Lt. Gen. S.K. Saini, currently the Southern Army Commander, will be the next Vice-Chief of Army Staff. He will assume charge on January 25, defence sources said here on Friday. He is from the 7 Jat Regiment. The post has been vacant since Gen. M.M. Naravane took over as the Chief of Army Staff on December 31.

INTERVIEW | VENKATRAMAN RAMAKRISHNAN

'Science depends on being able to question authority'

Anything that excludes communities and creates an atmosphere of intolerance is probably not good for science, says Nobel Laureate

History says that

you end up hurting

And I also think India has a

secular Constitution, and it's

not clear that having a reli-

gious criteria for a particular

law is going to hold up in

Science and technology al-

ways flourish, I think, in an

atmosphere that is inclusive

You have cautioned against

India. Do you see a rising

correlation between a new

culture of science, the polity

■ Whenever these people

make some outlandish state-

ment, tying some ancient

the rise of pseudo-science in

and tolerant.

and the shift to

majoritarianism?

when you start

DIVYA GANDHI

Nobel Laureate Venkatraman 'Venki' Ramakrishnan, who switched academic tracks to take up biology after a doctorate in physics, emphasises the need for an inclusive atmosphere and questioning of authority if science is to thrive in the country, citing the setback to German science during the Nazi years. He spoke in Bengaluru, where he will deliver a lecture as part of the TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences.

Could an understanding of the structure of the ribosome help in discovering new therapies that target antibioticresistant organisms? And has research hit a roadblock in creating a new class of antibiotics against superbugs?

■ There are many ways of targeting bacteria... In fact, about half of the natural antibiotics target the ribosome or general translational machinery. And when the structures came out, it was thought that they would be very useful to study how natural antibiotics bound to the ribosome and inhibited them. But then, that would also allow you to design better antibiotics that might be more effective against resistant bacteria, and possibly have fewer side effects.

I think the problem is that antibiotics are not a huge profit-maker necessarily because it costs about a billion dollars to develop a new medicine. And the problem is a new antibiotic is only given to people to whom old or generic antibiotics don't work. So, the patient pool is small, and also if it's any good, the patient is cured. It's not like a cholesterol or blood pressure drug that you have to keep taking the rest of your life.

The result is that for the last several decades, there has been no new class of antibiotics developed. So I question whether the business model is correct for developing new antibiotics. And, one has to remember that penicillin, the first of the big natural antibiotics, was actually developed by the British government in response to WW II with a massive effort at Oxford. There's no reason why governments and non-profit organisations should not invest heavily in antibiotic research, and I think they should do it before the problem becomes a huge crisis. We're already seeing superbugs. I think we always have to stay one step ahead of the bacteria, which will evolve to become resistant.

You recently made a strong statement against the Citizenship (Amendment)



Act. What made it important for you, as a scientist, an Indian-born scientist, to speak out?

■ I don't normally like to make statements about Indian politics; I like to stick to science. My concern about the CAA is - you know, technically it is not targeted at Indian Muslims – but it does send a message that somehow one religion is excluded, while others are okay. And the rationale is that the countries that people are coming from are Muslim countries, so why should them being Muslim actually be an issue?

Well, I think it could be an issue because they are looking at Muslims as a homogeneous group. And they are not a homogeneous group. And so I think, rather than spelling it out that way. they could have decided everything on a case-by-case basis.

in India take them at all seriously. I don't even know if the politicians who make these statements actually believe in it. But I think it's just generally bad to have people in authority make these pseudo-scientific statements because it brings India into ridicule. India then looks to be a sort of backward-looking, superstitious country, when, in fact, the majority of educated Indians and the majority of Indian scientists are very much like scientists anywhere else. becoming less open, and discriminatory,

Could laws that exclude communities eventually undermine science?

scripture to some major

scientific discovery, whether

it's nuclear weapons or stem

cells, I don't think scientists

■ History says that when you start becoming less open, and discriminatory, you end up hurting science; and the classic example, of course, is Nazi Germany, which effectively destroyed German science for probably two or three generations. It took about 50 years to recover. I think science flourishes best when people are free to talk, free to question ideas, free to question authority - because that is how progress is

Science really depends on being able to question authority. So, I think anything that excludes communities and creates an atmosphere of intolerance, is probably not a good thing for science. If you exclude a large fraction of the population, you're missing out on the talent in that population.

You are not a big fan of prizes because they apply a 'sports metaphor' to science; you have described the chronic hankering for a Nobel Prize, in your book, as 'Nobelitis'...

■ In sports, you can have a

very clear set of rules, and a

clear set of measurement. So if you have a 100 metre race, there's no question what the rules are, there's no question who came first, second and third; you can measure it. In science, when there is a big discovery, it is not always clear who the big contributors were, because often different people make contributions in different ways. So it's not always clear which was the important idea and it can be very subjective. For example, in the field of transcription, the Lasker Award went to one very good scientist, and the Nobel Prize went to a different, but also a very good, scientist. How could it be that distinguished expert juries picked totally different people in the same field? And so I think that's, in general, not a great thing. The argument for it is that it brings attention to science. And also, human beings like to have heroes and villains

and so they like these sort of prizes – to them that tells a more human story.

You have written in your book Gene Machine that you were extremely fortunate that your wife Vera Rosenberry, the children's book illustrator, could take on the responsibilities of childcare at home, allowing you to focus on academia. What can be done to help women scientists stay with research and get past the glass ceiling that often cuts short careers around the time of marriage and child

■ Unfortunately, this is a problem everywhere, not just India. I think there are a number of things that have to be done. One is, people should be allowed career breaks. First of all, we call it 'maternity leave' but the more modern way is to think of it as 'parental leave'. There's no reason why the husband shouldn't also be involved in childcare. And so the idea is to allow leave without penalty, so people can get back their job at the end of it. It is unfair to ask an individual employer necessarily to bear the costs of that. So it's better a government reimburses people for being on leave. Secondly, the question of childcare is very important. It's very important to have good childcare facilities, close to work.

Azam Khan's son gets no reprieve from SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

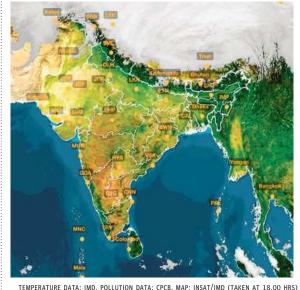
The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay an Allahabad High Court decision to annul the election of Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan's son to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. The High Court had declared Abdullah Azam Khan's election invalid on

the ground that he was underage to fight the 2017 Assembly polls.

However, a Bench headed by CJI Sharad A. Bobde issued notice to the Election Commission and Nawaz Ali Khan, who was the petitioner in the High Court, on an appeal filed by Mr. Abdullah, represented by senior advocate Kapil Sibal.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over Jharkand.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala		26.5	. 11.5	Kozhikode		32.2	.23.4
Ahmedabad		22.7	.10.7	Kurnool		32.1	.19.6
Aizawl		19.6	8.7	Lucknow	. 35.2	15.8	.13.6
Allahabad	0.8	.21.4	.14.8	Madurai		32.6	.21.0
Bengaluru		28.7	.15.8	Mangaluru		32.4	.21.0
Bhopal		–	–	Mumbai		25.3	.11.4
Bhubaneswar		30.0	.16.5	Mysuru		30.9	.16.0
Chandigarh	0.5	15.8	9.4	New Delhi	. 16.8	16.4	.11.3
Chennai		30.8	.20.2	Patna		24.4	.15.3
Coimbatore		30.9	.18.8	Port Blair		30.4	.25.5
Dehradun	8.6	.19.2	9.3	Puducherry		31.9	.19.6
Gangtok		.13.7	6.8	Pune		25.8	8.9
Goa		30.8	.18.3	Raipur		30.5	.16.3
Guwahati		.27.2	.11.1	Ranchi		27.4	.11.4
Hubballi		31.0	.18.0	Shillong		17.2	7.1
Hyderabad		–	.18.1	Shimla	3.6	9.0	0.6
Imphal		23.4	5.9	Srinagar		4.4	1.2
Jaipur		18.4	9.1	Thiruvananthapuram		32.1	.22.1
Kochi				Tiruchi		32.6	.21.0
Kohima		.24.2	5.4	Vijayawada		29.2	.20.6
Kolkata		29.4	.15.6	Visakhapatnam		29.2	.21.9
(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)							

Pollutants in the air you are breathing							
CITIES	50 ₂	NO_2	co	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	
Ahmedabad	29	.18	.31	147			
Bengaluru	13	.69	.92	–	90		
Chennai	67	.23	.50	124			
Delhi	12	201	.85	339	.207		
Hyderabad	2	.64	.30	88	85		
Kolkata	30	115	.27	336	.348		
Lucknow	8	.42	119	116			
Mumbai	9	.49	.36	91	.130		
Pune	93	.27	.89	120	.101		
			4.0				

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 323 indicating a hazardous level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

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

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

lizziness, 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

GSAT-30 gives India a communication boost

The 3,357-kg satellite, launched from Kourou, will replace the ageing INSAT-4A

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The nation's latest communication satellite, GSAT-30, was launched into space from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou at 2.35 a.m. IST on Friday.

The 3,357-kg satellite will replace INSAT-4A, which was launched in 2005 and marks the first mission of the year for Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The high-power satellite is equipped with 12 normal C band and 12 Ku band tran-

Sivan as saying, "GSAT-30 will provide DTH [direct to



Flying high: An Ariane 5 rocket carrying satellites, Eutelsat Konnect and GSAT-30, at Kourou in French Guiana. • AFP

support working of banks] ATMs, stock exchange, tele-

vision uplinking and teleport news gathering and e-governance applications. The sa-

tellite will also be used for bulk data transfer." ISRO opted for a foreign

launch as the GSAT-30 is much heavier than the 2,000-kg lifting capacity of its geostationary launch veh-

While the newer and more powerful GSLV-MkIII can lift up to 4,000 kg, the space agency plans to save the two or three upcoming MkIIIs for its first human space flight Gaganyaan of 2022 and two preceding crew-less trials, Dr. Sivan re-

The first Indian crew-less test flight is planned for later this year.

Govt. failed in e-mobility mission, says plea in SC

Court seeks response from Centre

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Friday sought the response of the government on a petition that alleges non-implementation of the National E-Mobility Mission Plan, 2020. The plan, initiated in 2012, had made several recommendations for the adoption of electric vehicles, including electric-powered government fleets and public transportation and subsidies for those who opt for electric and zero emission

A Bench led by Chief Jus-

tice Sharad A. Bobde directed that the Union Ministry of Surface Transport and Highways through its Minister Nitin Gadkari be impleaded in the case.

The petition was filed by NGOs Centre for PIL, Common Cause and Sitaram Jindal Foundation, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan. The petition contended that the governmental apathy has violated the der under Articles 14 and 21

fundamental rights of citizens to health and clean environment guaranteed un-

of the Constitution.

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giving full details of age, qualification with year of passing, experience, community, salary drawn and position being held along with copies of

testimonials towards proof for the same Applicants should enclose documentary proof for Date of Birth, Community Educational Qualifications, Class & Percentage of Marks, Experience, Salary

drawn, etc, along with the Bio-data form. Bio-data form with insufficient <u>documentary proof will be summarily rejected.</u>

Applications are invited for the post of Technical Officers on deputation basis in Finance (Inspection-Technical) Department

As per Notification No.1172682/Admn-C2/19/Fin. Dated 02.01.2020 the last date for receiving the application for empanelment of Technical officers on deputation basis in the Finance (Inspection-Technical) Department, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram is extended upto 31.01.2020. The details are published in the official website of (www.finance.kerala.gov.in) Finance Department.

Thiruvananthapuram 10.01.2020

Sd/- Mini V.R, Additional Secretary (Finance) (94/F4/2020/I&PR)

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Web: www.keralacashewboard.cor No: KCB/12/019/2020/GHN(4)

e-Tender Notice Kerala Cashew Board Limited invites e-tenders through e-procurement portal for import of 1000-3000 Metric Tonnes of quality Dried Cashew Nut of 2020 crop of

Last date for submission and uploading e-tenders: 1700 hours on 15th February 2020

Opening of e-tender : 1100 hours on 17th February 2020 All details can be viewed, downloaded and applied through the e-procurement portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

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

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by

death in people with heart or lung disease

Merger plan of

RSTV and LSTV

The merger of Rajya Sabha Television

(RSTV) and Lok Sabha Television

(LSTV) is in the final stages, with a six-

member committee expected to submit

a report by this month-end to Upper

House Chairman Venkaiah Naidu and

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The final

decision will be taken by them. There

has been an overwhelming demand

that the live transmission of the pro-

ceedings of the two Houses should not

The committee, constituted on No-

vember 7, consists of Prasar Bharati

Chairman Surya Prakash, Additional

Secretary to the RS Secretariat A. Rao,

the Lok Sabha Secretariat's Ganpati Bhatt, Financial Adviser to RSTV Shik-

ha Darbari, and CEOs of RSTV and

LSTV Manoj Kumar Pandey and Aash-

ish Joshi respectively. Its mandate was

"to work out the modalities and pre-

pare the guidelines for pooling resourc-

es, manpower and technology for the

The committee, sources said, was

weighing two options. The first was to

have a single channel and, during the Parliament sessions, to have a "var-

iant" to broadcast the live debate of

both the Houses. The second option,

was to continue with the two channels

but under an "integrated manage-

ment" with a common pool of techni-

An official said, "Parliament is in ses-

sion for close to 100 days in a year and

for the remaining period, we don't real-

Speaker Somnath Chatterjee. RSTV fol-

LSTV was launched in 2006 by

cal and human resources.

ly need two channels."

lowed this launch.

merger of the two channels".

Two options

in final stages

SOBHANA K. NAIR

be disrupted.

ISRO quoted Chairman K. connectivity to VSATs [that services, digital satellite

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No. SPP/HR/2019-20/

Vacancy Notice

Security Printing Press, Hyderabad invites applications from Retired Defence/Para Military/State Police personnel for filling up the following post on fixed tenure contract basis as per details given below:

SI. No.	Name of post	No. of vacancies		Upper Age limit (as on last date of application)
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Note: For complete details such as Qualification, age, experience, selection process, general information & instructions and other details including application form, please visit our website https://spphyderabad.spmcil.com.

Any change or Amendment to this vacancy notice will be posted on the SPP Hyd website only

Dy. General Manager (HR) & H.O.O (For Chief General Manager)

HIGH COURT OF DELHI: NEW DELHI (website: www.delhihighcourt.nic.in)

DELHI HIGHER JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION-2019 CORRIGENDUM

In continuation of this Court's notice published in various newspapers, on the website and elsewhere on 28.12.2019 whereby 19 vacancies [16 existing vacancies and 03 anticipated vacancies] have been advertised for Delhi Higher Judicial Service Examination-2019, it is hereby notified that the category wise bifurcation of 19 vacancies for Delhi Higher Judicial Service Examination - 2019 shall now be read

ad andon.						
Category	Break up o	Total No. of				
	Fresh	Anticipated	Vacancies			
General	14	03	17			
SC	02	00	02			
ST	00	00	00			
Total	16	03	19			

Note:-

Since there is no vacancy reserved for ST category in the current recruitment process as per the aforesaid revised category wise bifurcation of vacancies therefore, the candidates belonging to ST category would not be entitled for any relaxation in marks on account of being an ST candidate. However, such candidates belonging to ST category would be eligible to compete against the General vacancies and would be governed by the criteria applicable to the candidates of Genera Category, in order to be shortlisted for the next stage of the examination. Sd/

> (Manoi Jain) Registrar General 17.01.2020