

IN BRIEF



**'India's position on Global Hunger Index alarming'**  
NEW DELHI  
Despite high food production, it is alarming that India ranks 102<sup>nd</sup> on the Global Hunger Index, said Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Friday, at the convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. Nutritional security requires measures to improve protein and vitamin deficiencies, he said.

**M.P. govt. sets up panel to monitor tribal policies**  
BHOPAL  
Days after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath cautioned the RSS against its purported plan to coerce tribals into declaring themselves as Hindus for the forthcoming census, the Congress government has set up three teams with six tribal MLAs each to help monitor existing schemes for tribals.

**Protests defer training of 1,200 police recruits**  
GUWAHATI  
The Nagaland government has deferred the training of 1,200 police recruits - against the 206 posts advertised - following protests by a tribal organisation. However, the protesters cited inadequate infrastructure as the reason for the protests.

**ED files chargesheet against Sana Sathish Babu**  
NEW DELHI  
Days after the CBI gave a clean chit to its former Special Director Rakesh Asthana, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed a chargesheet against businessman Sana Sathish Babu, on whose complaint the case was registered against the senior IPS officer.

**DGCA issues advisory on coronavirus screening**  
NEW DELHI  
The DGCA has issued an advisory requiring all passengers arriving from Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore to undergo screening for coronavirus infection. Earlier, thermal screening was mandatory only for passengers arriving from China and Hong Kong.

# Puducherry entitled to more funds from Centre, says report

'Its revenue collection is higher than many States'

RAJESH B. NAIR  
PUDUCHERRY

The Union Territory of Puducherry was entitled ₹2,731 crore for the current fiscal from the Centre than the actual allocation of ₹1,545 crore, according to an assessment report prepared by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), a Central government organisation.

The assessment, done against the backdrop of Union Territories not coming under the purview of the Finance Commission recommendations for devolution of funds, noted that Central allocation to Puducherry is in the form of grants to meet the gap in resources and fi-



Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nancing of schemes. The Union Territory was eligible to get a larger share of the revenue, the report said.

Puducherry, according to the assessment report, has a higher revenue collection compared to the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). It was higher than most States. It also runs a small revenue deficit and a fiscal deficit of less than 3%.

The debt to GSDP ratio has been around 3%. A considerable part of the deficit was met through open market borrowings. If the UT was part of the Finance Commission, the allocation would have been higher than the current allocation. In case the region was part of the 14th Finance Commission Recommendations, the chequer would have been

entitled to a sum of ₹2,731 crore for 2019-20.

**CM meets FM**

According to a senior official, the issue figured prominently in a meeting Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy had with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Thursday.

Mr. Narayanasamy referred to the assessment report and the allocation made by the Centre. Going by the report, the territory was eligible to get around ₹1,186 crore extra during the current financial year.

An official also highlighted the disparity in allocation to Puducherry and New Delhi. While in the case of the national capital, the Centre incurred the expenditure for salary to the police and pension, no such favour was done to Puducherry.

# T.N.'s debt rises, revenue deficit set to double

Unexpected drop in State's share of Central taxes

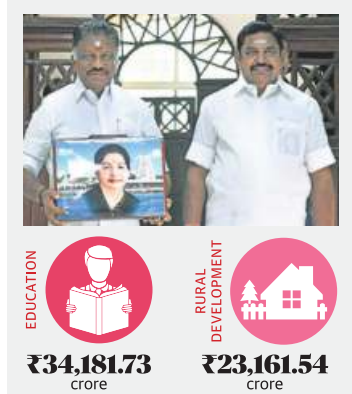
T.K. ROHIT  
SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR  
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's net outstanding debt is expected to rise significantly to over ₹4.56-lakh crore in 2020-21, from ₹3.97-lakh crore projected in 2019-20. The State's revenue deficit too is set to double compared to the previous projection owing to a host of factors, Deputy Chief Minister and State Finance Minister O. Paneerselvam said, presenting the Budget in the Assembly on Friday.

The State's revenue deficit is likely to double to ₹21,617.64 crore compared to the projection of ₹10,040.31 crore for the year. Even for 2019-20, the revenue deficit is now pro-

**Major allocations**

Tamil Nadu Budget for 2020-21 has given priority to education, rural development & infrastructure



- Maintenance grant for persons with debilitating spinal cord injuries and chronic neurological conditions, namely Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis
- ₹660-crore project to ensure basic infrastructure, including housing for tribals
- CCTVs in all buses at a cost of ₹75.02 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund
- Reduction in stamp duty for rental agreements under the new Tenancy Act from 1% to 0.25%

jected at ₹25,000 crore, an increase of ₹10,000 crore from the earlier estimate, largely due to an "unprecedented" drop of ₹7,586 crore in the State's share of Central taxes". The burden imposed on the State finances

by the takeover of debt of Tangedco under the UDAY scheme, the lag effect of the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission and slower growth in tax revenue were cited as reasons for the increase in revenue deficit.

# New structure soon for Military Affairs dept.

Procurements will be streamlined

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

Starting with the next meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), procurement cases will be put up as prioritised by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Major General Mukesh Agarwal, Defence Adviser to General Bipin Rawat said on Friday.

Also, a proposal has been sent to the Defence Ministry on a formal structure comprising civil and military officials for the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) headed by the CDS.

"At present, we have an interim structure. The approval has not come, so they have no financial powers. All files related to financial approvals are coming to the Secretary, DMA," Major Gen. Agarwal said, adding, "We made a much leaner or-

ganisation as we have domain specialists." It has been agreed to in-principle but the approvals will take some time, he stated.

With the CDS at the helm, the proposed DMA will have a Secretary, Transformation and Coordination, which will be the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (IDS), an Additional Secretary and five Joint Secretaries. The Additional Secretary will be a three-star officer while the Joint Secretaries include three officers, one from each service of the rank of Major General or equivalent. Major Gen. Agarwal said they had studied various models including the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

# 'Ramayana-themed' train on the cards, says Railways

It is likely to be launched after Holi: official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Railways plans to run a new train, Ramayana Express, with Ramayana-themed interiors and religious songs playing on board to give the passengers a feeling of 'traveling in a temple'.

The train is likely to be launched after March 10, said Railway Board Chairman V.K. Yadav on Friday, adding that the train schedule will be released in the coming week.

"The train will originate from different locations, north, south, east and west, so that people from across the country can avail its ser-



The Railways had introduced 'Shri Ramayana Express' in 2018 to cover destinations related to the epic. \*FILE PHOTO

VICES. The exterior and the interiors of the train will be Ramayana-themed. We can have bhajans playing on board ... we are hoping to run the train after Holi," he said.

Mr. Yadav added that this will be different from 'Shri Ramayana Express' that was introduced in November 2018 to cover important destinations related to the epic.

Mr. Yadav said the Railways has charted out a plan to complete long-pending projects of national importance in Jammu and Kashmir and in the northeast by 2023. Additionally, the Ministry aims to commission 50 'super critical' projects where capacity enhancement is needed, by the way of doubling or tripling the lines, by 2022.

# Scientists radio-tag Indian pangolin

This will help understand its habits: experts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

For the first time, scientists have radio-tagged the Indian pangolin, an endangered animal that is rarely sighted in forests here.

The Indian pangolin, which dons a thick scaly skin, is hunted for meat and used in traditional Chinese medicine. Researchers say tagging the animal will help understand the habits of the elusive, nocturnal animal.

Radio-tagging involves attaching a transmitter to an animal to monitor its movement.

"In recent years, we have successfully busted pangolin-smuggling syndicates that involved poachers and smugglers from more than



Pangolins are among the most trafficked animals in the world.

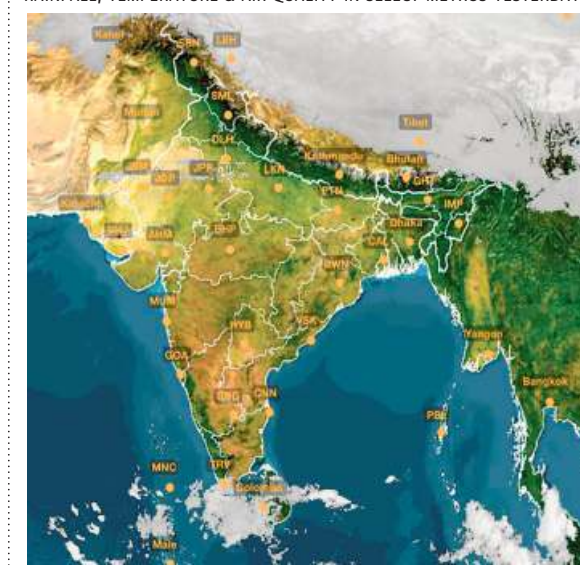
nine States," said Rajesh Shrivastav, Chief Wildlife Warden of Madhya Pradesh.

Pangolins are among the most trafficked wildlife species in the world. The projected population declines range from 50% to 80% across the genus.

Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian and the Chinese pangolins are found in India. Both these species are listed under Schedule I Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**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:** Dense fog very likely at isolated places over coastal Odisha. Strong surface winds (speed reaching 20-30 kmph) very likely to prevail over the plains of northwest India.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	29.0	14.0	Kozhikode	...	35.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	...	33.0	16.0	Kurnool	...	35.0	20.0
Aizawl	...	19.0	8.0	Lucknow	...	27.0	13.0
Allahabad	...	28.0	14.0	Madurai	...	35.0	23.0
Bengaluru	...	32.0	18.0	Mangaluru	...	35.0	24.0
Bhopal	...	29.0	13.0	Mumbai	...	36.0	20.0
Bhubaneswar	...	34.0	16.0	Mysuru	...	33.0	18.0
Chandigarh	...	24.0	13.0	New Delhi	...	25.0	14.0
Chennai	...	33.0	22.0	Patna	...	27.0	13.0
Coimbatore	...	35.0	21.0	Port Blair	...	30.0	22.0
Dehradun	...	27.0	11.0	Puducherry	...	32.0	22.0
Gangtok	...	14.0	8.0	Pune	...	33.0	17.0
Goa	...	35.0	22.0	Raipur	...	31.0	14.0
Guwahati	...	28.0	13.0	Ranchi	...	28.0	12.0
Hubballi	...	32.0	19.0	Shillong	...	16.0	6.0
Hyderabad	...	33.0	15.0	Shimla	...	22.0	7.0
Imphal	...	33.0	5.0	Srinagar	...	8.0	2.0
Jaipur	...	30.0	15.0	Thiruvananthapuram	...	34.0	25.0
Kochi	...	33.0	25.0	Tiruchi	...	34.0	21.0
Kohima	...	16.0	7.0	Vijayawada	...	33.0	21.0
Kolkata	...	30.0	16.0	Vishakhapatnam	...	30.0	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	55	72	31	103	110	...
Bengaluru	14	35	60	74	96	...
Chennai	7	29	24	141	...	...
Delhi	8	37	14	224	260	...
Hyderabad	4	86	54	158	146	...
Kolkata	37	149	26	284	334	...
Lucknow	7	47	54	277	...	...
Mumbai	14	53	29	126	125	...
Pune	87	29	89	148	113	...
Vishakhapatnam	10	63	50	149	125	...

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 377 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Malhar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 56.

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.

# Nirbhaya case: SC rejects convict's plea

'There is no merit in his contention'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a petition filed by Nirbhaya case convict Vinay Sharma challenging the rejection of his mercy plea by the President.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice R. Banumathi, in a 26-page judgment, found no merit in Sharma's contention that the mercy plea was rejected because of non-application of mind.

Justice Banumathi in her order rejected the grounds raised by Sharma, including non-furnishing of relevant official records and documents concerning the mercy petition in response to an RTI request filed by the condemned man's lawyers.



Vinay Sharma

Sharma had pleaded mental illness caused by "inhuman torture" behind bars. The petitioner had said he had caused self-harm on many occasions.

However, the apex court consulted the documents and concluded that the "petitioner is psychologically well adjusted".

It referred to experts' view that "he was provided with regular therapy sessions by specialised therapists and the general condition of the petitioner is stable."

# SC issues order on death penalty pleas

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued an administrative order saying that appeals against confirmation of death penalty by High Courts will be mandatorily listed for hearing before a three-judge Bench within six months of their admission in the top court.

The order was issued amidst the Centre's repeated pleas stating that the Nirbhaya convicts

were misusing the law to delay the execution of their death sentence.

The order said that as soon as an appeal was filed, the Supreme Court Registry would intimate the High Court concerned to send the original records of the case and other necessary documents within 60 days. Once the death penalty appeal is admitted for hearing, lawyers have exactly 30 days to file additional documents, if any.

**योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली**  
**SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE, NEW DELHI**  
An "Institution of National Importance" under an Act of Parliament  
(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India)  
4, Block-B, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi - 110 002.  
Phone: 011-23724383-2382, Fax: 011-23702383  
Website: www.spa.ac.in

**Admissions to Academic Programmes for the Session 2020-21**

**A. Ph. D. PROGRAMMES (FULL TIME & PART TIME):**  
The admission forms of Ph.D. Programmes are available throughout the year on the website of the School but the candidates shall be admitted twice in a year. The application form must be submitted along with photocopy of receipt, after making online payment 1. Through website of SPA, New Delhi <www.spa.ac.in>. 2. Through SBI Collect of Rs.2,500/- (Non Refundable) for Indian Nationals and US\$ 300 (Non Refundable) for Foreign Nationals/NRI/PIO/OCI. For further details please visit our website.

**B. MASTER'S PROGRAMMES in the following disciplines - Two Years (Full Time only)**

1. Architectural Conservation
2. Urban Design
3. Industrial Design
4. Building Engineering and Management
5. Landscape Architecture
6. Environmental Planning
7. Housing
8. Regional Planning
9. Transport Planning
10. Urban Planning

**ELIGIBILITY:**

1. **Architectural Conservation & Urban Design:** Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or Planning from a recognized university or equivalent.
2. **Industrial Design:** Bachelor's Degree in Architecture of a recognized university or equivalent or Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Design/Fine Arts of a recognized university or equivalent with valid CEED score (essential for non-architectural candidates) from approved streams.
3. **Building Engineering & Management:** Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or Building Engineering or Architecture or Architectural Engineering or Building Science or Five Year Diploma in Construction Technology or equivalent from a recognized university/institution established by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature.
4. **Landscape Architecture:** Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture or Architecture or Planning or Master's Degree in Planning or equivalent post-graduate diploma of a recognized university/institution or certificate of completion of Pre-Landscape Architecture Course of the SPA, New Delhi.
5. **Environmental Planning:** Bachelor's Degree in Planning or Architecture or Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering or Environmental Engineering or Master's Degree in Geography or Economics or Sociology or Environmental Science or Environmental Management of a recognized university or equivalent.
6. **Housing:** Bachelor's Degree in Planning or Architecture or Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering or Municipal Engineering or Building Engineering or M.A. in Sociology or Economics from a recognized university or equivalent.
7. **Regional Planning & Urban Planning:** Bachelor's Degree in Planning or Architecture or Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering or M.A. Geography or Economics or Sociology from a recognized university or equivalent.
8. **Transport Planning:** Bachelor's Degree in Planning or Architecture or Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering from a recognized University or equivalent or Master's Degree in Statistics/Operational Research/ Economics from a recognized university or equivalent.

**MARKS:** Candidates with at least 55 percent marks in aggregate at the qualifying Examination, 50% aggregate marks in respect of SC/ST/OBC.

**APPLICATION FORM (PG PROGRAMMES):**  
Eligible candidates may download Application Form through School's website [www.spa.ac.in](http://www.spa.ac.in) and send it to the Section Officer (A&E Section) by Registered/Speed Post to the School on or before 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**  
An applicant can apply for single Programme only. Application fee for PG programme is Rs.2,500/- (Non Refundable) for Indian Nationals and US\$ 300 (Non Refundable) for Foreign Nationals/NRI/PIO/OCI to be paid by online 1. Through website of SPA, New Delhi <www.spa.ac.in>. 2. Through SBI Collect. Short listed/eligible candidates shall be notified on the School's website and must bring original certificates & self-attested photocopies and project work/portfolio etc. at the time of Test/Interview. The School reserves the right to reject/cancel any application without assigning any reason to the applicant.

**PG SCHOLARSHIPS:** The scholarships to GATE or CEED (applicable only for Industrial Design course) qualified candidates will be paid to those who have valid Score Card.

**C. BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES**

**Admission to Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Planning will be made through JEE (Main) 2020 by NTA (National Testing Agency).**

**Integrated Master's of Planning**  
Students (15 seats) admitted to Bachelor of Planning programme of the School can opt for 5 year Integrated Master's of Planning Programme after VII semester.

**FN/NRI/PIO/OCI (BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES):**  
Admission of Foreign National/Non Resident Indian and Person of Indian Origin is made through DASA. Candidates desirous for admission in Bachelor's Programme may visit DASA website. As per COA guidelines, students admitted under B.Arch. Course without clearing any aptitude test in Architecture will not be eligible for Registration with COA.

**RESERVATION OF SEATS:**  
Reservations will be applicable as per rules of the Government of India. For details please visit our website.

**QUERIES:** Any queries may be addressed by e-mail to [admission@spa.ac.in](mailto:admission@spa.ac.in) or Fax 011-23702383, Phone No. 23724383-23702382. (On working days during office hours only)

In case all the seats are not filled, SPA reserves right to have subsequent rounds for admission.

**RESULT AWAITED:** Candidates whose final year results are still awaited can also apply, but must submit the final marks by 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, failing which the admission will stand cancelled.

**HOSTEL:** SPA has very limited hostel facilities. Candidates, if selected, may have to make own accommodation arrangements.

**NOTE:**  
Any dispute arising at any stage will be limited to jurisdiction of the Court of Delhi.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR POST GRADUATE ADMISSIONS	
1. Application forms available on website of the School	Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020
2. Last date of receipt of Application (for PG Courses)	Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March, 2020
3. Display of List of Eligible Candidates on SPA, New Delhi website	Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> March, 2020
3. Test/Interview (PG Courses)	Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March - Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2020
4. Display of Selection List on SPA, New Delhi website	Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> April, 2020
5. Registration in respective Departments	Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2020
6. Orientation Programme	Friday, 31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2020
7. Start of Academic Session	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> August, 2020

For details, please visit our website [www.spa.ac.in](http://www.spa.ac.in)  
Ragging is completely banned in all the campuses of the School