

People dump alive puppies & kittens in garbage: Parrikar

PANAJI, AUG 3/-/ Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar today told the Legislative Assembly that people were dumping puppies and kittens in the garbage while they were still alive.

He said around 25 puppies and 35 kittens were rescued from the waste treatment plant



during the garbage segregation work.

Goa Waste Management Corporation's plant located at Saligao village near here treats garbage collected from various village panchayats in North Goa. "We have been getting garbage which is of mixed nature. We even find alive puppies and kittens dumped in the garbage... Right now there are 20-25 cats and 30-35 dogs in the area around the plant, which were rescued from the garbage," he said.

The chief minister was responding to a question asked by BJP MLA Nilesh Cabral on the processing of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) collected at the waste treatment plant and its transportation to cement factories in Karnataka. "RDF is a mix of garbage and we get all kind of waste in it, including plastic, which needs to be burnt at 1,200 degrees centigrade. That is why we have to send it to the cement factories," Parrikar said.

At the waste treatment plant, inorganic waste primarily plastic is shredded, crushed and moisture is entirely removed to form RDF, which can be used as fuel in the incineration plants of cement factories. Parrikar said four cement factories in Karnataka were taking RDF from Goa. Cabral said the Goa government should look out for alternative cement plants in other states considering the rivalry of the state with Karnataka over Mahadayi water dispute. Parrikar said the government was already in talks with the plants in Maharashtra as the state needed alternative arrangements. (PTI)

Poop from skies: NGT raps DGCA for 'repeated defiance'

NEW DELHI, AUG 3/-/

The National Green Tribunal has rapped the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for "repeated defiance" on issuing circular to airlines operating at the IGI Airport here to ensure that they do not empty toilet tanks mid-air. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel warned that if the order is not complied with by August 31, salary of the Director General of Civil Aviation would be stopped.

The green panel took strong objection that despite its specific order there was neither any valid explanation nor there was compliance by the aviation regulator on the issue.

*Warns DG of withholding salary

Neither, there is any valid explanation nor there is compliance by the DGCA. It is not disputed that the order is operative and has not been stayed in any proceedings... "Since there is a repeated defiance by the DGCA with absolutely no acceptable explanation, we have no option but to direct the DGCA to comply with the directions already issued on or before August 31," the bench, also comprising Justice Jawad Rahim, said. The tribunal also warned that if there is "continued defiance" it may have to consider prosecution of the Director General on the next date. "If the order remains uncomplied, the Director General may be required to

remain present in person," the bench said. The NGT directed that a copy of the order be sent by e-mail to the officer concerned and posted the matter for hearing on September 17.

During the hearing, the DGCA told the bench that the order has not been complied till date because a review petition against the NGT's order was pending adjudication.

The DGCA had sought stay and review of NGT's December 20, 2016 and the January 10 order of the tribunal claiming that it was impossible to dump human waste mid-air from aircraft

toilet. On October 2016, a Delhi resident, Li Gen (retired) Sarwant Singh Dahiya, had filed a case alleging that houses in his neighbourhood were damaged by faeces dumped by airlines from planes at night. Dahiya had moved the NGT alleging that faeces were splattered from aircraft on his South Delhi house before Diwali in 2016 after which the tribunal on December 20, 2016 had directed the DGCA to issue a circular to all airlines to pay Rs 50,000 as environmental compensation if their planes are found dumping

waste mid-air.

The petition has referred to the findings of the expert committee, constituted by NGT, and said there is no switch or system available in the aircraft to dispose waste in flight. "The aircraft system has three level of in-built external protection for disposing the waste and under no circumstance release of waste during flight is possible and there has been no such resort ever by the operators." The modern day airline toilets are sealed and cannot be emptied in flight and toilet waste can only be disposed

of manual operation on ground during its servicing. The DGCA had said. The tribunal had earlier constituted committee comprising representatives from the DGCA, Central Avian Research Institute and CPCB to collect samples from the house of Dahiya.

Aviation regulator DGCA had maintained that it was impossible to dump human waste mid-air from aircraft toilet, and bird droppings had landed on the complainant's house, after which the green panel had ordered testing of the excreta samples.

The CPCB had said that there were traces of faecal coliform in the samples, indicating presence of human waste.

The tribunal had in 2016 held that "any aircraft, airlines and the handling services of registered aircraft" were found to be dumping human waste from air or toilet tanks were found to have been emptied before landing, they shall be subjected to environmental compensation of Rs 5,00,000 per case/default.

The NGT had also asked the DGCA to carry out surprise inspection of aircraft landing at the airport to check that their toilet tanks are not empty while landing and prevent waste from being splashed over residential areas and any other place before landing. (PTI)

NGT orders action against polluting industrial units in east Delhi

NEW DELHI, AUG 3/-/

The National Green Tribunal has taken notice of polluting industrial units operating in residential areas of Shastri Nagar here and asked the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPPC) to take action against all such entities operating without consent.

A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said there was material on record which "prima facie" indicates violation of law which needs to be looked into by the DPPC and the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC). The green panel noted that various units like bakeries, welding shops and slaughter houses were functioning in residential areas

without proper permission. "The DPPC may look into the questions whether the illegal activities pointed out by the applicant require any consent to operate and whether such consent has been obtained."

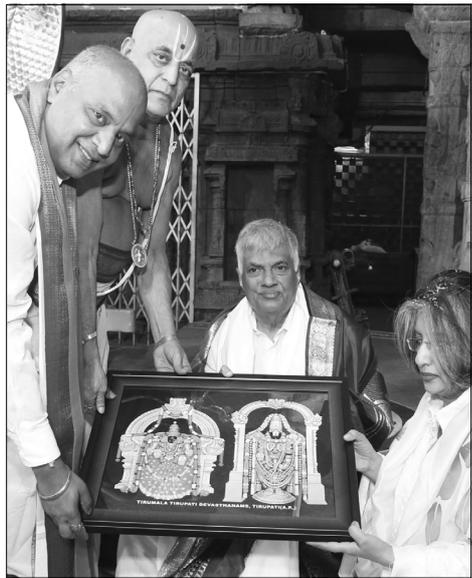
It may also be examined as to which category the activities fall as per the categorisation and siting policy published by the DPPC in terms of the latest guidelines on the subject issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and whether such activities are permissible in residential or municipal areas," the bench said.

The tribunal made it clear that if there was non-compliance of its order, it would initiate coercive measures in terms of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 against the authorities concerned.

It asked the CPCB to send a compliance report to the tribunal after three months by e-mail and posted the matter for hearing on December 4.

The order came while hearing a plea filed by city resident Kulwant Singh, who alleged that illegal and polluting activities were being carried out by bakeries, welding shops and slaughter houses in residential areas in New Lahore Colony in Shastri Nagar in violation of provisions of the Rule 3 of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986.

The plea, filed through advocate Ruchira Goid, claimed that despite the statement made by MCD (East) commissioner, necessary action had not been taken by the DPPC and EDMC. (PTI)



Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe along with wife Maithrea Raju, JEO of the temple offering Prasadam to them, at Tirumala on Friday.

Monsoon to be normal in Aug-Sept: IMD

NEW DELHI, AUG 3/-/ Monsoon rains will be normal in August and September, the India Meteorological Department said today.

In the second Long Range Forecast for rainfall during the second half of the Southwest Monsoon season, the IMD said the scenario realised till the end of July suggests that distribution of rainfall was very good across the country except Bihar, Jharkhand and north-eastern states.

The favourable distribution of rainfall was expected to continue for the next two months, it said, raising hopes for agricultural operations during the kharif season. "The rainfall during August-2018 is likely to be 96 plus/minus 9 per cent LPA and expected to be higher than predicted in

June. Quantitatively, the rainfall for the country as a whole during the second half of the season is likely to be 95 per cent of LPA (Long Period Average) with a model error of plus or minus 8pc," the IMD said.

Monsoon rains is considered normal in the range of 96-104 per cent of the LPA. The 90-96 pc of the LPA range is considered "below normal". However, IMD Additional Director General M Mohapatra said for August-September period the normal limit is 94-100 per cent of the LPA.

Skymet, a private weather forecasting agency, has downgraded its forecast for this year's monsoon, stating that the country might receive below normal rainfall, citing the continuing warming of the sea surface in the Pacific Ocean.

UP gov't promoting corruption at Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College: SP

GORAKHPUR (UP), AUG 3/-/

The Samajwadi Party today accused the Uttar Pradesh government of encouraging corrupt practices at Gorakhpur's state-run Baba Raghav Das Medical College, where nearly 60 children died allegedly due to disruption in supply of liquid oxygen last year. "Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath says his government has zero tolerance for corruption. But in his home town, BRD Medical College is involved in a scam of Rs 5 lakh per month in purchase of liquid oxygen," SP district president Prahlad Yadav said.

During previous governments, the medical college used to purchase liquid oxygen at the rate of Rs 16.50 per litre. After August 10 last year, the hospital started purchasing liquid oxygen directly from a company in Rajasthan at the rate of Rs 19.29 per litre. The consumption of liquid oxygen at the college is from 1.20 lakh to 1.50 lakh litre liquid oxygen gas per month. During peak months like August, the consumption is even more," Yadav said, alleging a scam of around Rs 5 lakh per month.

Asked about the source of his information, Yadav did not offer any. "We have our sources and we know it. If government wants to say something, they should come out with proof to deny the allegations made by us." More than 60 children, mostly infants, died at the hospital within a week in August 2017. There were allegations that the deaths occurred due to disruption in oxygen supply over unpaid bills to the state. The state government had vehemently denied that a shortage of oxygen led to the deaths.

The district president also said that the state government was not making hospital data public and maintaining secrecy. During the previous Akhilesh Yadav government, directions were given to the hospital to release admission, death and recovery data by 4 pm every day.

When BJP Mahanagar president Rahul Srivastava was asked about the issue, he said, "All allegations made by the SP leader are baseless. The rates (of liquid oxygen) have increased due to GST" (PTI)



Dissident AAP MLAs defy party Declare Punjab unit 'autonomous'

BATHINDA, AUG 3/-/ In an act of rebellion, a group of AAP legislators led by Sukhpal Singh Khaira today declared the party's Punjab unit autonomous and dissolved its current organisational structure. But even while adopting this resolution at a public meeting here, Khaira gave a week's time to the leadership in Delhi to review its decision to remove him from the post of Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly.

Altogether, eight of the 20 AAP MLAs in Punjab took part in the volunteers' convention called here by the Bolath legislator after his removal from the post.

The AAP leadership had summoned all Punjab MLAs to Delhi today to indicate that they were not with Khaira's "anti-party" move. At least 11 of them came to meet the leaders in the capital, party leaders claimed.

AAP state unit co-president Balbir Singh said the MLAs and other leaders who attended the Bathinda convention were "misguided" and hoped that they will fall in party line in coming days to strengthen the party.

Holding a convention under the banner of Aam Aadmi Party without consulting the state and centre leadership is illegal and the leaders

must avoid such activities in future," he said in a statement. The dissidents' convention unanimously resolved that the party's Punjab unit was autonomous, and will take its own decisions. It dissolved the current organisational structure in the state and tasked the dissident MLAs and the convention organisers to frame a new one. One of the resolutions said the existing organisational structure had eroded the AAP's image and its base in the state.

The convention fayed Khaira's removal as Leader of Opposition in an "undemocratic way" and rejected Cheema's appointment.

Launching a veiled attack on top leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia from the stage he shared with the seven other dissident MLAs, Khaira said, "Punjab cannot be run by remote control."

Khaira said he does not accept the "dictatorial" approach adopted by the "subedars". "I can sacrifice hundreds of such posts for the welfare of the people of Punjab," he said, addressing a sizeable gathering of supporters.

Khaira proposed forging a third front of like-minded parties to rid Punjab of the Congress and the Akali Dal as they had "ruined the state."

"Power and money is in play in Punjab politics today," he said. He said he will start his journey by seeking blessings at the Golden Temple in Amritsar and will visit all 22 districts in the state. Rallies will be organised at various places, he said. He thanked the NRIs for their support in bringing the volunteers together and added that the other major parties are perplexed with the response they were getting.

The other MLAs who expressed solidarity with Khaira are Kanwar Sandhu from Kharar, Nazir Singh Mansahia (Mansa), Kulwant Singh (Mehal Kalan), Baldev Singh (Jaitu), Pirmal Singh (Bhadaur), Jagdev Singh Kamalau (Maury) and Jagtar Singh Jaggia (Raipur).

The party plunged into a crisis in Punjab when Khaira was removed from his post in the Assembly on July 26.

AAP MLA Kanwar Sandhu had earlier said 12-13 MLAs were expected to participate in the convention and claimed that the event was meant to "strengthen" the party.

However, a tweet posted on AAP Punjab's twitter handle had said, "AAP derives strength from its volunteers, likewise every volunteer has only one hero i.e. Arvind Kejriwal." "No volunteer will support a person who tries to break the emotional thread between Arvind Kejriwal & his army," it said. (PTI)

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A worker gives final touches to a Helicopter model, during annual Independence Day Flower Show at Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Friday.