

IN BRIEF



**ED issues summons to senior AirAsia executives**  
NEW DELHI  
The ED has issued fresh summons to senior functionaries of AirAsia airlines for recording their statements in connection with a money laundering case. Among those summoned are AirAsia's CEO Tony Fernandes (in photo), who has been asked to appear before the investigating officer.

**Periyar statue vandalised in Kancheepuram district**  
CHENNAI  
Tension prevailed in Kaliyapettai of Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram district after a statue of social reformer Periyar was vandalised. The statue was installed by local residents 20 years ago. The face and a hand of the statue were damaged. The damaged portions were subsequently covered with white cloth. Security was beefed up following the incident.

**Pleas for FIRs against Rajinikanth withdrawn**  
CHENNAI  
The Madras High Court on Friday permitted two office-bearers of the Dravidar Viduthala Kazhagam, from Chennai and Coimbatore, to withdraw the petitions they had filed seeking registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) against actor Rajinikanth over a speech he had made regarding a 1971 incident involving Dravidar Kazhagam founder E.V. Ramasamy alias Periyar.

**GoAir suspends flights, cites shortage of aircraft**  
MUMBAI  
GoAir has announced the suspension of several flights owing to non-availability of aircraft. The shortage is due to grounding of planes for lack of engines and non-delivery by the aircraft manufacturer. The airline, however, did not specify the number of flights cancelled or the number in shortage. The demand-supply gap in aircraft will last till March.

# Jail officials not handing over documents to file mercy plea

Nirbhaya case convicts' lawyer moves Delhi court

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI**  
An advocate appearing for three of the four death row convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case moved a Delhi court on Friday alleging that the Tihar jail authorities are not handing over certain documents and this is causing delay in filing their mercy and curative petitions.

A.P. Singh moved an application alleging that the jail authorities are yet to give the documents which are required to file the mercy petition for Vinay Kumar Sharma, 26, and curative petitions for Akshay Kumar Singh, 31, and Pawan Singh, 25.

The plea is likely to be taken up for hearing on Saturday.

The Supreme court recently dismissed the curative petitions of other two con-



**Bitter memories:** Women carrying a floral tribute at an event in London to mark the anniversary of the incident. ■ REUTERS

victs – Vinay and Mukesh Singh, 32.

Mukesh's mercy petition was rejected by the President earlier this month. The hanging of all four is to take place on February 1 at 6 a.m. according to the court order.

In his petition, the lawyer said he had expressed “an urgent will to file a mercy petition before the relevant authorities and undertook several steps to obtain relevant information to file it”.

He said Vinay wanted to attach his personal diary

containing 70 pages with the mercy petition and had asked the jail authorities to provide it.

However, the diary is yet to be provided and because of this the plea could not be filed, he said.

The counsel said he had also sought some documents of convicts Pawan and Akshay which have not been provided.

The petition sought a direction to jail authorities to provide the documents on “an urgent basis”.

## Kin informed of rejection of mercy plea

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

Tihar jail authorities have written a letter to the family members of Nirbhaya case convict Mukesh, informing them about the rejection of his mercy plea, said an officer on Friday.

“As per the procedure, we have informed the family members of Mukesh about the rejection of his mercy plea. We have also asked all the four convicts to tell when they want to meet their families before February 1,” said the officer.

All the four convicts will be hanged at 6 a.m. on February 1 as per the court order.

“Hangman Pawan will reach Tihar on January 30. He will stay there till the execution,” the officer added.

# Centre seeks to revamp child care scheme in urban areas

NITI Aayog will develop draft policy, which will be circulated to the Ministries for consultations

**JAGRITI CHANDRA NEW DELHI**

Urban areas are likely to receive a renewed focus under the government's ICDS programme, which provides for anganwadis or day-care centres across the country for delivery of nutrition and pre-school education.

The government's think tank, the NITI Aayog, has prepared a draft working paper, which once approved would be circulated to different ministries for consultations. These include the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Urban Housing and Affairs and the

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

“Health and ICDS models that work in rural areas may not work in urban areas because of higher population density, transportation challenges and migration,” a government official familiar with the deliberations, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told *The Hindu*.

### ‘Other models’

“Because of these issues it may not be possible for a community worker to keep in contact with the beneficiaries, which she is able to achieve in rural settings. We have seen some models in India, and in other countries



Urban areas have far fewer anganwadis as compared to rural areas.

and we are trying to synthesize learnings from those,” the official added.

According to government data from 2018, of the 14 lakh anganwadis across the coun-

try there are only 1.38 lakh anganwadis in urban areas. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) provide for anganwadis or day-care centres which deliver a package of six services including supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition and health education, immunisation, health check-up and referral services to hospitals.

### Urban challenges

The first-ever pan-India survey on the nutrition status of children, highlighted that malnutrition among children in urban India is characterised by relatively poor levels of breastfeeding as

# ‘Indian scientists must try to work on interesting subjects’

Potential to do crucial work in the country: Nobel laureate

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Young scientists in India should work on doing “important and interesting” science and it was possible to be based in India and do groundbreaking work without “lowering the level” of the science attempted, Nobel Laureate and President of the Royal Society Venkatesan Ramakrishnan, said at a lecture here.

His talk, ‘My Adventures in the Ribosome’ was delivered as part of the 10th edition of the TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences 2020. “There are a wealth of problems considering the biodiversity of India that need investigation,” he said.

His address focussed on his contribution to the role of deciphering the structure of the ribosome. This is the biological machinery necessary to transform the genetic code, which is stored as DNA, into proteins that go



**Science push:** ‘Venki’ Ramakrishnan delivering the lecture at the AIIMS Auditorium in New Delhi on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

on to make up our bodies and sustain its processes.

Dr. Ramakrishnan referenced heavily from his memoir, *The Gene Machine*, to narrate personal anecdotes: about switching from physics to biology as a graduate student because he intuited that he'd likely be able to make a significant contribution, as well as reflect on the practice of science saying, “Scientists are neither Spocks nor saints”. He added that the “Nobel is mistaken for greatness.”

The Nobel laureate dwelt

on the rivalry among scientists around the world to decipher the structure of the ribosome. Groups in Israel and at Yale University, at various points, appeared to have a lead on his group. So he took the “risky” step of moving to a new country – the United Kingdom – and taking a 40% pay cut. However, the decision paid off as he was able to solve the structure of the ribosome and was instrumental in bringing to a wider audience the significance, Dr. Ramakrishnan said.

# CJI wants speedy resolution of cases

Bobde lays emphasis on tax disputes

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Lower pendency of cases inspires public faith in the judiciary, and the use of technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), in the judicial work can help in speedy justice, but it can never replace human discretion in just decision-making, Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde said on Friday.

Speaking at the 79th foundation day of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, he said that while tax evasion was unjust to fellow Indian citizens, arbitrary or excessive taxation resulted in social injustice by a government.

He said speedy resolution of tax disputes would act as an incentive to taxpayers



S.A. Bobde

and free the funds locked in litigation.

“A just and speedy dispute resolution is perceived as a tax incentive by the taxpayer. To the tax collector, an efficient tax judiciary assures that demands arising out of legitimate assessment are not strangled in delayed litigation,” he said.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



**Forecast for Saturday:** Shallow to moderate fog likely over isolated parts of West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Assam, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	25.7	8.3		Kozhikode.....	35.2	24.0	
Ahmedabad.....	28.0	13.2		Kurnool.....	34.2	19.5	
Aizawl.....	16.7	5.6		Lucknow.....	21.3	7.5	
Allahabad.....	21.9	8.4		Madurai.....	32.8	22.6	
Bangaluru.....	31.3	17.0		Mangaluru.....	37.3	23.2	
Bhopal.....				Mumbai.....	34.5	19.8	
Bhubaneswar.....	29.6	21.1		Mysuru.....	30.8	20.0	
Chandigarh.....	19.4	7.7		New Delhi.....	21.4	8.6	
Chennai.....	31.0	20.4		Patna.....	22.0	8.6	
Coimbatore.....	32.4	19.4		Port Blair.....	30.8	23.5	
Dehradun.....	23.6	4.9		Puducherry.....	30.4	19.4	
Dangtok.....	23.6	4.9		Pune.....	30.9	15.9	
Goa.....	35.6	21.4		Raipur.....	28.0	15.0	
Guwahati.....	19.3	10.9		Ranchi.....	23.4	8.6	
Hubbli.....	32.0	18.0		Shillong.....	11.2	1.2	
Hyderabad.....	30.8	15.8		Shimla.....	14.0	4.5	
Imphal.....	19.5	3.70		Srinagar.....			
Jaipur.....	23.1	7.4		Thiruvananthapuram.....	34.1	25.4	
Kochi.....	32.6	24.8		Tiruchi.....	32.8	21.4	
Kohima.....	24.2	6.4		Vijayawada.....	32.5	20.6	
Kolkata.....	24.3	15.1		Visakhapatnam.....	29.2		

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)  
**Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday**  
CITIES SO<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>2</sub> CO PM<sub>2.5</sub> PM<sub>10</sub> CODE  
Ahmedabad..... 09 50 51 181  
Bangaluru..... 46 64 10 215  
Chennai..... 8 43 37 246 207  
Delhi..... 23 76 39 180  
Hyderabad..... 13 81 32 224 168  
Kolkata..... 12 24 106 49  
Lucknow..... 16 38 37 214 143  
Mumbai..... 74 21 57 195 142  
Pune..... 9 61 60 158 152  
Visakhapatnam.....  
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Guwahati, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 261 indicating a hazardous level of pollution. In contrast, Malhar, Madhya Pradesh, a healthier AQI score of 26.  
Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
SO<sub>2</sub>: 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.  
NO<sub>2</sub>: 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<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>: 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

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the government to respond to a petition seeking implementation of Section 176(IA) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which provides for mandatory judicial inquiry in cases of death, disappearance or rape in police and judicial custody.

A Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman issued notice to the government on the petition made by activist Suhas Chakma, who pointed out that since the enactment of Section 176(IA) in 2005, the National Human Rights Commission has recorded 24,043 custodial deaths/rapes between 2005-

2006 and 2018-2019.

Mr. Chakma said the National Crimes Records Bureau's annual reports from 2005 to 2017 state that judicial inquiry was not conducted in about 80% of the cases recorded by it.

The reports further state that with respect to 476 cases of “death or disappearance of persons remanded in police custody by court,” 266 cases were registered and 54 policemen were chargesheeted, but not a single policeman was convicted. Out of the 827 cases of death or disappearance of persons in police custody without court remand, judicial inquiry was ordered only in 166 cases – 20% of the total cases.

# Schools in Odisha's Jajpur remain closed as elephant runs amok

Officials fear it could enter human habitation

**STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR**

Hundreds of schools remained closed in Jajpur district of Odisha on Friday as an elephant trampled two persons to death.

The district administration on Thursday declared a holiday for primary and high schools in the Korei, Danagadi and Sukinda blocks, apprehending that the elephant could veer towards habitations.

**Second attack**  
Ishwar Das of Godipatana and Chintamani Ram of Radhapatana died in an attack, three days after the elephant killed a person.



A team has been formed to track the elephant. Photo for representational purpose.

The Forest and Environment Department has constituted a team to track the elephant.

“We have planned to tranquillise it,” Debendra Pat-

naik, a Forest Ranger of Jajpur Road, said. The loss of human lives in elephant attacks in the State has crossed the 100-mark, for the first time, in the current year, between April and March.

### 102 deaths

According to Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO), which keeps a tab on the human-elephant conflict, 102 persons have died.

“Such a high number of human deaths has only pushed villagers to retaliate. This is contributing to the alarming number of unnatural deaths of elephants...,” WSO secretary Biswajit Mohanty said.

**Managing Director Jyotsna Suri.**

### Assets abroad

The search operation has so far resulted in the seizure of unaccounted assets valued at ₹24.93 crore, including ₹71.5 lakh in cash, jewellery worth ₹23 crore and expensive watches valued at ₹1.2 crore, said the statement. Foreign assets include investment in a U.K. hotel, immovable properties in the U.K. and the UAE, and deposits with foreign banks.

“Evidence seized during the search reveals that a large amount of black money was stashed abroad by the group, through the mechanism of Trusts, formed in early 1990s in tax havens,” it said.

**CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY [C-MET]**  
(Scientific Society, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India)  
HQs: Sy.No.34/2B, Panchwati, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, NCL(P.O.), PUNE - 411 008 (Mah.) Website: [www.cmet.gov.in](http://www.cmet.gov.in)

Advertisement No. 1/2020					
C-MET invites applications from Indian nationals possessing excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the following posts in its Laboratories at Pune, Hyderabad and Thrissur on Direct Recruitment/transfer (Absorption) basis :					
Sl. No.	Name of Post & Pay Matrix Level	No. of Posts	Reservation	Mode of Recruitment	Age Limit (as on 25.02.2020) DR/ToA/Absorption
1	<b>DIRECTOR</b> PML - 13A Rs. 1,31,100 - 2,16,600	01	UR	DR/ToA	50
2	<b>SCIENTIST 'B'</b> (ET - II), PML - 10 Rs. 56,100 - 1,77,500	03	2 UR and 1 OBC (NC) (Out of 3 posts 1 post Reserved for HH) Backlog Vacancy. If suitable candidate is not available, then candidate with locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy will be considered for filling the post.	DR	35
3	<b>SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT - IV</b> PML - 6 Rs. 35,400 - 1,12,400	01	UR	DR	30
4	<b>FINANCE OFFICER*</b> PML - 10 Rs. 56,100 - 1,77,500	01	UR	DR/ Absorption	35
* Pending approval of GC DR = Direct Recruitment, ToA = Transfer(absorption), UR = Unreserved, OBC (NC) = Other backward classes (Non Creamy Layer) For application format & other details, please visit our <a href="http://www.cmet.gov.in">website www.cmet.gov.in</a> LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: 25.2.2020 and for Specific Regions 10.3.2020 <b>Sd/- Registrar</b>					