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NEARBY



**Nripendra Misra to head Nehru Memorial Museum**

NEW DELHI  
As part of a full revamp of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library's executive council, Nripendra Misra, former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, has been appointed as the new chairperson.

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DIARY OF EVENTS 2019

'Diary of Events 2019', a special annual supplement listing important regional, national, international and sports field news developments during the year, will be published and distributed with The Hindu on Monday, January 20, 2020.

MAGAZINE ► 12 PAGES  
CLASSIFIEDS ► PAGE 6 & 7

## 2G mobile phones start ringing again in J&K

Internet remains suspended in Srinagar, seven other districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

All prepaid mobile connections and 2G mobile Internet services were restored in parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, even as the authorities' bid to provide limited access Internet has hit the 'whitelist' wall after poor speeds in four districts of Jammu made websites inaccessible.

"Voice and short messaging service (SMS) facility on all local prepaid SIM cards across J&K shall be restored on Saturday. 2G mobile data services on the post-paid mobiles for accessing white-listed sites shall be allowed in all 10 districts of Jammu division, besides Kupwara and Bandipora districts of the Kashmir Valley," Principal Secretary, Planning, and J&K government spokes-



Social media platforms and news portals continue to be barred in J&K. ■NISSAR AHMAD

man, Rohit Kansal, said in Jammu.

Telecom service providers would initiate the process for verification of credentials of prepaid subscribers "as per the norms applicable for post-paid connections," he said.

However, Internet will remain suspended in Srinagar

and seven other districts of the Valley.

**Fixed lines for IT firms**  
Mr. Kansal said information technology firms would also be provided with fixed line Net connectivity with the precautions directed by the Home department. The department has invoked Sub-Section (2) of Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 2 of the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, and decided to make "only 153 websites whitelist" available.

It called the action necessary "in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India" and "for maintaining public order in J&K".

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## Green nod for oil, gas exploration waived

This could spell lax oversight and affect farms & sea life, warn environmentalists

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

The Environment Ministry has exempted oil and gas firms, looking to conduct exploratory drilling, from seeking environmental clearance.

The clearance is for both on-shore and offshore drilling explorations and the process is an ecologically-intensive exercise that involves digging multiple wells and conducting seismic surveys offshore.

Until today, even exploratory surveys have merited the highest level of environmental scrutiny – called ca-



**Hurdles go:** A file photo of ONGC's exploratory drilling operation in Tiruvurur district of Tamil Nadu. ■B. VELANKANNI RAJ

tegory 'A' – that required project proponents to prepare an environment impact assessment (EIA) plan, have

it scrutinised by a Centrally constituted committee of experts and subject the proposal to a public hearing involv-

ing the locals of the proposed project site.

While public hearings, even for category A projects are frequently exempted if they are offshore, the new amendments demote exploratory projects to the category of 'B2'. This means it will be conducted by the States concerned and will not require an EIA.

The move is part of a larger process of decentralisation by the Centre in that it seeks to farm more regulatory actions to State and local units.

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## Alagiri says all is well between DMK, Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

After meeting DMK president M.K. Stalin on Saturday, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president K.S. Alagiri said there was no problem between the two alliance partners and differences, if any, had been sorted out.

Mr. Alagiri met Mr. Stalin at Anna Arivalayam in the wake of the recent tensions between the two parties. The Congress leader insisted that the alliance would continue for the 2021 Assembly elections and beyond.

In a statement, Mr. Stalin took note of the clarification issued by Mr. Alagiri and said that in future, cadre of both parties should avoid talking about differences of opinion in public.

The friction between the alliance partners was sparked off by Mr. Alagiri and Congress Legislature Party leader K.R. Ramasamy publicly accusing the Dravidian party of not adhering to "coalition dharma" in the recently held rural local body polls. The statement attracted a sharp reaction from DMK treasurer Duraimurugan, who said that the Congress was free to leave the alliance.

DMK Parliamentary Party leader T.R. Baalu also criticised the statement and the party boycotted a meeting called by the Congress in New Delhi.

## Relief for protesters in Muzaffarnagar

Around 40 people granted bail so far, serious charges dropped against many

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

Almost a month after the police accused around 260 people of rioting, arson and attempt to murder during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in Muzaffarnagar and arrested over 80 persons, local courts have granted bail to almost 40 of them.

On Saturday, three students of madrasa Hoja Ilimiya were granted bail by Chief Judicial Magistrate Ravikant Yadav after serious charges, including Section 307, were dropped against them. Only Sections 188 (violation of Section 144) and 143 (unlawful assembly) remain against them.

On Friday, district judge



The anti-CAA stir in Muzaffarnagar on December 20, 2019, saw clashes between protesters and the police. ■FILE PHOTO

Sanjay Kumar Pachauri allowed the bail pleas of 14 arrested in connection with the protest on December 20, 2019, and directed that they be released after furnishing sureties of ₹1 lakh each.

Ten students of Hoja Ilimiya, who were arrested from

Sadaat Hostel, were granted bail earlier this month. The police did not find any evidence against them except for the violation of prohibitory orders. Five students of the same madrasa and four government officials were earlier released under Sec-

## A decade-long drive for road safety

Kuldeep Janghu has put reflector tapes on 5 lakh vehicles

ASHOK KUMAR  
GURUGRAM

Moved by the death of a man in a road accident 10 years ago, Kuldeep Janghu took it upon himself to do "his bit" to prevent the loss of lives in accidents due to poor visibility.

A decade later, the general secretary of Maruti Udyog Kamgaar Union, running a singular campaign against road accidents due to fog in winter, has fixed reflector tapes on around five lakh motorised and non-motorised vehicles, including bicycles and rickshaws.

"It was a foggy morning

and the driver could not see a tree almost in the middle of the road. The car hit the tree and the driver and three occupants sustained serious injuries. The driver died after three days and the others remained hospitalised for months," said Mr. Janghu, recounting the accident that prompted him to prevent such "avoidable" tragedies. He decided to put reflector tapes on vehicles, trees, boulders and electric poles on the roadsides to prevent accidents due to poor visibility.

"To begin with, I bought a 50-metre-long reflector

tape, which cost me around ₹7,500 a decade ago. I put tapes on around 10,000 vehicles in the first year and the number kept increasing every year. Several like-minded people from my company and friends have contributed to my campaign time and again. My company has also helped me on a couple of occasions. But I bear the maximum expenditure," he said.

Claiming that he had covered around one lakh vehicles this season alone, Mr. Janghu said he would also fix the reflector tapes on the central verge and sharp and blind turns.

## Two convicted for 2013 rape of Delhi minor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A special court in Delhi on Saturday convicted two men of raping a five-year-old girl at Gandhi Nagar in East Delhi in 2013, observing that the victim had experienced exceptional depravity and extreme brutality at their hands. Arguments on the quantum of sentence will be heard on January 30.

Stating that the case had shaken the collective conscience of society, Additional sessions judge Naresh Kumar Malhotra of the Karkardooma court held Manoj Shah and Pradeep Kumar guilty.

The gruesome incident, which had triggered widespread protests, took place on April 15, 2013. Police said the two men were inebriated when Shah lured the girl into his room. They then subjected her to unnatural sex and also attempted to strangle her, as alleged.

The missing victim was located after about 40 hours in a room on the ground floor of the same building where her family lived on the first floor.

The police seized three candles and a hair-oil bottle that were inserted inside the girl.

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## Delhi Congress names 54 candidates in first list

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Saturday released its first list of 54 candidates for the February 8 Assembly elections.

The list is a mix of Congress veterans, leaders who have switched over from the

## Odisha police win friends, trust with a skating rink

Facility on police station campus helps forge bonds

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

A skating rink in Odisha's backward and remote Nuapada district, which lacks even a decent community park, appears incongruous – a facility out of sync with its bucolic setting.

But for the State police, the modern recreational facility set up on the campus of a police station is a means to glide straight into the hearts of the people in a region affected by left wing extremism via the steady stream of children who visit the rink everyday.

### IPS officer's idea

The idea of having a banked skating rink in Dharambandha, a tiny panchayat bordering Chhattisgarh, unavailable even in many of the State's urban centres, took shape when Smit Parmar, a young IPS officer, assumed charge as the Superintendent of Police of Nuapada. Mr. Parmar was recently transferred out as the SP of Mayurbhanj district.

"We wanted a structure that could bring the police and the people closer. There was a vacant place on the Dharambandha pol-



**Paving the way:** Children at the rink on the premises of a police station in Nuapada district. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ice station campus. We decided to lay a skating track where children could play in close proximity to the police establishment and grow up without harbouring a fear of security forces," said Mr. Parmar.

### SPECIAL

The outlawed CPI (Maoist) considers Dharambandha part of its Mainpur division. A few years ago, security personnel were afraid to move alone in the area and a sub-inspector of police was killed by the ultras. A company of the India Reserve Battalion is

now stationed in the region for area domination.

Security forces find it difficult to challenge Maoists without cooperation from the people. The extremists often cross over to Dharambandha for refuge after incidents in neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

"Local children unfailingly come to the rink for a round on the skating board. When these children grow up, we are confident that they will be friends of the police as they are watching us from close quarters," said the IPS officer.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

## VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

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(Strategy to Achieve Success : Interactive Session) by

## Prof. D.P. Agarwal

Former Chairman, UPSC

### DAF SESSION : by

Shri M.C. Gupta (Retd. IAS), Shri Anil K. Sinha (Retd. IAS)

**Date : 23 January 2020**

**Time : 11:30 a.m.**

**Venue : Hotel Jay Pee Siddharth, 3 Rajendra Place, Delhi.**

## MOCK INTERVIEW CSE-2019

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<b>Shri Anil K. Sinha (Retd. IAS)</b> * Executive Director National Institute of Disaster Management Govt. of India * Founder Program Advisor International Recovery Platform / UNDP Japan	<b>Dr. G.C. Srivastava (Retd. IAS)</b> * Ex-member Secretary 12th Finance Commission * Vice Chairman Central Administrative Tribunal
<b>Prof. Rajveer Sharma (Retd. Prof. of Political Science D.U.)</b>	<b>Shri B.B. Srivastava (Retd. IAS)</b> Secretary, Central Information Commission Delhi
<b>Shri S.S. Chaudhary</b> Vice Chairman Vajirao & Reddy Institute	<b>Shri A.K. Upadhyay (Retd. IPS)</b>
<b>Prof. V. Gautam</b> (Retd. Prof. of Environmental Science & Biotech D.U.)	

**Mock Interview Date : 24, 25 & 31 January, 2 & 3 February 2020**

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