



Rahul gives 'F' grade to Modi government for farm sector woes

Page 10



All embassies were alerted about Nirav Modi, says MEA

Page 11



Trump has decided to walk away from Iran nuclear deal: officials

Page 12

Narine, Gill fashion Knight Riders' easy win against Super Kings

Page 15



PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA



NEARBY

Insolvency petition of jewellery firm admitted

CHENNAI
 The Chennai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal has admitted the voluntary insolvency petition filed by Chennai-based Nathella Sampath Jewellery Pvt Ltd. Troubles at the firm came to light towards the end of last year when it closed branches across the State due to cash crunch.

CHENNAI ▶ PAGE 3

Nalini Chidambaram moves High Court

CHENNAI
 Senior advocate Nalini Chidambaram, the wife of Congress leader P. Chidambaram, on Thursday moved an appeal in the Madras HC against a single bench's refusal to quash an Enforcement Directorate summons against her.

TAMIL NADU ▶ PAGE 4



No suspicion in Jaya's death, says Dhivaharan

CHENNAI
 V. Dhivaharan, the brother of V.K. Sasikala who deposed before the Justice (retd.) Arumugasamy panel on Thursday, said there is no suspicion in the death of former Chief Minister Jayalitha. He said he did not see Jayalitha at the Apollo Hospitals, except in her final moments.

TAMIL NADU ▶ PAGE 4

METRO PLUS ▶ 10 PAGES
FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 12 PAGES (TABLOID)
DOWN TOWN ▶ 8 PAGES (TABLOID - IN SELECT AREAS)

PM busy in Karnataka, need time for Cauvery plan: Centre

Have hearing a day after election in State, SC told

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday informed the Supreme Court about its inability to frame the Cauvery draft water-sharing scheme within the May 3 deadline given by the court, saying "Prime Minister and Ministers are travelling."

"Because of the Karnataka elections, the Prime Minister and Ministers are all in Karnataka. Have the hearing a day after the Karnataka election... they are all travelling," Attorney General K.K. Venugopal told a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra.

On April 9, the SC directed the Centre to frame the draft Cauvery scheme by May 3 and prove its bona fide resolve to end the 200-year-

The scheme should have been finalised by now
JUSTICE DIPAK MISRA,
 Chief Justice of India



Because of the elections, the Prime Minister and ministers are all in Karnataka. Have the case a day after the elections... they are all travelling
KK VENUGOPAL,
 Attorney General



What do we tell the people of Tamil Nadu? That the Supreme Court passed its Cauvery judgment in February and we have still not been able to get water. Summer temperatures are rising... there is no drinking water...
SHEKHAR NAPHADE, Tamil Nadu counsel

old dispute between poll-bound Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. "But are you not supposed to frame the draft scheme... The scheme should have been finalised by now," CJI Misra said.

"We are in a difficult position... we are only asking for 10 days more," Mr. Venugopal and Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said.

The court turned to Kar-

nataka and directed the State's counsel to take instructions by Tuesday on whether it could release 4 tmcft to Tamil Nadu in May. Tamil Nadu argued that though the Cauvery tribunal had ordered the release of 2.5 tmcft each for April and May, Karnataka had released only 1.1 tmcft in April.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Not enough water, says Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 BENGALURU/CHENNAI

The Karnataka government on Thursday said it was not possible to comply with the Supreme Court directive on releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu owing to severe shortage of water in the four reservoirs in the basin area. The State said only 9 tmcft was available in the reservoirs.

Tamil Nadu Law Minister C.Ve. Shanmugam said it was evident that the Central government, by not submitting a scheme on the Cauvery issue, was "prejudiced" against the State.

RELEASE SEASON ENDED LAST DECEMBER ▶ PAGE 6



Battered town: People clearing the road at Kheria Mod near Agra on Thursday after a tree got uprooted in the storm. • PTI

Over 100 killed in dust storm in U.P., Rajasthan

High-intensity squall wreaks havoc in several areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 LUCKNOW/JAIPUR

Over 100 people were killed and around 180 injured after a high-velocity dust storm followed by thunder showers wreaked havoc in parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan on Wednesday night, leaving behind a trail of destruction.

Trees and electricity poles were uprooted and mud houses collapsed in the high-intensity squall, officials said on Thursday.

Expressing sorrow at the loss of lives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday directed officials to coordinate with the States to ensure speedy relief and rehabilitation of those affected.

"Saddened by the loss of lives due to dust storms in various parts of India. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted quoting Mr. Modi.

In Uttar Pradesh, at least 70 people were killed and 83 injured, with Agra account-

ing for the maximum casualties - 43. Three persons each died in Bijnore and Kanpur Dehat, and two each in Saharanpur, Hamirpur, Kanpur Nagar and Mirzapur districts.

One casualty each was reported from Bareilly, Pilibhit, Chitrakoot, Raebareli, Unnao, Mathura, Amroha, Kannauj, Banda, Kanpur, Sitapur, Sambhal, Etawah, Allahabad and Rampur.

In Rajasthan, 16 people died in Bharatpur district, 10 in Dholpur and five in Alwar, while over 100 were injured in the storm that hit the region around 7 p.m.

The worst period lasted about 45 minutes, according to reports from Dholpur, but the extent of the damage was known only in the morning.

Another storm likely

The Meteorological Department has issued warnings that another dust storm may hit parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in the next 48 hours due to the cyclonic cir-

ulation formation in the region.

On high alert

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued an advisory ordering all district magistrates to be on high alert. He has asked the district officials to calculate the losses and provide compensation to those affected, a government spokesperson said.

State Chief Secretary Rajive Kumar has instructed the Commissioner of Agra division to ensure that relief is distributed in the affected areas by Thursday evening and senior officials visit the injured in hospitals, said U.P. Information Department principal secretary Awanish Awasthi. Power supply was cut off in many areas as the squall uprooted trees and snapped electricity cables. Officials said it was being gradually restored.

RAJASTHAN DECLARES IT A NATURAL DISASTER ▶ PAGE 7
 WHAT TRIGGERED IT ▶ PAGE 7

Film-makers skip award function

Only 11 of them were honoured by President

SOBHANA K NAIR
 NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented incident, close to 55 film-makers stayed away from the 65th National Film Awards function, protesting against 'selective treatment'. This year, in a departure from the established practice, President Ram Nath Kovind did not give awards to each recipient.

He gave away 11 of the 137 awards, while the remaining were presented by Information and Broadcasting Minis-



President Ram Nath Kovind handing over the best actress award conferred on Sridevi to her husband Boney Kapoor and daughters Janhvi and Khushi in New Delhi. • SANDEEP SAXENA

ter Smriti Irani and Minister of State Rajyavardhan Rathore. The film-makers were informed about this change

only during the dress rehearsal on Wednesday.

Ms. Irani spent nearly 45 minutes during the dress re-

hearsal placating the agitated awardees, explaining to them the new protocol established by Mr. Kovind.

The President's Office said all the Ministries and departments had been informed that the President would spare only an hour for convocations and award ceremonies. The same was conveyed to the I&B Ministry nearly three weeks ago.

The angry awardees shot off a letter to the Directorate of Film Festivals, saying that it was a "breach of trust" as 65 years of tradition was being overturned in a jiffy.

NATIONAL AWARDS WERE GIVEN AWAY IN TWO PHASES ▶ PAGE 10

Supreme Court qualifies its ruling on Atrocities Act

'Enquiry before arrest required only in frivolous cases'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

The police need to conduct a preliminary enquiry before arrest only in cases where they feel a complaint filed about an atrocity committed on Dalits is outright "absurd" or "absolutely" frivolous.

The Supreme Court had never intended, in its March 20 judgment, to make the enquiry before arrest a mandatory condition in each and every complaint filed by Da-

lits under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989. This is how Justice A.K. Goel qualified the March 20 judgment delivered by a Bench of himself and Justice U.U. Lalit.

Widespread protests

The judgment, which banned immediate arrest of a person accused of atrocities against SC/ST community members, had led to widespread unrest and

violence. To avoid prosecution of innocent people in frivolous cases filed under the Act, the court had ordered a preliminary enquiry to be conducted to check the veracity of the complaint. Till then, no arrests would be made.

The Act, on the other hand, forbids anticipatory bail to accused persons and prescribes immediate arrest.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

New parking system at Marina by June

Pilot project in three other areas too

ALOYSIUS XAVIER LOPEZ
 CHENNAI

The Chennai Corporation will commission a parking management system at the Marina beach and in three other areas by the end of June. "We are looking at Besant Nagar, T. Nagar, Anna Nagar, Parry's Corner and Mylapore. Any three of the areas will be selected for the pilot project shortly," said an official.

The new parking management system involves the use of low-cost sensors, real-time data and applica-

tions that allow users to monitor available parking spots.

The goal is to automate and decrease the time spent in manually searching for the optimal parking slot.

The service provider will provide capital and operational cost, collecting ₹20 per hour for parking.

"Some of the parking spaces will be categorised as premium and will be charged at the rate of ₹40 per hour," said an official.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 3

Ajith on board Chennai MIT's drone mission

Star joins team to develop UAV that will be flown at a competition in Australia in September

S. VIJAY KUMAR
 CHENNAI

At a time when other Tamil superstars like Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan are busy launching their political careers, Ajith will devote himself to launching Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) has appointed him as its 'Helicopter Test Pilot and UAV System Adviser'.

The actor, popularly known as "Thala", will begin his new assignment by helping MIT build an advanced UAV for Medical Express-2018 UAV Challenge, a prestigious



Flight mode: Ajith interacting with MIT's Team Dhaksha, which is participating in the UAV contest. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

competition whose final round is scheduled to be held in Queensland, Australia, in September.

The actor, who first developed an interest in

aero-modelling as a school student, has over the years nurtured his passion for designing and operating remote-controlled vehicles. He volunteered to be a part

of MIT's Team Dhaksha, which is participating in the UAV Challenge.

Anna University cleared his appointment on Thursday. The actor, who is paid several crores of rupees for his film projects, will receive a salary of ₹1,000 per visit. He has offered to donate it for the education of MIT's poorer students.

Dr. K. Senthilkumar, associate professor & director in-charge, Centre for Aerospace Research (CASR), said the UAV challenge in Australia is sponsored each year by a collection of industry, government and research

agencies. Of the more than hundred countries that entered the fray, only 55 qualified for the second round. "We have developed an innovative technology and are confident Mr. Ajith's expertise in the design of aerial vehicles will strengthen our mission."

The task for the UAV challenge is to fly a drone from a lab to a patient 30 km away, pick up his blood samples, and return to base. "The challenge is to get the samples to the lab. The patient is stranded in a remote location, and he is cut off by floodwaters," Dr. Senthilkumar said.

NEW AND IMPROVED.

ARIEL

SPECIAL OFFER!

1kg + 200g FREE

ARIEL MATIC FRONT LOAD

MRP Inclusive of All Taxes • Creative Visualization • Offer Available in Select Retail Outlets. Offer Valid Till Stocks Last. • Introducing New Formula

A CH-CHE