Delhi's pollution level remains severe

*Air quality improves rapidly

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17/--/ Delhi's pollution level decreased rapidly but continued to remain in the 'severe' category for the sixth day today, monitoring agencies said.

The pollution level that dipped to 'severe plus' state has come to 'severe' category due to rapid dispersion of pollutants, Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research institute (SAFAR) said.

According to the data by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the PM10 level (presence of particles with diameter less than 10 mm) was recorded at 424 in Delhi-NCR and 420 in Delhi today.

The dispersion of pollutants has become faster after the local winds picked up speed, which in turn has rapidly decreased the pollution level and improved air quality, said Gufran Beig, a scientist at SAFAR, adding that the air quality is expected to improve further.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city remained severe at 402. An AQI between 0-50 is considered good , 51-100 satisfactory , 101-200 moderate , 201-300 poor , 301-400 very poor , and 401-500 severe .

The PM10 level had climbed to 778 in Delhi-NCR area and 824 in Delhi on Wednesday, bringing to light that severe pollution could be a 'summer-time problem' too.

The PM2.5 level (presence of particles with diameter less than 2.5 mm) that deteriorated from "very poor" to "severe" has now come to "poor" category. It was 110 in Delhi-NCR and 107 in Delhi today, the CPCB data said. There was a dip in the air quality level on Tuesday due to dust storms in western India, particularly Rajasthan, which increased coarser particles in the air, it added. (PTI)

Police fighting rumours through social media

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17/-/Police not only have to fight crime in the real world but now have the job of quelling rumours in the virtual space to prevent or tackle violence. Police units across states and union territories have put in place various mechanisms to curb rumour mongering through messaging platforms.

Sample this: Haryana was witness to incidents of large-scale violence during the Jat agitation in 2016 and during 2017 when Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was jailed in a rape case. During both these instances, the authorities not only had to ensure that the incidents of violence were controlled, but also had to monitor the social media for any rumours being spread by anti-social elements.

Recently the Facebook and Twitter accounts of the Punjab Police went live along with the Twitter account of the director general of police and the state police's You Tube page.

The objective is to counter misinformation campaign and false propaganda unleashed by radicals or gangsters and other anti-social elements to influence people, especially youth.

Punjab DGP Suresh Arora said the police would use the three social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) to come closer to the people. In neighbouring Haryana, the state police had earlier set up the centre for digital investigation and training in Gurgaon, in a bid to enhance cyber policing and monitor social media content.

The Digital Investigation Training and Analysis Centre (DITAC), which has been set up in the satellite city, comprises a Cyber Forensic Lab equipped with high-end tools.

The centre also keeps a tab on sensitive and provocative content on social media besides imparting short-term and long-term training to selected police officials. Officials said those spreading rumours, posting fake news, hatred or any kind of false information etc, which can endanger peace or pose threat to public order, can be booked under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

Last year, western Rajasthan and some parts of the national capital witnessed incidents of womens' hair being cut mysteriously. Social media was flooded with rumours that these were the handiwork of some "evil people" who enter houses at night and cut hair of women after which the victim dies. Such cases were reported from Jodhpur, Jalore, Pali, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner in Rajasthan and from outer and south-west areas of Delhi.

We countered the rumours though social media. It was countered with factual report in every single WhatsApp group where we were associated. Special messages were circulated among public groups and also on our official Facebook page, Dr Ravi, who was the then SP of Jodhpur, said.

ADG Law and Order NRK Reddy, Rajasthan also said that when such messages started circulating, police proactively countered them on the social media platforms.

We have small units at every district comprising two-three policemen whose job is to only find out and collect information about what is going on in social media in the district. It is a kind of intelligence gathering which has proved helpful, he told PTI. The unit works under the supervision of the SP and they have their own methods and equipments to collect information.

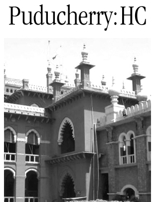
The officer informed that SHOs and circle officers have been asked to hold dialogues with public in their areas on a regular basis under 'Sahbhagita programme' which is also being used to create awareness against the misuse of social media.

In situation of tension, mobile internet is banned so that rumours are not spread. Misinformation through the social media also led to mob attacks in Andhra Pradesh with at least 30 incidents reported in different districts of the state last month with the police arresting more than 100 persons. It began somewhere early last month in Kurnool in the state. Three minors, who were class X drop-outs, downloaded a horrific video from the Internet and circulated it via a social media platform with a message that some dacoit gangs were roaming around villages, often kidnapping children. The chain of messages thus began and also led to the killing of three innocent persons. "We have conducted awareness campaigns in villages after these incidents and also carried out this on social media platforms," Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Harish Kumar Gupta told PTI.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar said: "We have a 'social media monitoring cell' which is working 24 7 and keeps a watch on any such fake messages/ rumours spread on social media."

Delhi Police's Intelligence unit keeps an eye on social media and preventive steps are taken in such cases, said Dependra Pathak, chief spokesperson, Delhi Police. "We counter it with a strategy. If the need arises, we post on social media with facts, " he added. The Uttar Pradesh Police, which is quite active on social media, however does not have a dedicated wing to handle such cases. "Whenever any such incident comes to light, it is referred to the appropriate wing like the ATS, STF, local intelligence unit, etc., on a case to case basis," an official said. (PTI)

Gang targeting rich French nationals in Puducherry: HC



CHENNAI, JUNE 17/--/ The Madras High Court has refused to quash criminal proceedings against a couple in a case of alleged land grabbing in Puducherry, observing that they were part of a gang which targeted rich French nationals to usurp their properties by forging documents.

Justice P N Prakash, dismissing petitions by the couple, directed a judicial magistrate court in Puducherry, a former French colony, to go ahead with the case, saying there was sufficient material against the two for framing charges. "...the accused in this case are not simple people, but belong to a gang which identifies rich French nationals with huge properties in Puducherry and usurps them by creating fake documents," the judge pointed out in his order, citing arguments during the hearing. The judge said if the accused do not co-operate, they can be remanded to custody.

The case was filed on a complaint from Marie Jacques that her father Saint Jacques Antoine's properties across Puducherry was grabbed by using fake documents after he was killed in 2006.

Based on her complaint, the police registered a case against 16 people, including the couple -- K Elumalai and E Karpagam -- and filed a final report before the Judicial Magistrate-II, Puducherry.

Justice Prakash also wondered how the quash petitions were allowed to be filed without impleading Marie Jacques, the original complainant, as respondent. The petitioners had only cited the police as the respondent. "It is not known as to how the registry numbered the petitions when instructions have been given to the effect that the de facto complainant/victim should be shown as a respondent in quash applications," he said.

This aspect would be dealt by the court on the administrative side, he said in the recent order. (PTI)

7,000 kids performing KATA attempt on the occasion of World Karate Day, in Ahmadabad.

HC asks police to expedite probe in girl's murder

MUMBAI, JUNE 17/--/The Bombay High Court has directed the city police to expedite its probe into the death of a girl, allegedly killed by her relatives for refusing to read a holy book and offer prayers. The court in its order passed yesterday also asked the police to file a report of its investigation.

A bench of Justices R M Savant and Revati Mohite-Dere directed the Antop Hill police that is probing the incident, to record the supplementary statement of the victim's father. The bench was hearing a petition filed by her father, Hussain Qureshi, seeking the transfer of the probe to another agency.

Qureshi told the court that he felt that the police would arrest him too, and therefore, sought protection. A widower, he told the court that while he was out for work, his brother and sister-in-law used to take care of his 15-year-old daughter.

On May 4, he was informed by his brother that the girl had died after falling in the bathroom. Additional Public Prosecutor Aruna Pai, however, told the court that the victim had been adopted by her uncle and aunt (Qureshi's brother and sister-in-law) after her mother's death. Pai said the girl was brought dead to Sion hospital by her relatives.

Initially, the police believed their version and registered a case of accidental death but the post-mortem report revealed some ligature marks on the victim's neck suggesting that she had been strangulated, Pai said. "Following its initial probe, the police came to the conclusion that the girl had been strangulated to death by her uncle and aunt after she refused to read the holy book and offer prayers," Pai said. While both the accused have been arrested for murder, the police are still probing whether Qureshi had any role to play in the incident.

Pai also told the court that the prosecution had sought the trial court's permission to conduct a "narco-analysis test" on him to find the truth but he had refused to appear for it. However, Qureshi denied the allegations and also told the bench that he had never refused for the test.

He also alleged that the police's theory of the victim having been killed over prayers seemed far-fetched. At this the bench observed that the case was sensitive in nature and required utmost attention of the probe agency.

It directed Qureshi to visit the concerned police station at affixed time and give his supplementary statement. "On what basis have you arrived at this conclusion? We will need a report," the bench asked the prosecution. "After the supplementary statement is recorded, we expect the investigating agency to carry out a fair and proper probe since we are informed that the probe into the case is still in progress," the bench said. "We also expect that all such requisite measures required to be taken during the course of the investigation will be taken at the earliest in view of the fact that the incident occurred over a month back. We expect a report from the investigating agency on the next date of hearing," it said. The court is likely to hear the matter on June 29. (PTI)

Court extends by 5 days ED custody of scribe Upendra Rai

NEW DELHI, JUNE 17/--/ A Delhi court today allowed custodial interrogation of journalist Upendra Rai by the Enforcement Directorate for another five days in a money laundering case related to alleged extortion and dubious financial transactions. Metropolitan Magistrate Bhavna Kalia granted the remand to the agency after Delhi-based scribe Rai was produced before the court on expiry of his seven-day ED custody.

Special public prosecutors Nitesh Rana and N K Matta, appearing for the ED, sought extension of Rai's custody by seven more days, saying he was required to be confronted with the evidence collected during his earlier remand. The agency claimed before the court that top secret documents were recovered from Rai's possession and the ED was trying to find out how he procured them.

Summonses have been issued to senior government officials and Rai is required to be confronted with them, the agency said in its application moved through advocate A R Aditya.

It alleged that the accused had extorted money from various person claiming he had information against them as he was a journalist. Thousands of crore of rupees was extorted, the ED alleged. Rai was arrested on June 8 by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at the Tihar jail here, moments after he secured bail in a Central Bureau of Investigation case related to alleged extortion and dubious financial transactions.

The agency claimed that a number of documents, both in hard copies as well as in pen drives, had been recovered from Rai.

The agency alleged that the scribe frequently travelled abroad to park his ill-gotten money and that his custodial interrogation was needed to unearth the larger conspiracy.

The ED's application was opposed by Rai advocate Vivek Sud on the ground that the agency had already been granted enough time to interrogate the accused.

He was arrested by the CBI on May 3 for allegedly indulging in dubious financial transactions, getting an airport access pass made by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) by furnishing false information, alleged extortion and manipulation of an Income Tax Department case against a Mumbai-bound businessman.

The Supreme Court had on May 4 refused to interfere with his arrest by the CBI. The ED had registered a money laundering case against him based on the CBI FIR.

It had claimed to have recovered, after searches at Rai's premises and those linked to him, call data records of a senior ED official, an IAS officer earlier posted with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, besides confidential communication between a Singapore-based Indian High Commission official and a former ED chief.

The recoveries also allegedly included income tax assessment orders of various companies and suspicious transaction reports of nearly 140 firms generated by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) after joint CBI-ED searches.

In his application seeking protection from arrest, Rai had claimed he was framed in the case because of his writings against an ED officer, who was part of the team probing the 2G spectrum allocation scam case.

Prasun Roy, chief security officer of Air One Aviation Pvt Ltd, was also booked by the CBI, which had carried out searches at eight locations in Lucknow, Noida, Delhi and Mumbai.

In its FIR, the CBI has alleged that going by the value of the transactions of over Rs one lakh during 2017, Rai's accounts received Rs 79 crore while Rs 78.51 crore was debited from it during the same period. (PTI)

BJP effects minor reshuffle in organisational posts

LUCKNOW, JUNE 17/--/ In a minor reshuffle, the UP BJP has made some changes in the portfolio of some of its organisational secretaries (sangathan mantris).

UP BJP spokesperson Alok Awasthi said, "UP BJP chief Mahendra Nath Pandey has made changes in the area of work of the various 'sangathan mantris.' Ratnakar who was the organisational secretary of the Kashi region has been given additional charge of the Gorakhpur region. Pradyuman has been made the organisational secretary of the Awadh region."

Similarly, Bhawani Singh who is the organisational secretary of the Braj region has also been given the additional charge of the Kanpur and Bundelkhand regions. "The party makes changes from time to time and at regular intervals, in order to give pace to various works. From the point of view of elections, various programmes are being drawn up, and to accelerate those programmes, some of the secretaries (organisation) have been spared," Awasthi told PTI.

The organisational changes have been effected close on the heels of the BJP losses of Kairana Lok Sabha seat and Noorpur assembly seat in recent bypolls.

Awasthi, however, denied that the changes have anything to do with the losses in recent bypolls, pointing out that the losses were suffered in Uttar Pradesh western region, while the changes have been effected in the eastern and central regions.

Asked if this organisational revamp can be seen as a fallout of the bypoll losses suffered by the party on Kairana Lok Sabha seat and Noorpur assembly seat, Awasthi said, "Both Kairana and Noorpur come under Paschim kshetra (western UP region).

So it would be incorrect to correlate the organisation revamping with bypoll losses in Kairana and Noorpur. It is purely an organisational revamping and nothing else," Awasthi said.

The job of the secretary organisation of the party in a particular region is to primarily concentrate on expansion of the party base in a particular region, the UP BJP spokesperson said.

BJP had suffered a stunning electoral upset on May 31, with the joint opposition candidates posting victories in the bypolls for Kairana Lok Sabha and Noorpur assembly constituencies.

Rashtriya Lok Dal's Tabassum Hasan won the Kairana seat by a margin of 44,618 votes, while Naeemul Hasan of the Samajwadi Party bagged the Noorpur Assembly seat by a margin on 5,662 votes. Both seats were earlier held by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

BJP, Congress launch mass contact drive in MP

L.S. HERDENIA

BHOPAL: After the conclusion of ten-day farmers' stir both BJP and Congress have launched a campaign to win over the support of various sections of society. While the Congress is holding mass meetings, the BJP workers have launched a door to door campaign. BJP leaders including Chief Minister, Ministers, top functionaries, MPs and MLAs are calling on families to apprise them of the achievements of the four-year Modi rule and also that of the state government.

BJP is targetting prominent citizens from various walks of society for interaction. As part of the campaign Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan met a prominent doctor and former civil servants. Besides the state BJP leaders Amit Shah chose Jabalpur city to meet some prominent citizens there. During his stay in Jabalpur he called on two retired Supreme Court judges – former head of MP Lokayukta Justice PP Navelkar and former chairman of MP Human Rights Commission Justice D D Dharmadhikari. He was accompanied by Chouhan for these meetings. Shah also met party functionaries and asked them to plunge into the campaign to win MP Vidhan Sabha elections due by year end and the Lok Sabha elections due next year.

Shah, who reached Jabalpur on 12th June to discuss party's strategy for Mission 2018 and 2019, hinted at camping in the state from next month. The BJP president offered Narmada pooja at the famous Dhuandhar Jalprapat in Bhedaghat. Shah was accompanied by party national general secretary Anil Jain and state in-charge Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state election committee convener Narendra Singh Tomar, state party president Rakesh Singh and national general secretary (organisation) Ramlal. They were among the 22 members who attended the election management committee meeting. This is Shah's fourth meeting in the past four months. Earlier he had toured Ujjain and Jabalpur and visited Bhopal twice to address party workers.

During the meeting the party's national chief exhorted the state leadership to adopt a new strategy for ticket distribution, intensify publicity of welfare schemes and achievements and make efforts to retain the position in regions where the party might lose support in the forthcoming assembly polls.

"There were concerns over declining vote base among tribals. The party president also discussed core issues to be raised during the campaigning. The road map of the election campaign was also discussed and approved," said a senior party leader.

While Jyotiraditya Scindia interacted with youth, state Congress president Kamal Nath addressed meetings of government employees. This meeting was attended by nearly 400 leaders of 54 employees unions.

Setting a target of 10 votes for an employee, Nath called upon the employees union to support Congress forgetting a few mistakes of Digvijay Singh tenure and promised to fulfill the demands of employees if voted to power. Congress leader Bala Bachchan was also present in the meeting. Employees unions expressed their grievances during tenure of Digvijay Singh like retrenchment of 28,000 daily wagers.

"Anyone who commits a crime against women will be charged within 24 hours if Congress forms the government irrespective of who becomes the CM," said Jyotiraditya Scindia during his interaction at the Yuva Samvad programme in Bhopal on June 11. He was responding to a question raised by a girl on the issue of handling of women safety if the Congress forms the government. He stated that the party would present a blueprint for the development and employment for the youths. On the Vyapam issue he stated that "real culprits are still behind the curtains; the eligibles remained unemployed and the illegible got the jobs'. Vyapam have destroyed the future of lakhs of youths in the state, he asserted. (IPA)

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE & RUNNING OF KIOSKS

Principal Chief Operations Manager, Metro Railway, Metro Rail Bhavan, 7th floor, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kol-700071 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open tenders for the following work. **Name of work with its location and completion period:** Installation, maintenance & running of kiosks at Mahanayak Uttam Kumar (3 nos.), Kalighat (1 no.) & Esplanade (1 no.) stations of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Location: Annexure-I** of tender document. **Period of License:** Ten (10) years. **Approx. Cost of the work/Estimated values (per sq.ft. per month for the 1st year) :** (a) **Mahanayak Uttam Kumar (i)** Site No.1- ₹**535.73 (ii)** Site No.2- ₹**648.23** & **(iii)** Site No.3- ₹**556.60**; (b) **Kalighat - ₹1,085.37** (c) **Esplanade - ₹556.60. Earnest Money(s) to be deposited:** (a) **Mahanayak Uttam Kumar (i)** Site No.1- ₹**37,500/- (ii)** Site No.2- ₹**45,370/-** & **(iii)** Site No.3- ₹**38,960/-** (b) **Kalighat - ₹75,960/-.** (c) **Esplanade - ₹38,960/-. Date & Time for Submission & opening of tender:** 17.07.2018 at 15.30 hrs. and at 16.00 hrs. respectively. **Website particulars:** *www.mtp.indianrailways.gov.in* and/or *www.indianrailways. gov.in* **Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen and Tender form can be purchased from:** Principal Chief Operations Manager's Office at the above address.

Open Tender No.: Metro/T-Coml./CP/Kiosks/05/2018, Dated. 18.06.2018

FASTER ● SAFER ● SMOOTHER ● CLEANER

খসড়া ভোটার তালিকা প্রকাশ ১৮-০৬-২০১৮

জগৎবল্লভপুর অঞ্চল সমবায় কৃষি উন্নয়ন সমিতি লিঃ

ঠিকানা: জগৎবল্লভপুর, হাওড়া

নিবন্ধন সংখ্যা (Registration No.): 14 Dated 13.11.1975

Memo No. CEC/ELEC/JBP/18/02 Date: 12.06.18

খসড়া নির্বাচক তালিকা (Draft Voter List) সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সমবায় সমিতি সমূহের উপ নিবন্ধক, হাওড়া রেঞ্জ তথা হাওড়া রেঞ্জের সমবায় সমিতি সমূহের নির্বাচন সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ক রিটার্নিং অফিসারের আদেশ নং 193/II-06/12 date 07.02.2018 দ্বারা ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত হয়ে আমি শ্রীদেবব্রত দত্ত, সমবায় পরিদর্শক তথা সহকারী রিটার্নিং অফিসার, জগৎবল্লভপুর অঞ্চল সমবায় কৃষি উন্নয়ন সমিতি লিমিটেড এর সমস্ত সদস্য/সদস্যাগণকে জানাচ্ছি যে উক্ত সমিতির আসন্ন বিশেষ সাধারণ সভার জন্য প্রতিনিধি (Delegate) নির্বাচন উপলক্ষ্যে অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সঙ্গে নির্বাচন ক্ষেত্র (Constituency) ভিত্তিক খসড়া নির্বাচক তালিকা সংযোজিত হল যা এই বিজ্ঞপ্তির অংশ হিসাবে পরিগণিত হবে। ওই নির্বাচক তালিকা সংক্রান্ত কোন সংযোজন/সংশোধন কিংবা বিয়োজন বিষয়ে কোন সদস্যের কোন বক্তব্য থাকলে অভিযোগের সপক্ষে প্রমাণ তথ্যাদি সহ আবেদনকারী নিজে অথবা তাঁর দ্বারা ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত (Authorised) ব্যক্তি তা লিখিতভাবে ইংরাজির ২০.০৬.২০১৮ তারিখ সমিতির প্রধান অফিসে সকাল ১১ ঘটিকা থেকে বিকেল ৩ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রাপ্তি স্বীকার সাপেক্ষে জমা দিতে পারবেন। উপরোক্ত বক্তব্যের উপর আগামী ইংরাজির ২২.০৬.২০১৮ তারিখ দুপুর ১১ ঘটিকায় সহকারী রিটার্নিং অফিসার, জগৎবল্লভপুর অঞ্চল সমবায় কৃষি উন্নয়ন সমিতি লিমিটেড-এর দ্বারা সমিতির প্রধান অফিস গৃহে শুনানি হবে। ব্যক্তিগতভাবে ঐদিন অভিযোগকারীকে উপস্থিত থাকতে বলা হচ্ছে। অন্যথায় একতরফা সিদ্ধান্ত হবে। শুনানি শেষে চূড়ান্ত নির্বাচক তালিকা (Final Voter List) আগামী ইংরাজি ০২.০৭.২০১৮ তারিখে সকাল ১১টার সময় সমিতির নোটিশ বোর্ডে প্রকাশিত হবে।

স্বাঃ

Date : 12.06.2018

দেবব্রত দত্ত

সমবায় পরিদর্শক, তথা সহকারী রিটার্নিং অফিসার

জগৎবল্লভপুর অঞ্চল, সমবায় কৃষি উন্নয়ন সমিতি লিঃ