

Denied natural justice by Kerala govt in solar case, says Chandy

KOCHI, OCT 14 / - Former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy, who is facing a probe in connection with the multi-crore solar panel scam, today alleged that he was being denied natural justice by the CPM-led LDF government in the case.

Chandy said he has not been provided with a copy of the report submitted to the state government by Justice G Sivaraman Commission which probed the scam. The scam relates to a fraudulent company collecting money from people by leveraging its connections with top government officials.

The senior Congress leader said he would file an application before Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan seeking a copy of the report, if it was not provided to him under relevant sections of the Right to Information Act (RTI). Soon after the government ordered a probe into the scam on October 11, Chandy had moved an application before the state Chief Secretary seeking a copy of the report on the scam under the relevant provisions of the RTI Act.

"Haven't got the report so far. It is denial of natural justice," the former chief minister, who is preparing for a legal battle against the government on the issue, told newsmen here.

Chandy and other Congress leaders have said they would challenge the decision of the CPM-led LDF government to order a vigilance probe into the scam.

The government had also decided to launch a probe by a special investigation team against Chandy, former ministers Aryadan Mohammed and Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan after registering a case against them in connection with the scam. Two former congress MLAs - Thampannor Ravi and Benny Benhannan - have also been brought under the ambit of the probe.

The commission was appointed by the previous Chandy government after allegations surfaced about duping of several people of crores of rupees by the prime accused, Saritha Nair and Biju Radhakrishnan. Announcing the probe, chief minister Vijayan had said a criminal case would be regis-

tered and "the SIT will probe allegations of rape levelled by Saritha against some politicians in her letter dated July 17, 2013". Radhakrishnan, who was home and vigilance minister in the Chandy cabinet, had in order to protect the former chief minister "illegally" used police officers under him to "influence" the case, Vijayan had said.

According to the commission, a vigilance case should be registered against former power minister Aryadan Mohammed, as he had helped Saritha's Team Solar illegally. Some Congress state ministers, MPs and MLAs were named by Saritha in the letter when she was held behind bars in connection with the case.

CIP by Coast Guard at C/Bay

PORT BLAIR, OCT 14 / - Indian Coast Guard ship Vishwast conducted a Community Interaction Programme (CIP) at Govind Nagar, Campbell Bay during the ship's visit at Campbell Bay harbour on October 10. The programme was conducted in coordination with Coast Guard District Headquarters No. 10, Nicobar. The interaction was aimed at sensitizing the locals about safety and security at sea as well as providing impetus to Govt of India flag-ship programmes 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' and 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'.

During the event the locals including fishermen were briefed about various safety precautions to be adhered whilst operating at sea, including use of safety



equipment and gears. The fishermen were advised to carry all lifesaving equipment, boat registration papers including individual biometric ID cards. The fishermen were also advised to operate in groups/buddy system, so that they can help

each other during distress situations and also inform Coast Guard/Police authorities. They were sensitized for sharing any safety or security related information with Coast Guard and IGNOU on helpline numbers 1554 and 1093 respectively.

AAP accuses Punjab govt of harassing farmers in name of stubble burning

CHANDIGARH, OCT 14 / - Punjab's main opposition party AAP today accused the Congress government of "harassing" farmers in the name of stubble burning.

The party said it will on October 16, submit memorandums to the deputy commissioners at each district in the state to seek stoppage of alleged undue harassment of farmers. "AAP MLAs and other office bearers will submit memorandum representations to the deputy commissioners concerned throughout Punjab on Monday for stopping the undue harassment of farmers by the government in the name of stubble burning," said party state co-president Aman Arora in a statement here.

A meeting of Aam Aadmi Party MLAs and office bearers was held in the presence of party state president Bhagwant Mann and co-president Arora here on Friday in this regard.

The issue of alleged harassment of farmers by the government in the name of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) expelling stubble burning was discussed thoroughly, Arora said. He accused the government of failing to perform its duty and was now "forcing the farmers to save the skin".

1 killed in clash near Pulwama encounters site

SRINAGAR, OCT 14 / - A civilian was killed as stone-pelting protesters clashed with security personnel near an encounter site in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district where two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants were gunned down today.

Police claimed that the victim, Gulzar Ahmad Mir, was caught in the cross-fire between the militants and security forces, but some locals alleged that he was killed in the action by security personnel against the protesters.

Two militants, including wanted Lashkar commander Wassem Shah, were killed by security forces this morning at Litter in the district. Soon after the encounter a group of people started throwing stones at the security forces, eyewitnesses said.



School children holding placard during an awareness campaign for the Deepavali festival, in Chennai.

Mere lodging of FIR cannot be reason to expel student, rules Bombay HC

MUMBAI, OCT 14 / - The Bombay High Court quashed an order passed by a college expelling a computer engineering student, observing that an FIR cannot be treated as "gospel truth" and cannot be a reason for expulsion. A Division Bench of Justices B R Gawai and S K Shinde quashed and set aside an August 5 order passed by Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering College affiliated to Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) expelling the 21-year-old student. The order expelling the student was passed after an FIR was

lodged against him in June for allegedly raping and cheating a girl under the false pretext of marriage. The student approached the High Court challenging the institute's order on the ground that he was not given an opportunity to put forth his case. The bench earlier this week after hearing the parties concerned concluded that the institute had admittedly acted upon the FIR lodged against the petitioner and expelled him without holding any enquiry. "In other words, the petitioner has been punished and kept away from pursuing further studies without a hearing given to

him. Thus, the order of the institute was in violation of principles of natural justice," the court said. "We are also of the view that registration of a crime cannot be taken as a gospel truth and held out to be a foundation to expel the petitioner," it noted. The bench said the petitioner had not indulged in illegal activities in the campus of the institute.

"No doubt, the offence registered against the petitioner is serious in nature, however, the fact remains that the institute expelled the petitioner merely on the ground that FIR is being registered against him is no way

concerned with the institute," it said. "In our view, if the impugned orders are not quashed, would certainly harm his career, which cannot be compensated in terms of money or otherwise. The petitioner cannot therefore be made to suffer the consequences merely on the basis of the allegations made against him and that too, before trial," the High Court said.

The bench while quashing the order directed the institute to admit the petitioner to resume his studies and condone any deficiency in attendance from the time of the expelling him was passed till date.

'Save girl' greeting cards for women, their newborn daughters in Chhattisgarh

RAIPUR, OCT 14 / - In a bid to promote the girl child, the Raigarh district administration in Chhattisgarh has come up with a unique initiative, under which women who give birth to girls at government hospitals, are given greeting cards that carry the message "Save and educate girl child". Besides the greeting cards, which also carry the pictures of those women and their newborn daughters, their photographs are also put up on the display boards named 'Mahtari-Noni' (mother and girl in Chhattisgarhi dialect) at these hospitals for a month for the people to see. Talking to news agency PTI, Raigarh district collector

Shammi Abidi said: "The initiative was taken up under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme at 62 primary/community health centres in the district to encourage the birth of girl child as well as institutional deliveries." From August this year, the district administration started giving colourful and attractive greeting cards to the women giving birth to baby girls in these hospitals. "The cards contain photographs of the women and her baby girl along with message 'Save and educate girl child'," she said. Similarly, the photographs of the women and their newborn daughters delivered in the gov-

ernment hospitals are also put up on the display boards installed on the premises, for a period of one month from the date of delivery. For this purpose, the 'Mahtari-Noni' display boards were created, she said. "We have done it so that a woman, who gives birth to a baby girl feels proud. We have been receiving wonderful responses and we are thinking of extending the initiative to private hospitals too," Abidi said. Raigarh is the only district from Chhattisgarh that was included in the list of 100 districts with low (SR child sex ratio) for the implementation of BBBP Scheme in the country for creating awareness over the issue.

Course on human rights for police personnel held

PORT BLAIR, OCT 14 / - The Police Training School, Prothrapur, A&N Islands organized a two-day course on "Human Rights" recently for in-service police personnel from the rank of constable to inspector, under the overall supervision of Smt. Amrutha Guguloth, Principal, PTS, Prothrapur. The main objective of the course was to inculcate awareness regarding laws related to the Human Rights and its relevant issues.

During the training, Ms. Anita Banerjee, Asstt. Professor (Economics), Mr. Vikram Singh, Asstt. Professor (Law), Mr. Geraj Vinooth Wilfred, Asstt. Professor (Law) of Andaman Law College, Mr. Keshab Barikdar, NGO (State Representative, NRC of India) & N. Islands, Mr. K. Michal Raj, Insp. Abita Bachan, Insp. R. K. Sharma and Sub-Insp. D.K. Seal of PTS, Prothrapur have delivered various lectures on the topics like concept of Human Rights and its importance in police works, necessity of Human Rights in democratic society, legal provisions for protection of Human Rights of complainant, suspects/accused persons, duties and obligations of constables, custodial justice and its legal aspects and do's and don'ts for protection and obligations of Human Rights, Human Rights and civil liberties organization, Police & Human Rights, guidelines for curbing the violations, torture and other custodial crimes, accountability and punishment, Police code of conduct and proper behavior towards public while performing duties and implementation of Human Rights, etc. Altogether, 33 in-service police personnel from various police Stations units including recruits of PTS participated in the course. The training programme was concluded by the Vice Principal, PTS, Prothrapur by emphasizing the main objectives of training programme and its thorough implementation. The course was coordinated by S.D.K. Seal, PTS Prothrapur under the supervision of Vice Principal, PTS, Prothrapur.

Today last day for IGNOU Warehouse

PORT BLAIR, OCT 14 / - The Warehouse of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) at Shadipur, Port Blair is functioning today as its last working day. Established during 2009, the Warehouse has been providing study materials to thousands of distance learners of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The study material of the IGNOU is being distributed to students, by hand, at Warehouse, by IGNOU staff members. During the period of 2009 to 2017, it has provided the printed material to over 50,000 students. Recently, the IGNOU, HQ, New Delhi has decided to close the Warehouse during mid October. Accordingly the Port Blair-IGNOU Warehouse will permanently be closed with effect from October 15 (Sunday). In this situation, to facilitate the students, the IGNOU warehouse will function on its last working day October 15 without lunch break closing. In spite of SMS sent from IGNOU Regional Centre, some of students are yet to collect their study materials. As a last chance, the warehouse is providing the books even on its last operational day. All the IGNOU registered learners, both fresh admission July 2017 and re-registration-July 2017, are requested to collect the study materials from IGNOU Warehouse, behind Shadipur post office, Port Blair (Phone 211088) immediately.

Heavy rain forecast

PORT BLAIR, OCT 14 / - The Indian Meteorological Department, Kolkata has forecast heavy rain (07-11cm) at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar islands in the next three days. The general public have been advised to take precautionary measures and contact the State Control Room, District Control Room and Emergency Operation Centres in case of any emergency.

Condolence meeting

PORT BLAIR, OCT 14 / - A condolence meeting for late Mr. A. K. Lingavelu, former state president BJP, A & N Islands will be held by Bharatiya Janata Party, A & N Islands at Shilp office, Dr. Shyamala Prasad Mukherjee Bhavan, Middle Point, Port Blair on October 16 at 11 am. Party leaders, members and workers have been requested to attend the meeting to pay respects to the departed soul.

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JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SELECTION TEST-2018

The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test-2018 will be held on Saturday, the 10th February, 2018 at different centres in N&M Andaman. The eligible candidate (Presently studying in class-Vth) alongwith his/her parents/Guardian may approach the Common Service Centre (CSC) alongwith duly filled in certificate verified and signed by the Principal/Head Master of school where the candidate is studying in class-Vth. The format of certificate may be downloaded from Samiti's website [www.nvshg.org](http://nvshg.org) or <http://jnv.and.nic.in>. In case of candidate of NIOS, candidate should obtain 'B' certificate and residence should be in the same district where he/she seeking the admission. The Prospectus for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test-2018 is available on the above said website for detail description of the JNVST-2018. The eligible candidate presently studying in class-Vth in recognized schools/NIOS may apply on online which is open from 25.09.2017. The last date of uploading online application in the office of the common service centre (CSC) is 25.11.2017. The eligible candidate may also approach the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Panchawati, N&M Andaman for uploading online application with the certificate signed by the Parent/Guardian and the Institution concerned. Any further queries and details, they may reach to the Principal/In-Charge on the land line No. 279092, cell No.9474207070.

Principal
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya
Panchawati, N&M Andaman.

Migrant children to be part of 'Balasabhas' in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 14 / - Children of migrant labourers, who come to Kerala in search of jobs, will soon be part of 'Balasabhas' under state-run women self-help group Kudumbashree. "Balasabhas" are gatherings of children to empower them collectively and ensure their participation in the democratic space. Kudumbashree has inducted 40 such children in the newly set up 'Balasabha' at Binamattam in Kottungalloor panchayat of Ernakulam district, as part of efforts

to empower migrant children. Kudumbashree executive director S Harikishore IAS said children of migrants working in construction and other sectors in the locality were included in the group. "The objective of the initiative is to improve the academic and extracurricular skills of migrant children and improve their personality capabilities," he said. Children, belonging to the age group from 5-18 years, were inducted in the new 'Balasabha'. It is expected that participation of migrant children,

hailing from various states, in the activities of the Sabha would give them an opportunity to mingle with native children and thus improve their language skills. A full time resource person was also appointed to coordinate various activities of Balasabha, the official said. Kudumbashree has also plans to set up more such Balasabhas in Perumbavoor, a town with largest migrant labourers population in Ernakulam district. Thousands of migrant children are studying in various schools in Perumbavoor and

attempts would be made to induct them also in Balasabhas in the next phase, Harikishore added. Kudumbashree had conducted a state-wide campaign last January to include migrant women in its neighbourhood groups. Balasabha is envisaged for the overall development of children through addressing their social and emotional needs and enhancing their creativity and leadership skills. At present, there are 69,743 Balasabhas, covering 10,59,283 children, across the state.