

Child rights body refused to share info without justification

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26 /- The Central Information Commission (CIC) has issued show cause notices to officials of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for not giving information on cases pending before it, without justification. The CIC directed the child rights body to provide information regarding cases pending for over two years relating to the Bihar and details of disposal of cases where the accused were found guilty, after removing the names and personal details of the children concerned in the cases. The matter pertains to one Ajit Kumar Singh who had sought information on the number of complaints received by the NCPCR, a copy of inquiry proceedings in such complaints, date-wise decisions of cases where the accused were found guilty and what re-

liefs were granted. Though the applicant did not seek the names or personal details of the children concerned, he was still not provided with any information by the NCPCR which cited the exemption clause of the RTI Act, under Section 8(D)(3), pertaining to personal information. "It is absolutely not convincing that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights is refusing the information about action taken on complaints pending since years before it," Information Commissioner Srihar Acharya said in his recent order. Acharya said the NCPCR used the privacy exception to refuse the entire information. Commissioner Srihar said he would provide information which could have been disclosed under a pro-active disclosure clause of the RTI Act, Section 4(B)(b), he said. "The NCPCR has hired the

services of a consultant and advisor, who instead of guiding the CPIO (chief public information officer) properly to disclose the information, misguided him to deny the entire information. These two experienced seniors did not even provide reasons to justify the denial," he said. The Commissioner said these officials failed to perform their duty to separate information that could be given from that which could not be disclosed under Section 10(1) of RTI Act which allows removing sensitive information. "They do not know that Section 10 provides for severability. When the appellant was not seeking names and personal information and wanted information about the number of cases left out without any action, or action taken and pending before the Commission for years, the public authority cannot invoke Sec-

tion 8(1)(j) at all," he said. The appellant's request for action taken on four-year old complaints before the NCPCR was in public interest and related to its core function, he added. "The CPIO, adviser and consultant vehemently argued with the Commission refusing the disclosure without forwarding any justification. They have bluntly rejected the entire information abusing Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act. It is most unfortunate that the consultant and advisor have guided the CPIO and the public authority to breach the RTI Act," he said. In the show cause notices, the Commissioner directed NCPCR CPIO G Suresh, advisor Cakesh Chhatry and senior consultant Raman Gaur to explain why penalty should not be imposed upon each of them, for the "illegal obfuscation" of information. (PTI)



Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh launching the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCL) Portal, at the National Conference on Child Labour, organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, in New Delhi.

Over 70,000 missing children rescued under MHA drive: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26 /- More than 70,000 missing children have been rescued in different parts of the country under the home ministry's special initiative, Union minister Rajnath Singh said today. Addressing a seminar on child and adolescent labour here, the home minister also said the country would try to get rid of child labour by 2022. "The Home Ministry has launched 'Operation Smile' to locate missing children. More than 70,000 missing children have been rescued till date," he said. The "Operation Smile" was first launched by the home minister in January 2015 to rescue and rehabilitate the missing children. Since then the programme has been continuing with the active help of the state governments. Singh said child-

hood is the best gift of God, but those who get trapped in child labour are deprived of that beautiful gift. "We are committed for a child labour free India. In the next five years we will try to get rid of child labour. Let us together pledge for building a child labour free India by 2022," he said at the seminar where a web portal named PENCL, which connects all stakeholders working to check child labour, was launched. The "PENCL" will help in effective implementation of National Child Labour Project (NCLP).

PENCL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) is an electronic platform for no child labour developed by the labour ministry. The portal came into being after it was felt that there was a need to create a robust implementing and monitoring mechanism for both enforcement of the legislative provisions and effective implementation of the NCLP especially the backdrop that the subject of labour is in the concurrent list and enforcement to a large extent depends on respective state governments. The labour ministry said that it was felt that an online portal which connects the Centre to the state governments, districts and to all project societies, would provide a mechanism for implementation. In this backdrop, the online portal PENCL was conceptualised. PENCL portal has five components: child tracking system, complaint corner, state government, national child labour project and convergence. (PTI)

Delhi HC to hear Honeypreet's anticipatory bail plea today

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26 /- The Delhi High Court today agreed to hear the anticipatory bail plea of Honeypreet Inani, who is wanted by the Haryana Police in connection with incidents of violence following conviction of the Dera Sacha Sauda chief. The plea for urgent hearing of Honeypreet's application was mentioned before Acting Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice C Hari Shankar who sought to know why they are "super-excited now". You must be anticipating this," the bench asked advocate Pradeep Kumar Arya, who sought three weeks transit anticipatory bail for Honeypreet. The bench, however, listed the matter for today after the counsel pressed for hearing the petition on an urgent basis. Arya informed the court that even the DGP Haryana has gone on record to say that there is "danger" to her life. Priyanka Taneja alias Honeypreet, the adopted daughter of the jailed Dera chief, tops the list of 43 persons 'wanted' by the Haryana Police in connection with incidents of violence that had followed Ram Rahim's conviction in the rape cases. Ram Rahim was convicted by the special CBI court in Panchukhla on August 25, following which violence and arson had erupted in Panchukhla and Sirsa districts of Haryana which had left 41 people dead and several others injured. The CBI court on August 28 had sentenced Ram Rahim to 20 years in prison for raping two of his disciples in 2002. Honeypreet had accompanied the Dera head when he had come to the special CBI court on August 25. She had also travelled along with him in the special chopper which ferried them to Rohtak from Panchukhla after the conviction. The controversial sect head is currently lodged in Sunaria jail in Rohtak district of Haryana. Several teams of Haryana Police have travelled across the country including the Indo-Nepal border, to trace Honeypreet. (PTI)

2 women who targeted men in uniform arrested

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26 /- Two suspected women, who targeted security forces personnel, have been arrested from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, the police said today. Azad Khan (24) and Tamanna (19) were nabbed from near the domestic terminal on September 22 when they were trying to dupe an Army jawan, said Sany Bhatia, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Airport). Giving details of a case involving the duo, a police officer said that Manoj Kumar, a constable with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), had recently taken an autorickshaw from Aerocity Metro Station to the domestic airport, along with two other passengers. One of Kumar's co-passengers showed him "a bundle of currency notes" and told him that he had stolen the money. The co-passenger said that the police were after him and he could not take the bundle with him, the police said. He told Kumar that he required just Rs 6,000 to reach Patna and offered to hand him the "bundle worth lakhs of rupees". The other co-passenger offered Rs 3,000 to the man. It was decided that the money would be split between Kumar and the second co-passenger. Kumar was made to believe that the bundle contained Rs 3 lakh and he agreed with the proposal given by the duo. Kumar's co-passenger handed him the bundle of notes. The second person told him that he would drop the first person at the bus stop and took Rs 33,000 and ID card from Kumar so that he did not flee with Rs 3 lakh, the police said. When the accused persons did not come back for a long time, Kumar realised that he had been conned and approached the police. During investigation, it emerged that a specialised gang, that targeted defence personnel at railway stations, metro stations and airport, was behind the incident, Bhatia said. The police scanned CCTV footage from the area and identified the two accused. Staff was deployed in plain clothes near Aerocity Metro Station to nab the duo. The deputy commissioner of police (DCP) said. On September 22, a police personnel spotted the two accompanying a person in uniform. They were nabbed. This second incident later turned out to be an Army jawan. The accused confessed to having committed 50 to 60 such offences this year, the DCP said. (PTI)

No-tolerance zones drive: 280 vehicles impounded, 750 challans

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26 /- As many as 280 vehicles were impounded and 750 challans were issued by authorities during a city-wide anti-encroachment drive today against illegal parking of vehicles. Over 25 corridors in the national capital were recently declared as "no-tolerance zones" for parking and encroachment, and the drive, which began today, was jointly conducted by the Delhi Traffic Police and the civic authorities. "Of the 750 challans issued, 562 were given under the Motor Vehicle Act 1988, and 198 under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act (DMC), 1957."

"As many as 116 vehicles were impounded under the MV Act while 164 under the DMC Act," according to the data provided by the Delhi Traffic Police. Over Rs 497 lakh was also collected as fine from the offenders during the drive, the Delhi Traffic Police said. Out of the total amount, the MCD collected over Rs 3.47 lakh in penalties, it said. The three civic bodies - North, South and East Delhi Municipal Corporations (NDMC, SDMC and EDMC) along with

city traffic police department, swung into action to enforce the decision taken by Lt Governor Anil Bajjal to act against illegal parking on major roads. As many as 29 arterial stretches were recently identified to make these roads free from the encroachment and illegal parking, the SDMC said. These stretches that have been made "no-tolerance" zones include Aurbindo Chowk-Andheria More, Chirag Delhi Crossing, Savitri Flyover, MB Road Cut-IGNOU Chowk, 11 Murti-Dhauka Kuan, ITO Chungi-Karkari More. Some of the other corridors that fall under the no-tolerance zones include stretches on MB Road, MG Road, GT Karnal Road, Kamal Ataturk Marg, Sardar Patel Marg and Mathura Road. The NDMC said the civic body today seized 21 vehicles in Civil Lines zone on a few stretches. Under the "No Tolerance Zone" move, road discipline, parking and vehicle movement on particular road stretches are enforced strictly by concerned authorities including Traffic Police. (PTI)

Civil forum to set up hate tracker, chronicle mob lynchings

NEW DELHI, SEPT 26 /- Hate crimes such as mob lynchings, which produced an "all pervasive sense of fear" among minorities, will be chronicled and a cell will be set up to track such violence, a civil rights platform said today. Members of the Karwan-e-Mohabbat (caravan of love), after travelling through eight states, said the "rise of hate and fear" they bore witness to during their nearly month-long journey would be recorded through books, films, photo exhibitions and talks. "Such is the sense of resignation, that there are minority families who do not even want to move court or knock the administration's door for justice. Fear for them has turned into an everyday aspect of life," said the leader Harsh Mander, who led the initiative, told reporters today at the culmination of KeM's journey. "Such pervasive sense of fear" among minorities, students, filmmakers and others were a part of KeM and met 50 families. Mander said they witnessed an "all pervasive sense of fear" and "the lack of remorse" at the community level. "What stunned me is the absence of remorse at the local level," he said. Film-maker Natascha Badhwar, one of the participants in the campaign, described the karwan, which rolled out from Assam on September 4 and ended in Gujarat on September 21, as an attempt to create new ways of communication and solidarity, "at a time when victims of violence were being treated as perpetrators". Dushyant, a Mumbai-

based lawyer and columnist, said he hoped on to the karwan aiming to diminish despair, mother-in-laws taunts from a few that it was nothing but "distress tourism". "We will assist them (victims' families) legally and put in place local hate crime response systems for immediate assistance. We will also create a national dedicated cell to track hate crimes across the country," Mander told PTI. Referring to a recent IT notice served on the Centre for Equity Studies, an organisation run by Mander, he said he had received such notices in the past but never talked to the media about them. "But let them (the State) not feel that they can use the power of the State to intimidate and silence dissent," he said. (PTI)

"Draft Expenditure Finance Committee Memorandum has been prepared to obtain approval of Rs 1630 crore for establishment of AIIMS in Jammu division and sent to department of expenditure, Government of India," he added. Clarifying the status of land acquisition, the spokesperson said that out of the 270.23 acre of land identified for the project,

211.04 acre comprise of state and forest land. "The state land has been transferred to Health and Medical Education department through a government order on April 28, and the forest land also has been transferred through a separate order on April 11," he said, adding that 30 acre of private and evacuee land, final award had been approved by the state revenue department. (PTI)



Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi meeting with local leaders during his Jammagar tisi.

BJP cautions J&K public against 'mischievous propaganda'

JAMMU, SEPT 26 /- The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP - ally in the PDP-led government - today said certain vested parties had unleashed a "mischievous propaganda" against the party and appealed people not to pay heed to it. "While identifying anyone, state spokesperson Anil Gupta said the parties with vested interests were trying to create "anti-government" sentiments in

Jammu region by issuing "misleading and factually incorrect" statements. "The general public is appealed not to get carried away by the mischievous propaganda unleashed by certain vested parties and have faith in the BJP which has promised holistic development of infrastructure to include health, education, tourism and other public utilities," said Gupta. The BJP leader also re-

futed the allegation that the project to establish AIIMS in Jammu was just an "eye-wash" - a charge made by the Jammu Bar Association, which has claimed that the state government is yet to acquire land for the establishment of AIIMS. "AIIMS is not an eye-wash but a real opportunity at Vijaypur in Samba district in Jammu region and at Awantipora in Pulwama in Kashmir have been finalized for the establishment of AIIMS," he said. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised the establishment of two AIIMS-like institutions for healthcare in the capital cities of the state. "Central Public Works Department has been appointed as the agency for the construction work of these new AIIMS in the state. Pre-investment work has also been started at the

site," Gupta said. "Draft Expenditure Finance Committee Memorandum has been prepared to obtain approval of Rs 1630 crore for establishment of AIIMS in Jammu division and sent to department of expenditure, Government of India," he added. Clarifying the status of land acquisition, the spokesperson said that out of the 270.23 acre of land identified for the project,

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Disasters increasing in Bihar due to climate change: Sushil

PATNA, SEPT 26 (PTI) States like Bihar are the worst victims of climate change as it affects the lives of people and drought affecting development. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said here today. Bihar faced major floods in the year 2007, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016 and 2017 causing loss of life and property, damage to crops, roads and other infrastructure, Modi said. For this year's flood, 514 people died and the state government

paid Rs 1788 crore as ex-gratia to 30 lakh affected families, he said at a symposium on climate change. This is the magnitude of the damage caused by floods in one year alone.... The frequency of natural disasters has been rising due to climate change," Modi said. A very huge amount of money is spent to deal with disaster related incidents, he said adding that the state government has made a provision of Rs 68,000 crore in

2016-17 for its 10 departments to deal with natural disasters. The deputy chief minister said it would be difficult to combat the issue of climate change until and unless every individual of the country moderate his/her life-style. "Affluent sections of the society will have to take initiative to reduce carbon footprint. There is a need for creating awareness among the people as how to moderate one's life-style," the senior BJP leader said.

He also advised people to avoid packaged food items, plastic bottles and bags and get the habit of switching off lights, fans and water taps when not in use. In the symposium, state Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav highlighted the necessity of a detailed study on the impact of climate change in Bihar. (PTI) HC refuses to stay framing of charges against Tejpal Panaji, Sept 26 /- The Bombay High Court today refused to stay the framing of charges against Tarun Tejpal in a case of alleged rape, and issued a notice to the Goa government today. It's response to the senior journalist's plea. The district court in Mapusa had on September 7 refused to drop the charges against Tejpal, who has been accused of sexually assaulting a former colleague at an event in Goa in 2013. Tejpal, the founder editor of Tehelka magazine, had

moved the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court against the district court's order. Justice Prithviraj Chavan, while hearing his prayer today, declined to stay the framing of charges by the trial court. Tejpal had sought a stay on framing of charges against him till the time the HC has decided his plea on dropping the charges. Tejpal has contended there was a lack of evidence against him in the case. The high court, however,

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said if the district court frames charges against Tejpal, the recording of evidence, which marks the beginning of the trial, should be deferred. The court posted the matter for further hearing to November 1. Tejpal, former editor-in-chief of Tehelka magazine, is facing charges under IPC sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 376 (rape) and 354-B (criminal assault) to disrobe a woman. (PTI)