

Cabinet to examine if NIA can probe human trafficking

NEW DELHI, FEB 27 /- The Union Cabinet is likely to take up the draft anti-human trafficking bill tomorrow and decide whether the anti-terror body National Investigation Agency (NIA) can be empowered to probe such cases, official sources said. After the Cabinet approves the Draft Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, the government hopes to bring it before Parliament in the second part of the Budget Session starting March 5, they said. The draft bill proposes that NIA probe cases of human trafficking. According to a senior official of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the NIA would receive financial aid under Nirbhaya Fund for safety of women in order to set up a cell for investigating human trafficking.

The proposed legislation divides various offences into "trafficking" and "aggravated trafficking". The former category of offences would carry a jail term of seven to 10 years and the latter would carry a punishment of at least 10 years in jail, which can be extended to life imprisonment.

Aggravated offences would include forced labour, bonded labour, forced surgery, use of narcotics to induce forced labour, trafficking in the garb of marriage and those that lead to a pregnancy or grave illness such as HIV/AIDS. The draft bill also moots life imprisonment for repeat offenders and three years in jail for abetting, promoting and assisting trafficking.

The proposed law recommends a national anti-trafficking helpline and rehabilitation committee which would be headed by Secretary of Women and Child Development ministry. It also suggests setting up of a rehabilitation fund and prescribes a process to be followed for repatriation of trafficked persons.

These proposals were approved by a group of ministers in a meeting last month. The group comprised ministries of external affairs, law and justice, housing and urban affairs and women and child development. The Ministry of Women and Child Development had presented a draft of the proposed legislation in May 2016 for stakeholders' comments. After widespread criticism that the Bill lacked teeth, the Centre made several changes to it.

Later, for more than a year the Bill was delayed because of back and forth communication between the ministries of women and child development and home affairs over the issue of setting up of a national bureau on trafficking. Last year, the WCD minister said the role of national bureau could be performed by the NIA. Government officials say that in order to empower the NIA to probe trafficking cases, the National Investigation Act, 2008, will have to be amended.

The NIA was set up by the UPA government in 2009 to probe terrorist activities in the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which killed 166 people. According to the National Investigation Act, the anti-terror body is empowered to probe offences under eight specified laws, including the Atomic Energy Act 1962, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, and the Anti-Hijacking Act 1982.(PTI)

IITKGP team taps microwave radiation to create clean energy from Sunn Hemp

KOLKATA, FEB 27 /- Researchers at the IIT Kharagpur have tapped microwave radiation to create clean energy for large-scale use from nitrogen-rich non-food Sunn Hemp plants. The IIT Kharagpur Bioenergy Lab team was led by Prof. Saikat Chakrabarty, faculty at the Department of Chemical Engineering and P K Sinha Center for Bioenergy and Research Souvik Kumar Paul, an IIT Kharagpur student. High energy non-edible plant sources such as Sunn Hemp have the potential of making available biofuel on a large scale, as a replacement of fossil fuel. The team successfully converted the non-edible lignocellulosic fibres (plant dry matter) of Sunn Hemp to biofuel through a process to land based crops for biofuels, the statement said.

The entire conversion, which takes 8-10 hours, took 46 minutes to be completed by using the microwave reactors in the lab, the statement said. Sunn Hemp is widely grown in the sub-tropical regions of Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, the US and Uganda. In India it is widely grown in Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The large scale availability of Sunn Hemp in India along with its fast rate of growth, high cellulose (75.6 per cent) and high energy contents are the key elements of listing it as a top choice for the biofuel industry. The scientists have filed for a patent and their findings have appeared in the globally recognised journal, *Bioresource Technology* published by Elsevier.(PTI)

TISS students across all campuses to go on strike tomorrow

NEW DELHI, FEB 20 /- The TISS Students' Union has announced a strike across all campuses of the institute from tomorrow against the administrative staff demanding tuition, dining hall and hostel fees from scholarship students. The association has also demanded a notification from the institute about ways in which financial assistance for the PMS students of the upcoming batch of 2018-2020 will be provided.

Explaining the issue, she said that the institute without mentioning anything in the prospectus, was now demanding tuition, dining hall (DH) and hostel fees from scholarship students of the 2016-18 batch. "The administration has also said that the 2017-19 batch will have to pay the full fee for DH and hostel as the notification was issued in May 2017 before they took admission and they were very well aware about the notification. "But the argument cannot be bought as the notification was released in May 2017 in between the admission process, not before the admission process was initiated," she said.

Earlier, students and alumni of the premier social science school today staged a demonstration near the institute. The association has also demanded a notification from the institute about ways in which financial assistance for the PMS students of the upcoming batch of 2018-2020 will be provided.

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"Now students, both current and newcomers, will have to pay their full fees even as they wait for their state scholarship amounts to come," Soreng said. The association has also demanded a notification from the institute about ways in which financial assistance for the PMS students of the upcoming batch of 2018-2020 will be provided.

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Only peace can stop shelling; Farooq

JAMMU, FEB 27 /- Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today said that exchange of fire and shelling between armies of India and Pakistan will continue unless the two nations start thinking of peace. He was reacting to a question about continuation of ceasefire violations and heavy shelling by Pakistani troops along the border targeting civilians and schools in Rajouri and Poonch districts. If they (both the nations) don't think of peace, the firing will not stop, neither from our side nor from their side, the National Conference chief told reporters on the sidelines of a function here. (PTI)

Irani releases English, Hindi and online versions of India 2018

NEW DELHI, FEB 26 /- Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani today released "India 2018", an annual government publication on its policies and development programmes, in print and online versions, and voiced hope that it will be brought out in all Indian languages from the next year to benefit the public at large. She called the book a comprehensive manual of all landmark government decisions on the country's development from rural to urban, industry to infrastructure, science and technology to human resources development, art and culture, policy, economy, health care, defence, education and mass communication. With its latest edition, the book has entered into its 62nd year of publication. The e-book can be accessed on a variety of devices such as tablets, computers, e-readers and smart phones, it said, claiming that it confirms to the best international standards (PTI)

researchers and students who often look for information on internet. It will be a referral book not only for those who are interested in statistics but also for researchers and student community she said on the occasion of its release.

The ministry's publication division, which has brought the book, said in a statement that India 2018-Bharat 2018 in its Hindi version - is an exhaustive publication dealing with all aspects of the country's development from rural to urban, industry to infrastructure, science and technology to human resources development, art and culture, policy, economy, health care, defence, education and mass communication. With its latest edition, the book has entered into its 62nd year of publication. The e-book can be accessed on a variety of devices such as tablets, computers, e-readers and smart phones, it said, claiming that it confirms to the best international standards (PTI)

CS Row: CM's adviser goes on medical leave, Prakash attends Cabinet meeting

NEW DELHI, FEB 27 /- Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash today attended a Cabinet meeting, his first since the alleged assault on him by AAP MLAs, after asking Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to ensure that officers would be demoted and dignity of officers would be protected during the meeting.

In another development, a Delhi court ruled to grant bail to AAP legislator Prakash Jarpal who was arrested in connection with the alleged assault on Kejriwal. Officers in the national capital, including those belonging to the IAS, DANICS and DASS cadre, are communicating with ministers in the cabinet. Prakash, who is currently on medical leave, had not been attending office since the alleged assault on the chief secretary's sources informed. Delhi Police told a court last week that Jain had disclosed during interrogation that he saw MLAs Prakash Jarpal and Amanatullah Khan surrounding the chief secretary and assaulting him at the chief minister's residence in the night. However, Jain had previously said he had not seen anything as he had gone to the washroom at the time of the incident.

Hours before the Cabinet meeting today, Prakash wrote to Kejriwal saying he would attend to discuss important budget matters and asked him to ensure "no physical attack and verbal assault" on officers. The Delhi cabinet decided that the budget session of the Assembly would be held from March 16-28. "A meeting of the Council of Ministers has been scheduled (today) to discuss important matters of finalisation of dates for the Budget Session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly," Prakash said. "Since finalising the

minutes expressing concerns over the bill but there was no response. There are several provisions in the bill which, if it becomes an Act, will create and enhance problems for Muslim women, he claimed. Board member Yasmin Farooqui will take up a silent march tomorrow against the bill. The bill is anti-women, anti children. It is going to break families. The bill has been drafted in such a way that it will damage families and increase problems for women," she said. She said the silent march will be carried out from Chardarwaja to Muslim Musafirkhana. (PTI)

from the office, effective immediately," Trump said in a letter to Comey. Trump explained his bombshell announcement by citing Comey's handling of the investigation by America's leading law enforcement agency into Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's use of a private email account while she was the secretary of state. The move came days after Comey testified on Capitol Hill about the FBI's investigation into Russia's meddling into the US elections and a possible collusion between Trump campaign and Moscow. (PTI)

AIMPLB plans silent march against triple talaq legislation

JAI PUR, FEB 27 /- Terminating the triple talaq legislation as "defective", the All India Muslim Personal Law Board today demanded the Centre withdraw it in the interest of Muslim women. The board also announced a silent march against the legislation will be taken up here tomorrow in support of its demands. "It is a totally defective bill and not only against the Constitution but also against Islamic principles. A large number of Muslim women are worried and lot of protests are on across the country against the bill, AIMPLB secretary Umrain Mahfooz, said at a press conference here. He said that the board had written to the prime



A woman walks in front of a securityman on Maulana Azad road, as search of vehicles for possible transportation of arms and ammunition intensified on a tip off, in Srinagar.

Book by FBI chief fired by Trump to hit stores in April

NEW DELHI, FEB 27 /- James Comey, who was abruptly removed as FBI chief by US President Donald Trump last year, will share unheard stories from his career in a book this April.

In "A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership", Comey will explore what good, ethical leadership looks like and how it drives sound decisions," according to Pan Macmillan, which has acquired the publishing rights in the UK and the Commonwealth excluding Canada. "Using examples from some of the highest-stakes situations in the past two decades of

the American government, Comey will share yet-unheard anecdotes from his long and distinguished career," it said. Jeremy Treavathan, Publisher at Pan Macmillan UK, said about the acquisition. "This is an extraordinary look at what leadership under pressure, in the highest of public offices, means from the point of view of someone who has experienced the best and the worst aspects of both."

Each chapter reads like a scene from the West Wing, except this is for real. It's a remarkable finding to read a book that takes you inside key moments of recent history in such detail. "A Higher Loyalty" will be published in the UK on April 17, the same day Clinton campaign and Russia. Comey has been involved in some of the most consequential cases and policies of recent history.

Trump fired him on May 10, 2017, abruptly removing the top sleuth overseeing a criminal probe into whether the Trump campaign had colluded with the Russian government to influence the 2016 presidential election that was won by the real estate mogul.

"You are hereby terminated and removed

Govt. Of MIZORAM State Lotteries Result Sheet (26/02/2018)		
SUMAN Weekly Lottery	SANDIYA Weekly Lottery	ITANSA Weekly Lottery
Ticket Price Rs. 2/-	Ticket Price Rs. 2/-	Ticket Price Rs. 2/-
1st Prize Rs. 10,000/-	1st Prize Rs. 10,000/-	1st Prize Rs. 10,000/-
2nd Prize Rs. 100/-	2nd Prize Rs. 100/-	2nd Prize Rs. 100/-
1726 2038 7405 7634 6619	1104 0044 1686 2587 5447	9275 4599 2503 0364 0731
5046 92 324 3278 4110	225 288 2278 5718 7995	2075 2365 5214 6414 7028
0388 7270 6409 6176 1588	6627 6447 7205 8654 5844	6542 9650 5606 1922 6993
7718 7957 9705 2375 5931	4844 8423 7834 0715 8866	1375 1754 0190 7280 5339
6362 4035 0723 5852 0470	3475 4259 6074 0767 7396	9377 5463 2636 2100 2529
0298 0176 2653 2799 1400	8361 2730 1462 4355 5958	2104 7018 5811 0411 1162
7838 1125 1986 7895 4542	6961 9645 1354 9753 1905	8391 3914 0289 6021 2775
1855 0041 4933 6284 9403	2808 1269 5343 4812 2756	2953 0976 7453 9368 5340
5433 5356 3165 3391 9901	2904 7209 3237 4473 7697	4054 4370 6632 1266 3835
8005 3404 6049 3869 8297	5666 8565 7414 1062 5013	5101 8258 8713 7523 0908
5574 3605 0805 2402 5644	3044 6588 0450 6414 7995	5400 4475 9866 1164 7929
2537 0610 9505 9146 0107	6132 4672 4016 6252 5611	0867 7305 2236 3026 3820
9861 4669 3707 4424 9313	3577 5275 1541 3639 9297	3639 3184 0285 6093 4262
1406 1669 6504 5051 2768	8673 7292 6711 8039 9382	6456 6762 8428 9438 4936
6801 8910 9556 2134 8664	7752 2076 8184 4622 1740	7169 3769 6748 6145 3425
3598 9206 6524	2844 5555 9002	2474 3358 0060

Govt. Of SIKKIM State Lotteries Result Sheet (26/02/2018)		
CHETAN Weekly Lottery	CHETANA Weekly Lottery	CANA Weekly Lottery
Ticket Price Rs. 2/-	Ticket Price Rs. 2/-	Ticket Price Rs. 2/-
1st Prize Rs. 10,000/-	1st Prize Rs. 10,000/-	1st Prize Rs. 10,000/-
2nd Prize Rs. 100/-	2nd Prize Rs. 100/-	2nd Prize Rs. 100/-
9642 0623 8989 0780 7956	3289 8412 4311 3252 3667	3079 7371 9841 0788 1426
9352 2500 3178 6524 0110	5132 2633 5227 4422 1111	2009 9076 5216 4414 7028
3263 9828 1192 2904 6239	9467 7017 3171 5584 2525	6833 6037 5940 2402 5765
1947 5833 7884 2939 4955	5750 2456 9819 6473 7588	9602 4758 7729 3207 7519
7170 0597 3752 5430 9510	0191 4173 7183 2395 5864	2725 2173 6952 2944 5814
4228 7235 9728 3126 9519	3017 9729 2780 8655 3482	8803 3494 1148 1280 5173
5606 9065 4783 4695 8728	0561 3424 6684 1571 6366	2874 7991 5261 2696 0199
16254 1573 4026 5295 7062	4522 4990 5343 4517 9352	5894 5031 8560 9160 0802
5163 2718 6853 1782 9949	3354 2808 4508 0420 7322	1030 1013 1713 3164 1302
4577 7695 1826 8077 8518	6018 1675 2545 9137 7221	3831 9784 7661 8655 4194
6026 3922 8195 3056 8991	6264 4209 8656 8023 7114	4445 3301 0216 4915 4234
8456 9274 3006 6581 2141	1259 0076 0775 3786 6253	0965 4052 9047 3619 3728
16234 1573 4026 5295 7062	7784 4565 5713 9773 4251	5369 3993 8711 9292 9599
3423 3393 9398 2461 2926	8873 7928 1672 8034 9382	0459 6782 8428 9438 4936
5591 0998 1498 0641 0492	8201 9573 6911 8017 8573	1913 8470 9279 9362 5423
6667 4878 5392	6396 1828 1913	6672 1652 4338