



**Modi likely to meet Mamata in Kolkata**  
KOLKATA  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee are likely to meet on January 10-11 at the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the Kolkata port. This is his first visit to the city following the 2019 Lok Sabha election victory.

**Woman files plea, claims she is singer's daughter**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
A 46-year-old woman, Karmala Modex, filed a petition in a Kerala court, claiming that she was the daughter of singer Anuradha Paudwal, and sought a ₹50 crore compensation from her biological parents, for allegedly "denying her the childhood and life she was entitled to." PTI

**Punjab MLA booked in chit fund cheating case**  
JABALPUR  
A case was filed against a Congress MLA from Punjab and two others after some residents of Jabalpur alleged irregularities in a chit fund scheme, police said on Friday. The investors claimed they had been cheated of ₹96 lakh, after which MLA Pritam Singh, director of the firm, and managers Rakesh and Kamal Kishore Sharma were booked, police said. PTI

**Centre approves 2,636 auto charging stations**  
NEW DELHI  
The Centre has approved setting up of 2,636 charging stations in 62 cities across the country under the FAME India scheme, which will encourage original equipment manufacturers to launch new electric vehicle models, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Friday. Of the 2,636 stations, 1,633 will be fast charging stations. About 14,000 chargers will be installed across the selected cities. PTI

# NHRC tells Rajasthan to explain Kota deaths

Rights body wants State to file report within four weeks

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued a notice to the Rajasthan government in connection with the deaths of over 100 children at the government-run J.K. Lon hospital in Kota in December. Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the Commission issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, asking for a detailed report within four weeks.

**‘Human rights violated’**  
"The Commission has observed that the contents of the media reports, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights. The painful deaths of children in such a large number is a matter of concern for the Commission," an NHRC statement said. According to the reports, as many as 10 children died in just 48 hours between December 23 and 24, 2019 at the hospital. Meanwhile, State Health Minister Raghu Sharma and



**Awaiting relief:** Sick children with their families at the government-run J.K. Lon Hospital in Kota on Friday. • PTI

## Protests erupt at hospital

**ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL**  
KOTA  
Protests erupted outside J.K. Lon Hospital here on Friday over infant deaths, leading to the detention of a few demonstrators. The action was taken as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order in the area, said Rajesh Kumar, Kota Additional Superintendent of Police.

Transport Minister Pratap Khachriya were on Friday given a "warm welcome" by hospital officials, who rolled out a carpet for their visit.

## ‘Over 1,000 deaths in U.P.’

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LUCKNOW  
Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said that over a thousand children have died in the last year in Gorakhpur. Slamming the Chief Minister, he said: "Yogi Adityanath is worried about Kota deaths. When will he be worried about the Gorakhpur deaths?"

However, a senior hospital employee said that the carpet was spread to "let it dry" and not to welcome the ministers.

# Six Rajasthan BSP MLAs join Congress

Move follows Mayawati's Kota poser

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

A day after Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati attacked the Congress over the infant deaths in a government hospital in Congress-ruled Rajasthan, six BSP lawmakers from the State formally joined the Congress after meeting party president Sonia Gandhi on Friday.

Stepping up her attack on Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Ms. Mayawati had demanded his resignation for making insensitive remarks on the issue.

**‘Shameful remarks’**  
Charging Mr. Gehlot with making political statements that were irresponsible and unsympathetic, Ms. Mayawati tweeted: "This is highly shameful." The BSP chief added that "Mr. Gehlot be dismissed and replaced by a new dispensation otherwise more women will lose their children." On Thursday, Ms. Mayawati also attacked Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for being silent on the infant deaths and not visiting the mothers who lost their children. Though the Congress



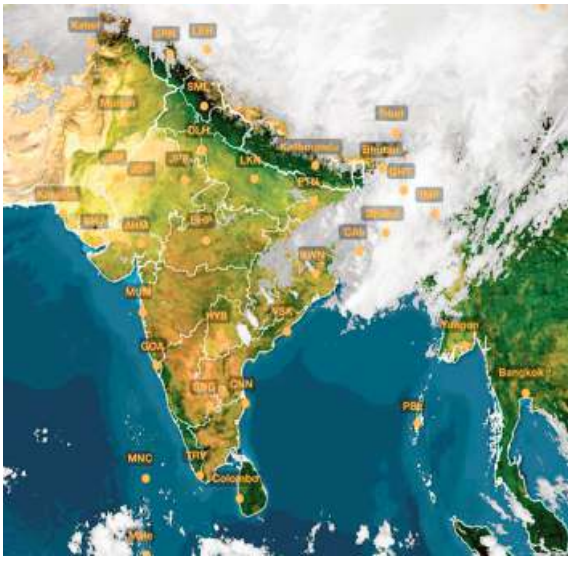
Mayawati

didn't get into a war of words, it seems to have reacted by making all the six BSP legislators join the party.

"The six MLAs met the Congress president and formally took the Congress membership. They also told the Congress president that they would support the party unconditionally," said All India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge for Rajasthan Avinash Pande. Earlier too, the six BSP legislators had extended their 'unconditional support' to the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan. At least 100 infants have died at the government-run J.K. Lon hospital in Kota in the past month.

## 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 Saturday:** Cold wave conditions and ground frost likely in some parts over Punjab, Saurashtra, Kutch and north Madhya Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with hail and lightning likely at isolated places over sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	4.9	20.0	16.0	Kozhikode	—	35.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	25.0	11.0	Kurnool	—	32.0	20.0
Aizawl	—	—	—	Lucknow	1.8	20.0	13.0
Allahabad	4.0	23.0	14.0	Madurai	—	32.0	23.0
Bengaluru	—	28.0	18.0	Mangaluru	—	33.0	22.0
Bhopal	—	20.0	13.0	Mumbai	—	—	—
Bhubaneswar	8.0	23.0	18.0	Mysuru	—	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	23.0	7.0	New Delhi	—	23.0	8.0
Chennai	—	31.0	24.0	Patna	—	23.0	12.0
Coimbatore	—	32.0	23.0	Port Blair	—	30.0	26.0
Dehradun	0.1	19.0	5.0	Puducherry	—	32.0	22.0
Gangtok	—	11.0	5.0	Pune	—	27.0	14.0
Goa	—	32.0	21.0	Rajpur	0.5	21.0	14.0
Guwahati	—	—	—	Ranchi	16.6	21.0	12.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	19.0	Shillong	—	—	—
Hyderabad	—	—	—	Shimla	—	—	—
Imphal	—	—	—	Srinagar	—	7.0	-3.0
Jaipur	—	22.0	10.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	24.0
Kochi	—	32.0	25.0	Tiruchi	—	33.0	24.0
Kohima	—	—	—	Vijayawada	—	28.0	21.0
Kolkata	9.3	20.0	15.0	Visakhapatnam	0.8	26.0	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

### Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	43	16	41	133	118	■
Bengaluru	10	40	19	36	56	■
Chennai	8	29	91	66	—	■
Delhi	25	143	46	460	405	■
Hyderabad	16	44	51	69	—	■
Kolkata	9	77	25	204	142	■
Lucknow	13	33	58	385	—	■
Mumbai	8	60	31	246	133	■
Pune	81	32	78	108	97	■
Visakhapatnam	9	37	55	92	94	■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 418 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 33.

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.

**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 death in people with heart or lung disease

# President accepts Allahabad University V-C's resignation

Rattan Lal Hangloo faced allegations of misconduct

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignation of Allahabad University Vice-Chancellor Rattan Lal Hangloo and ordered an enquiry into allegations of financial, academic and administrative irregularities against him, said officials of Ministry of Human Resource Development on Friday. Mr. Hangloo had resigned on Wednesday. "The President has directed to conduct an enquiry into the allegations of finan-

cial, academic and administrative irregularities, including the recommendations contained in the interim report of the National Commission for Women regarding alleged misconduct against Mr. Hangloo," an HRD Ministry official said. Mr. Hangloo has been under the scanner since 2016 for alleged financial and academic irregularities. He was also summoned by the National Commission for Women last week over allegations of improper handling of sexual harassment com-

plaints and lack of grievance redress mechanism for women students. "I resigned because baseless enquiries were initiated against me. On several occasions it was proved that there was no substance in the complaints," Mr. Hangloo said in a statement. He had earlier served as Vice-Chancellor of Kalyani University in West Bengal. However, Mr. Hangloo quit the post following a series of spats with the State government and university employees.

# Odisha police officer arrested for sexually harassing complainant

**STAFF REPORTER**  
BHUBANESWAR

An assistant sub-inspector of police was arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a woman during the course of the investigation into a complaint by her in Odisha's Puri district. The official, identified as Chittaranjan Das, ASI at the Balanga police station, was detained by the Pipili

police station following a complaint lodged against him by the woman with the sub-divisional police officer.

The woman has alleged that the investigating officer had taken her to his official quarters, where she was subjected to sexual harassment.

The incident allegedly took place in April last

year, said Arun Kumar Jena, Additional Superintendent of Police.

"As per the process, a medical examination of the victim will be conducted and her statement under Section 164 of the CrPC will be recorded," he said.

Das would be presented in court, said the State police in a statement.