



Railway Board chairman Ashwani Lohani reviews punctuality of 'worst-performing' divisions

Nation

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THE ASIAN AGE

SATURDAY | 19 MAY 2018 | KOLKATA

I am proud to say that NACO has recently certified Bengal as No. 1 in preventing parent-to-child transmission of HIV

Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal CM

'BRIBE RATE CARD' OF COPS ON WHATSAPP

AGE CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW, MAY 18

A "bribe rate card" of the special team of the Greater Noida police that went viral on the social media, has led to the suspension of 18 police personnel and dissolution of the Special Operation Group (SOG) in the district.

According to reports, top police officials, including DGP O.P. Singh and ADG Meenur, received a WhatsApp message that carried a screen shot of a tweet of the bribe rate card. It showed how the money is collected and distributed among the SOG members.

The two claims were false. Money was being collected from places such as shops, petrol pumps and hotels. The total amount collected was ₹3.5 lakh and collection of ₹50,000 was still pending, it showed. It also claimed that the inspector was to receive ₹90,000, "SPRA (SP rural) Madam" was to get ₹25,000 while ₹15,000 were reserved for "Holi" and ₹20,000 for "Bhadrana". It is not clear what these code words were meant for. A senior police officer, however, said that the screenshots did not prove that the officers had received bribe as it could be that bribe was being taken in their name. SSP Ajay Pal Sharma said that he had received a complaint and the matter was being probed.

"An inquiry has been initiated by SP City. As a result of the complaint, the SOG has been dissolved. The entire team, comprising 18 policemen, have been sent to district lines. Those whose name was prominent will be dismissed. But that will be subject to the inquiry report," he said.

TRAIN ENGINE DERAILS, NO CASUALTIES

AGE CORRESPONDENT
RAYAGADA, MAY 18

Passengers of 18005 Howrah-Koraput Samleswari Express had a narrow escape on Friday as one pair of wheels of the engine derailed near Rayagada in Odisha. No coaches were affected by the derailment. According to the chief public relations of East Coast Railway, J.P. Mishra, no passenger was injured in the incident. "In the course of God, no coaches have been affected. Nor has anybody sustained any injury. An extra engine has gone to the site to get the coaches back to Singapur Road near Rayagada. A relief train has also been sent to get the derailed engine back to Rayagada," said Mr. Mishra. He added that the coaches would move from Singapur Road to Koraput. "The entire operation is likely to take around five hours," he added.

SC approves Centre's Cauvery water scheme

Asks govt to notify constitution of 10-member authority

J. VENKATESAN
NEW DELHI, MAY 18

In a significant order which will bring the curtains down in the long pending Cauvery water dispute, the Supreme Court on Friday directed the Centre to notify in Gazette the constitution of the 10-member Cauvery Water Management Authority and give effect to the authority with promptitude before the onset of the southwest monsoon.

Disposing of a contempt petition filed by Tamil Nadu, a three-judge bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud in its order noted that there is distress situation in the state of Tamil Nadu due to scarcity of water, which can be remedied to some extent by the effective implementation of the scheme.

The court accepted the assurance given on behalf of the Centre that the "draft scheme" for implementation of the Feb. 16 judgment on distribution of water will be taken to its logical end with utmost dispatch.

As per the provisions of the scheme, the states are to furnish an indent to the authority for supplies required by them at each reservoir site. Both Karnataka and Kerala objected to this and said the states cannot be compelled as it would amount to interference with state's rights.

Further, they said it is wholly unnecessary as the award passed by the tribunal quantifies the volume of river water to be shared and apportioned between the states.

The court agreed with the Centre's submission that the dispensation envisioned in the concerned clauses in the "scheme" is essentially to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the scheme.

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