

Navy rescues dhow with Indian crew

A Navy ship, INS Sumedha, deployed on anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden rescued a Sri Lankan-flagged dhow, Al-Hamid, with 13 Indian crew members that was stranded and was drifting towards the Somalian coast. The dhow was then towed to safety, the Navy

DMK MP Kanimozhi meets JNU students

DMK MP K. Kanimozhi met with a section of students of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, including JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, who were injured in the attack on the campus on Sunday. Ms. Kanimozhi questioned why the police did not act for nearly three hours when

Centre tells youth to stay away from e-cigarettes

violence was unleashed.

NEW DELH Citing the U.S.'s 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey, which recorded a high increase in the use of e-cigarettes among children, the Centre has asked youth to "stay away" from the product. "What government and experts are worried about is the highly addictive nature of nicotine," said a Health Ministry official.

'We are against **NEET to this day**

Tamil Nadu Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar said in the State Assembly on Wednesday that the AIADMK government was still strong in its stand against implementing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical admissions in Tamil Nadu

SHORTLISTS FOR THE HINDU PRIZE 2019

The much-awaited shortlists for **The Hindu Prize 2019** Fiction and Non Fiction are out. Two independent panels of distinguished judges have selected five books in each category. The winners in two categories will be announced at the awards ceremony in Chennai in April 2020

➤ Fiction





Chatterjee

Latitudes

Longing

Shubano



Indian diplomat and author Navtei Sarna

the process of arriving at the shortlist

of books for the Fiction prize had been

an enjoyable one spread over several

"The five judges have had a good

chance to review the more than 80

submissions this year. After an initial

face-to-face meeting (in person and

over Skype) the judges have remained

in interactive contact throughout. This

enabled extensive exchange of views on

several titles and highlighted particular

Last month, each of the judges

sent in their preferred shortlists.

The Chair then made a matrix of

these shortlists and proposed

a final unranked shortlist based

on the votes received by various

The other members of the jury

are Pradeep Sebastian, novelist

and book critic; Nilanjana S. Roy,

journalist, literary critic and author;

J. Devika, social critic and faculty at

the Centre for Development Studies,

Thiruvananthapuram; and Rajeswari

Soundararajan, Global Distinguished

Professor in the Department of English,

titles. All the judges then gave their

specific assent to this shortlist, "he said.

recommendations for the attention of all.

Chairperson of the Fiction Prize Jury, said

The Oueen of Jasmine Country Sharanya Mannivanan

Heat by

Pooman

Kalyan



and Where

Tony Joseph

We Came

From



➤ Non Fiction **K**



Abraham



Anatomy

India, Empire, and First World War Culture



Chair and former consulting editor of Penguin India, said submissions included deeply-researched historical biographies, contemporary memoirs and oral histories They also had books featuring sports, literature and phenomena like migration, investigative writings on ecology, disease and science, besides critical writings on current affairs, politics and law. "The books have been selected for the

and the depth of their treatment. Their literary quality and their accessibility beyond experts have been important concerns. Their engagement with contemporary THE HINDU predicaments too has significance since they help cultivate a critical awareness about them. These

significance and originality of their subject

matter, the creative sweep of their narrative

books therefore richly contribute to the creation and shaping of public discourse on matters of cultural, political and economic relevance. They will endure and continue to enhance our understanding of their subjects,

The members of the jury include Chandan Gowda, faculty at Azim Premji University; Harsh Sethi, ex-Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Developing Societies; Rustom Bharucha, former professor of Theatre and Performance Studies at the JNU; and Shiv Viswanathan, social scientist and faculty at Jindal Global Law School.

Re-grassing is mandatory after mining, rules SC

Govt. told to file report in three weeks

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered that mining lease holders should be held responsible for re-grassing mined areas, so that biodiversity gets a second chance in

these scarred landscapes.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde ordered the government to include regrassing of mined areas as a mandatory condition in every mining lease, environmental clearance and mining plan across the country.

Environmental issues caused by mining include erosion, formation of sinkholes, loss of biodiversity, and contamination of soil, groundwater and surface water by chemicals from mining processes, and the effects persist for years, the court was told.

'Impose condition'

"We see no reason why the area which has been mined should not be restored so that grass and other vegetation, including trees, can grow in the mining area for the benefits of animals. We are of the view that this can be achieved by directing the Union of India to impose a condition in the mining lease and a similar condition in the environmental clearance and the mining plan to the effect that the mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining



The cost of re-grassing the area would be borne entirely

activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc." the Supreme Court held in a four-page order.

'Ensure compliance'

The government was ordered to file an action taken report in three weeks. The Bench also directed the government to devise methods to ensure compliance by mining lease holders. The cost of re-grassing the mined area and wherever damage was caused, would be entirely borne by the licence holder.

The mandatory re-grassing would be in addition to the other conditions imposed on the licence holder in the mine closure plan, to restore biodi-

"An area which is mined results in complete elimination of grass, which in turn denies fodder to the herbivores. The only solution can be re-grassing of such mined areas. It is not in dispute that re-grassing technology is available in this country," Chief Justice Bobde

by the licence holder

versity.

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS) Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm accompanied with hail & lightning likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and north Rajasthan.

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

anjus, rimacriae rradesir and north rajustrian.							
ITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
gartala		21.0	15.0	Kozhikode		35.0	.25.0
hmedabad		28.0	13.0	Kurnool		31.0	.20.0
izawl		00.0	00.0	Lucknow	3.0	15.0	.11.0
llahabad		.16.0	11.0	Madurai		34.0	.22.0
engaluru	–	28.0	19.0	Mangaluru		36.0	.23.0
hopal	–	00.0	00.0	Mumbai		32.0	.21.0
hubaneswar	–	.25.0	15.0	Mysuru		30.0	.21.0
handigarh	. 18.4	15.0	12.0	New Delhi	6.0	15.0	.13.0
hennai	–	30.0	22.0	Patna		20.0	.10.0
oimbatore		.32.0	22.0	Port Blair		31.0	.25.0
ehradun	. 19.2	11.0	10.0	Puducherry	–	31.0	.21.0
angtok	3.3	10.0	5.0	Pune		28.0	.17.0
oa	–	33.0	23.0	Raipur		26.0	.17.0
uwahati	–	–	–	Ranchi		23.0	.12.0
ubballi	–	31.0	19.0	Shillong		–	–
yderabad		27.0	19.0	Shimla	. 27.2	5.0	1.0
nphal	–	–	–	Srinagar		–	–
ipur	–	22.0	9.0	Thiruvananthapuram	8.2	32.0	.24.0
ochi	–	33.0	26.0	Tiruchi	2.0	32.0	.22.0
ohima	–		–	Vijayawada		29.0	.20.0
olkata				Visakhapatnam			

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius) Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Ahmedabad..... 42 .23 Bengaluru...... 11 .59 .33 ..130 .118 .3544 ...71 . 65 .28 .36 ..117-. 11 .20 103 ..346 .221 .49 .91 .18 ..100 ...85 .20 ..300 .303 Lucknow 12 238 42 334 Mumbai ... 5 50 31 .185 Pune 82 10 Visakhapatnam 10

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overa air quality index (AQI) score of 425 indicating severe level of pollutior contrast, Amritsar, Punj recorded a healthy AQI score of 36.

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 statue 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

HC questions CBI on probe in Asthana case

CBI Director asked to be present in court if agency fails to complete investigation

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the CBI Director to be present before the court on February 10, if the agency fails to complete investigation into the bribery case involving its former special director

Rakesh Asthana.

New York University.

Justice Vibhu Bakhru questioned the agency for repeatedly seeking extension of time to complete the probe.

The CBI had asked the court for extension of time

The FIR was registered on October 15, 2018 against Mr. Asthana and others on a complaint by Satish Babu Sana, alleging extortion and harrassment in connection with investigation of a case related to meat exporter Moin Akhtar Oureshi.

CRPF DIG throws hot water at jawan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

the incident, officials said on Wednesday.

har's Rajgir district.

A CRPF officer, Deputy Inspector-General D.K. Tripathi, allegedly threw hot water on the face of constable Amol Kharat, after the former got enraged at having burnt his mouth upon drinking the water served by Mr. Kharat. The force has ordered an inquiry into

The incident took place on Tuesday at the CRPF recruit training centre in Bi-

'2019 was 7th warmest year since 1901'

IMD hints at global warming raising average temperatures

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

Though the rise in average temperatures over India in 2019 was the lowest since 2016, according to a report from the India Meteorological Department (IMD, the year that went by was the 7th warmest, since recordkeeping commenced in 1901.

During the year, the annual mean surface air temperature was +0.36C above average (defined as the mean temperature from 1980-2010).

The highest warming ob-

served over India was during 2016, 0.71C above the mean. While 2018 was the 6th warmest in India with 0.41C above the mean, 2017 was 0.55C warmer.

According to the World Meteorological Organisation, the rise in global mean surface temperature during 2019 (January to October)

Main contributors

The main contributors to the warming this year were temperatures in the pre-monsoon (March-May) and monseasons

(June-September), said the IMD report titled 'Climate Summary'.

"There is no declining trend. The only pattern is that global warming is raising average temperatures globally, as well as in India," said M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD.

2019 was also characterised by high raintall, which was 9% over what is normal for a year. This was due to the monsoon rains (June-September) being 10% over its normal, and the northeast monsoon rains being 9% over its normal.

Plea in SC on minority institutions' appointments

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India S.A. on Wednesday agreed to examine next week a plea to stay a January 6 judgment by the Supreme Court , which declared that the State is well within its rights to regulate the appointment of teachers to minority-run institutions in

the "national interest". The judgment, delivered

by a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and U.U. Lalit in S.K. Mohd Raffique versus Managing Committee, Contai Rehmania High Madrasah and Others, gave the State an absolute right to impose regulations on minority established and administered institutions in the appointment of teachers, saying the step was necessary to achieve excellence in education in these institutions.

