



Police inspect Lalu's ward at hospital

RANCHI
A team of senior police officers on Sunday inspected the ward where jailed Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad is undergoing treatment at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences. "It was a general inspection," said an officer. PTI

Navy kicks off 'Maha-Navy Connect'

MUMBAI
The Navy on Sunday launched a first-ever three-dimensional expedition to promote the heritage of India and spread awareness on coastal security among the sea-side communities in Maharashtra, said an official spokesperson. The expedition extends from Arnala Fort, the northernmost fort in Palghar district, built by the then Portuguese rulers, to Sindhudurg Fort.

Police officer charged with sexual harassment

GUWAHATI
An IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, Gaurav Upadhyay, who is currently posted as SP in Karbi Anglong district, was charged with sexually assaulting a minor girl on December 31. A case was filed against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act on Friday, at Guwahati's all women's police station.

Puducherry CM 'quashes' Governor Bedi's order

PUDUCHERRY
Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy has issued an order declaring as "illegal" and "null and void" an order of Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi annulling the appointment of State Election Commissioner T.M. Balakrishnan. He also directed Chief Secretary Ashwani Kumar to ignore Ms. Bedi's earlier order.

NAL wants govt. push for Saras takeoff

It says Centre should buy at least 50-60 Saras Mk2 aircraft to make production commercially viable

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The government needs to be the "launch customer" to make Saras Mk2 commercially viable, the National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL), which has developed the first indigenous light transport aircraft, told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology.

The 19-seater aircraft, developed with a target cost of ₹50 crore, is at least 20-25% lower in cost than other aircraft in the similar category.

The aircraft has been in the making for long. The first prototype flew in 2004. But without the initial push from the government, the manufacturing capacity required for commercial production could not be set up, the NAL said.

On a five-day tour of ISRO



Taking wing: A Saras aircraft participating in the biennial AERO India show in February 2019. The 19-seater Mk2 will be the first indigenous light transport aircraft. • FILE PHOTO

facilities from December 25 to 30, the committee members visited the NAL on December 28 and were briefed about the aircraft. Later, NAL Director Jitendra J. Jadhav sent a report on the plan for commercial production. Committee chairperson and

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh forwarded the report to Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu.

"Our job is to study and recommend. We cannot and should not step into the domain of the executive," Mr. Ramesh said, explaining why

he forwarded the report to Mr. Naidu.

Presently, the NAL has only one order from the Indian Air Force for 15 aircraft.

Connectivity plans

The NAL has been pitching Saras Mk-2 for the govern-

ment's UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), since it has the capacity to operate in "ill-equipped", "semi-prepared" and "unpaved airstrips". The scheme, launched in October 2016, is aimed at linking areas that have no air connectivity.

The NAL has said in its report to Mr. Ramesh that the government should be the "launch customer", and place an order for at least 50-60 aircraft, which can be used for VIP services or tackling emergencies in times of natural calamities.

"With the firm commitment for procurement from the government, industries will come forward to set up manufacturing infrastructure. This will also push the growth of the micro, small and medium enterprises and allied service sector," Mr. Jadhav said in his report.

CIC website inaccessible again outside India

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

While the website of the Central Information Commission (CIC) has been inaccessible in many countries since the beginning of the year, Chief Information Commissioner Sudhir Bhargava says there has been no policy decision to block the website outside India.

The CIC website, cic.gov.in, offers facilities to file appeals online, as well as a database of all appeals and decisions.

On Sunday, Indian citizens living in the United States, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Vietnam told *The Hindu* they could not access the site. RTI activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd),

currently in the U.S., said he had been unable to access the site when trying to file an appeal on New Year's Day, and had informed CIC officials as well as National Informatics Centre (NIC).

However, Mr Bhargava told *The Hindu*, "It is just a glitch," adding that no specific decision has been taken to make the website inaccessible outside India.

Commodore Batra says after a similar instance in August 2018, he had filed an RTI request seeking the reasons behind the denial.

The response had merely said: "Due to some unknown technical error, the access to the CIC website through some of the channels was not available."

Army to sign MoU for 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles

They will be manufactured by an Indo-Russian joint venture

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Army is likely to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a month for the procurement of over 7.5 lakh AK-203 assault rifles, which are to be manufactured locally by an India-Russia joint venture (JV), a Defence source said. The Defence Ministry has already floated a Request For Proposal for the supply of 6.71 lakh rifles.

"About 1 lakh rifles will come directly from Russia and the remaining will be manufactured by the JV in India. The MoU should be



About 1 lakh rifles will be manufactured in Russia and the remaining in India.

signed in a month," an official said.

The rifles will be manufactured by the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited

(IRRPL) at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh. The facility is being set up by the Ordnance Factories Board from the Indian side, and Rosoboron Exports and Kalashnikov on the Russian side.

The Army has appointed Major General Sanjeev Senger as the Chief Executive Officer of IRRPL.

In addition to the AK-203, the Army recently began inducting the first batch of 10,000 SIG-716 assault rifles.

The force has been looking to replace the indigenous INSAS rifles, which are currently in use, with modern rifles.

'Investors wary of uncertain tax administration in India'

Association flags existence of multiple tax regimes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Uncertainty in tax administration is one of the key threats to private investments in the country, the Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association said in a presentation made a Parliamentary panel on Finance on Friday.

The presentation accessed by *The Hindu* lists five major threats to private investors in the country. The first is "increased frictional costs on capital mobility, including dividend distribution tax, buy-back tax and so on, which diminishes returns prospects," the association noted. A similar demand was recently made by



India was at 63rd position for Ease of Doing Business across the world in 2019.

Association of National Exchanges Members of India.

The second point raised by the association is "uncertainty in tax administration". The association told the members that there are

multiple tax regimes within a single structure.

The group also pointed out that there is a "perception of India being unfriendly to foreign investors." While the government is busy patting its back for better "ease of doing business" rating, there is an "increasing risk perception about doing business in India", the group said.

India was on the 63rd rank in World Bank's list of countries rated on ease of doing business in 2019.

Finally, the association said that a slow down in growth has reduced opportunities. As per the latest data the GDP growth is down to 4.5%, a 26-quarter low.

One dead in Bengal station collapse

Another injured has suffered a fracture

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

One of the two persons injured in a partial collapse of the Bardhaman railway station building in West Bengal succumbed to his injuries early on Sunday, said Swapan Debnath, Minister in the State Cabinet.

He said that the man, who suffered serious injuries when a chunk of concrete fell on his head, could not be saved despite efforts by doctors of the Bardhaman Medical College Hospital.

A portion of the roof of the two-storey station building collapsed near the enquiry counter on Saturday evening.

The other injured person, who suffered a frac-



A part of the station's roof collapsed near the enquiry counter on Saturday.

ture in one of his legs, is being treated at the State-run hospital, where Railway doctors had also rushed on Saturday evening to provide necessary assistance, an Eastern Railway spokesperson said.

I-T Dept. notifies new forms for filing income tax returns

Joint owner of house cannot avail ITR-1, ITR-4 forms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government, which usually notifies forms for filing returns by individuals in April every year, on January 3 notified tax return forms for assessment year 2020-21 (income earning year April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020).

As per the notification, returns in ITR-1 Sahaj can be filed by an ordinary resident individual whose total income does not exceed ₹50 lakh, while form ITR-4 Sahaj is meant for resident individuals, HUFs and firms (other than LLP) having a total income of up to ₹50 lakh and having presumptive income from business and profession.



The forms for filing returns are usually notified in April every year.

According to the notification, in two significant changes, an individual taxpayer cannot file return either in ITR-1 or ITR-4 if he is a joint-owner in house property, and the ITR-1 form is not valid for those indi-

viduals who have deposited more than ₹1 crore in bank account or have incurred ₹2 lakh or ₹1 lakh on foreign travel or electricity respectively.

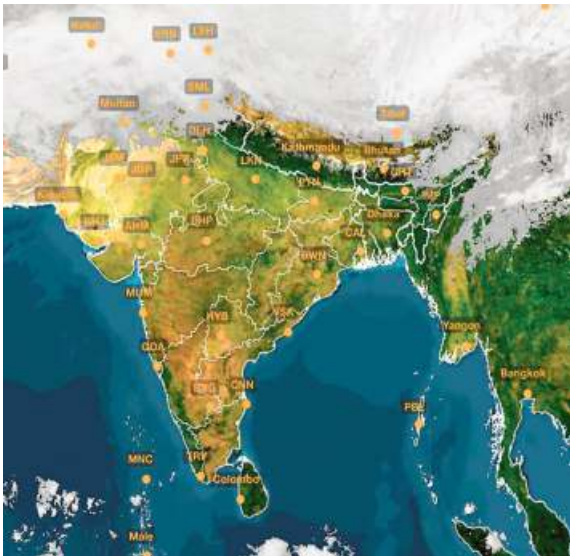
Such taxpayers will have to use different forms, which will be notified in due course.

An individual who "owns a house property in joint ownership with two or more persons" is required to furnish a return of income, the notification said.

"... A taxpayer, who is required to file the return before the previous year ends, cannot do so until the return filing facility is activated on the e-filing portal," said Navneen Wadhwa of Taxmann.

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 Monday: Heavy rain/snow likely in isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir; heavy rain likely at isolated places over south Tamil Nadu. Thunderstorm accompanied with hail and lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana Chandigarh, Delhi and east Rajasthan.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	23.0	13.0		Kozhikode.....	34.0	25.0	
Ahmedabad.....	25.0	12.0		Kurnool.....	33.0	22.0	
Aizawl.....				Lucknow.....	21.0	11.0	
Allahabad.....	18.0	10.0		Madurai.....	34.0	23.0	
Bengaluru.....	31.0	19.0		Mangaluru.....	32.0	20.0	
Bhopal.....	20.0	13.0		Mumbai.....	30.0	16.0	
Bhubaneswar.....	26.0	13.0		Mysuru.....	32.0	18.0	
Chandigarh.....	18.0	6.0		New Delhi.....	21.0	7.0	
Chennai.....	32.0	25.0		Patna.....	18.0	13.0	
Coimbatore.....	33.0	23.0		Port Blair.....	31.0	26.0	
Dehradun.....	8.8	19.0	4.0	Puducherry.....	31.0	23.0	
Gangtok.....	3.3	8.0	4.0	Pune.....	26.0	12.0	
Goa.....	30.0	19.0		Raipur.....	0.5	24.0	15.0
Guwahati.....				Ranchi.....	20.0	9.0	
Hubballi.....	29.0	17.0		Shillong.....			
Hyderabad.....				Shimla.....	6.4	10.0	-1.0
Imphal.....				Srinagar.....			
Jaipur.....	21.0	10.0		Thiruvananthapuram.....	71.6	32.0	25.0
Kochi.....	33.0	26.0		Tiruchi.....	33.0	25.0	
Kohima.....				Vijayawada.....	27.0	22.0	
Kolkata.....	21.0	13.0		Visakhapatnam.....	27.0	21.0	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing						Yesterday
CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad.....	57	22	36	120	113	■
Bengaluru.....	11	55	19	97	104	■
Chennai.....	5	18	96	34		■
Delhi.....		206	80	395	336	■
Hyderabad.....	3	66	44	166	126	■
Kolkata.....	24	75	26	254	241	■
Lucknow.....	8	33	92	242		■
Mumbai.....	7	71	20	232	166	■
Pune.....	68	26	79	188	130	■
Visakhapatnam	11	23	44	27	43	■

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.
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

Centre bats for science outreach programmes

It moots Scientific Social Responsibility

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Importance of communication and outreach programmes was on the agenda on the third day of the 107th Indian Science Congress here on Sunday.

Akhilesh Gupta, adviser and head, Climate Change Programme, Department of Science and Technology, spoke about the Centre's policy on implementing scientific social responsibility (SSR).

Under the programme, researchers who are working on a science project funded by any of the Ministries under the Central government will have to undertake activities to popularise science and make it more accessible to the public.

Speaking at the Science Communicators' Meet, Mr. Gupta said they would draw

up a list of activities which could be taken up under the Scientific Social Responsibility programme, that was similar to Corporate Social Responsibility.

Part of outcome report

"This could range from going to colleges delivering lectures, writing an article in a magazine or doing something beyond the curriculum," he said.

The science outreach would be mandatory and researchers had to include this as part of their outcome report, he added.

Mr. Gupta said the move would not only bridge the gap between research institutes and the civilians, but also help scientists hone their communication skills.

"It will be implemented this year after a consultation meeting with all stakeholders," Mr. Gupta added.

Women scientists seek conducive workplaces

They want childcare facilities and safer laboratories

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Better childcare facilities, safer laboratories and more funding for research projects were some of the issues that women scientists and researchers batted for to make the work environment more conducive.

Several scientists spoke to *The Hindu*, on the sidelines of the Women's Science Congress, as part of the Indian Science Congress, about how institutions and the government can ensure that not only more women choose science, but they remain in their field instead of dropping out.

Shyamala Subba Reddy, Department of Horticulture, Professor, University of Agricultural Sciences, said: "There is a need for more supportive system on cam-



At the forefront: Tessy Thomas and Trilochan Mohapatra at the Women's Science Congress on Sunday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

puses for young women. Having child care facilities and creches will make a significant difference in ensuring that more women remain in science and research."

Surekha Ramrao Gaikwad, Associate Professor of home science at SSSP College, Parbhani, spoke about the bureaucracy involved in getting approvals.

Men also have a huge role to play in the way our society inculcates women's aspirations, said Trilochan Mohapatra, Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, at the inauguration of the Congress.

Tessy Thomas, Director-General of Aeronautical Systems, Defence Research and Development Organisation, was present at the event.