

Buy today  
@12PM

Available on:  
mi.com | Flipkart



POCO F1

Master of Speed

From ₹ 20,999

Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 845

LiquidCool™ Technology

AI Dual Rear Camera

POCO

by Xiaomi

HDFC BANK

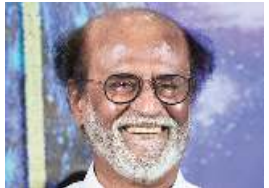
Flat ₹ 1000 off on HDFC Bank Debit and Credit cards. Also applicable on EMI txn.

Jio

Up to ₹ 8,000 Instant Discount and 6TB high speed Jio 4G Data

T&C Apply

NEARBY



'No place for members from caste outfits'

CHENNAI  
Members of religious or caste-based associations cannot join the Rajini Makkal Mandram, according to the guidelines issued for members and persons aspiring to join the organisation. The by-laws say members should not engage in "anti-social behaviour or cause nuisance to the public." They should not be addicted to "bad habits" and must treat women with respect.

TAMIL NADU • PAGE 4

OPPORTUNITIES • PAGE 7  
METROPLUS • 8 PAGES

## Stalin takes over as DMK chief, hits out at BJP

Asks cadre to throw away 'spineless' AIADMK government

B. KOLAPPAN  
CHENNAI

M.K. Stalin, 65, on Tuesday assumed charge as the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), a post held by his father M. Karunanidhi for nearly 50 years.

Following his unanimous election to the post at the party's general council meeting held at Anna Arivalayam, Mr. Stalin gave a call to the party cadre to teach a fitting lesson to the BJP government at the Centre and the AIADMK government in the State.

"Come forward to teach a fitting lesson to the BJP go-



M.K. Stalin arriving to address the general council meeting on Tuesday. ■ R. RAGU

vernment, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that seeks to paint India in saffron. Throw away the spineless State government. Come forward. Let us make

beautiful future a reality," he said. While seeking to oppose the BJP's "saffron" ideology, Mr. Stalin sought to refine the DMK's position on atheism by saying that the "new age cadre" would respect others' faith in God.

Mr. Stalin said that while the DMK was cast in the ideas of rationalism, self-respect, social justice and socialism, he was pained by the "spineless AIADMK government" and the Centre that crushed all the ideas cherished by the party.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4  
FATHER TO SON ► EDITORIAL

## Diesel price sizzles at a record high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Rising for the third consecutive day, diesel price across the country reached historically high levels following a 15-16 paise per litre hike on Tuesday, according to data from the Indian Oil Corporation.

Diesel price on Tuesday touched ₹69.61 in Delhi, the reference market for the country, and ₹73.9 in Mumbai, ₹72.46 in Kolkata, and ₹73.54 in Chennai.

Petrol prices inched towards the ₹80-a-litre mark in Delhi, touching ₹78.05 on Tuesday, up from ₹77.91 on Monday.

## Fantastic finish



Powering ahead: Manjit Singh and Jinson Johnson, second from right, made it a 1-2 in the 800 m final as India's drive for more medals yielded nine, including one gold, six silver and two bronze, at the Asian Games on Tuesday. ■ REUTERS (REPORTS ON PAGE 17)

## SC questions second chance for those left out of NRC

'Fresh documents will amount to re-doing entire process'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court asked the Centre whether it was giving people, among the 40 lakh excluded from the draft National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, a "second chance" to gain citizenship by allowing them to produce fresh documents to prove their family roots in India.

The court was referring to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) proposed by

the government, which allows a claimant for Indian citizenship to "change his legacy" by submitting additional documents at the 'claims and objections' stage. The court asked whether this would amount to "re-doing the claims" of those left out from the draft NRC published on July 31.

A Bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Rohinton Narian on Tuesday said allowing a claimant to change

his legacy would amount to "tinkering with the family tree" and re-doing the verification process.

The court directed State NRC Co-ordinator Prateek Hajela to file a report before September 5 (the next hearing) on the ramifications of the proposal. It also deferred the receipt of claims and objections which was to begin on August 30.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Punjab House passes Bills to curb sacrilege

Life sentence for desecration of texts

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed Bills for an amendment to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to make desecration of all religious texts punishable with life imprisonment. The Indian Penal Code (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2018, has inserted Section 295AA to provide that "whoever causes injury, damage or sacrilege to Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Srimad Bhagavad Gita, the Holy Quran and the Holy Bible with the intention to hurt the religious feelings of the people shall be punished with imprisonment for life."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Five arrested for 'Maoist links' in nationwide raids

Arrests of social activists, lawyers by Maharashtra police spark outrage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI/ NEW DELHI/ HYDERABAD/PANAJI

In an early morning, co-ordinated crackdown across six States, the Pune police on Tuesday raided the homes of several activists and arrested Vernon Gonsalves, Arun Ferreira, civil liberties activist Gautam Navlakha, trade union activist Sudha Bharadwaj and Telugu poet Varavara Rao for alleged links to the Communist Party of India-Maoist.

The simultaneous raids were conducted in Mumbai, Thane, Sankhali in Goa, Delhi, Faridabad in Haryana, Hyderabad and Bagaicha near Ranchi.

The raids and arrests sparked outrage and protests from Opposition leaders as well as human rights and civil liberties activists.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury termed the arrests "a brazen attack on democratic rights and liberties," while Amnesty International India and Oxfam India, in a joint statement, said

### A riot and after

Events leading to the arrest of human rights activists for "provocative speeches" at the Elgar Parishad conference in Bhima Koregaon in December 2017



A mob pelts policemen with stones in Aurangabad in January 2018 after the Bhima Koregaon violence

COMPILED BY GAUTAM S MENGLE

the crackdown was disturbing and threatened core human rights values.

### 'Govt. in panic'

Author Arundhati Roy said the arrests were "a dangerous sign of a government that fears it is losing its mandate and is falling into panic."

While refusing to share details of the charges against

these five activists, the Pune police said they were involved in Maoist activities.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Shivaji Bodkhe neither confirmed nor denied reports about the activists allegedly plotting a 'Rajiv Gandhi style' assassination attempt on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that he could not comment at this stage.

Dec.31, 2017: The Elgar Parishad was organised in Pune to commemorate the contribution of the Dalit community in the Bhima Koregaon battle of 1818

Jan.1, 2018: A clash erupted between right wing groups and Dalits on their way to Bhima Koregaon to pay homage at the site of the battle, in which one person was killed. The incident led to violent reactions all over Maharashtra

June 7: Pune police arrest Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Soma Sen and Sudhir Dhawale for organising the Elgar Parishad and for giving "provocative speeches"

Aug.28: Pune police arrest Varavara Rao, Sudha Bharadwaj, Gautam Navlakha, Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira in relation to the above incidents

"At this point, we can only say that the accused were involved in activities of the Communist Party of India-Maoist. We will be presenting the rest of the details in court on Wednesday when we seek their custody," Mr. Bodkhe said.

ARRESTS PART OF ELGAR PARISHAD PROBE ► PAGE 13  
NO ANSWERS ► PAGE 13

## SC finds audit of child shelters 'frightening'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday called the preliminary contents of a social audit conducted by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) as "frightening." In an affidavit filed before a Bench led

by Justice Madan B. Lokur, the NCPCR, represented by advocate Anindita Pujari, submitted that out of a total of 2,874 children's homes surveyed, only 54 institutions could be given positive reviews.

The NCPCR is carrying out an audit of child care in-

stitutions and other bodies such as children homes, open shelters, observation homes, special homes, places of safety, specialised adoption agencies and fit facilities under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and Model Rules.

The audit is being conducted in compliance with a SC order on May 5, 2017.

Out of 185 shelter homes audited across the country, only 19 had "all the records of a child that they are supposed to maintain."

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## India's most polluted: 30% have no clean up plan

Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Nagpur are among the cities yet to submit their pollution control proposal

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

A good number of India's most polluted cities are not too keen to clean up their act, according to a list maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Of the 102 cities singled out by the Centre for their alarming pollution levels, only 73 have submitted a plan of remedial action to the CPCB. Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Nagpur and Jaipur are among the prominent cities that are yet to submit their plans.

These so called 'non-attainment cities' were among those marked out by the CPCB and asked - as part

of the National Clean Air Campaign (NCAP) - to implement 42 measures aimed at mitigating air pollution. These included steps such as implementing control and mitigation measures related to vehicular emissions, re-suspension of road dust and other fugitive emissions, bio-mass, municipal solid waste burning, industrial pollution, and construction and demolition activities.


The directives to take remedial measures were initially issued to Delhi NCR, and subsequently to the State Pollution Control Boards for implementation in other 'non-attainment' cities. The non-attainment



Not breathing free: Air pollution is affecting the respiratory health of people in 102 cities in India. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

cities are those that have fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for over five years. Union Environment Minister Harsh


Vardhan had said in April that the aim of pollution mitigation measures was to cut overall pollution in these cities by 35% in the next three years.



POETRY & GRAMMAR

EXCLUSIVE CEREMONIAL WEAR FOR MEN

FABRICS | APPARELS | ACCESSORIES  
CUSTOM-MADE



Raymond

VITHAL BHARADWAS GANESH

SYMPHONY & RZ

SOKRAS

LINENCLUB

Giza Class

#170 PURASAWALKAM HIGH ROAD, KILPAUK, (NEXT TO ABIRAMI MALL),  
CHENNAI-600010 PHONE : 044 4864 2844  
INFO@POETRYANDGRAMMAR.COM WWW.POETRYANDGRAMMAR.COM