Tamil Nadu

The Chennai Corporation has started selling manure at malls and shopping complexes.

- The initiative is part of its zero waste project.
- Chennai Corporation Deputy Commissioner (South) Alby John Varghese on Sunday, in his tweet, said: “We started selling manure from our micro compost centres in malls and shopping complexes in the city.”
- The Corporation has commissioned micro-composting centres at all the 200 wards, generating manure from at least 500 tonnes of vegetable waste generated in the city.
- The Corporation sells manure at ₹20 a kg.
- The civic body plans to stop the dumping of waste at Perungudi and Kodungaiyur by December 2020.
- The city generates 5,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste a day.
- Most of its 700 parks have facilities to compost vegetable waste from the neighbourhood.
- The civic body has sold 9,910 kg of manure by getting orders through WhatsApp.
The Andhra Pradesh Government has decided to make all government elementary schools ‘English-medium’ from the next academic year.

While the government order, issued on November 9, said permission had been granted “to the Commissioner of School Education to convert all government, MPP (mandal praja parishad) schools and zilla parishad schools into English medium from Classes I to VIII from the academic year 2020-21, for Class IX from the academic year 2021-22, and for Class X from the academic year 2022-23”,

the state government said on that the order would be implemented for Classes I to VI in the first phase.

The first three child-friendly all-women police stations (AWPS) will be inaugurated in Tiruvallur district.

There are five AWPS in the district and in the first phase three police stations — Tiruvallur, Tiruttani and Uthukottai — will have child-friendly spaces.

It is being done jointly by the district police and the International Justice Mission (IJM).

“The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015, says that every child, including child offenders, must not only be given due protection and care but also be approached in a friendly manner, “ said M. Devasitham from IJM.
Courts and Verdict

- SC discusses ‘voluntary code of conduct’ for Cabinet Ministers
  - The court is examining if additional restrictions should be put on public functionaries’ right to free speech and expression.

- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is hearing arguments on whether Cabinet Ministers at both the Central and State levels should have a “voluntary model code of conduct” which addresses their private and public activities.
- The five-judge Bench is examining if “greater restrictions” should be imposed on the right of free speech and expression of high public functionaries to protect the citizen’s fundamental right to lead a dignified life.
- The court had to consider this issue post the filing of two separate petitions against the statements of Cabinet ministers.
- The SC has taken a consistent stand in the past against the invocation of any further restrictions on the free speech of citizens, and public men should be no exception.

- Marriage not ‘good enough’ to quash rape FIR: Delhi High Court.

- Delhi High court’s judgment on the question of ‘is marriage a “good enough” reason to quash an FIR for rape if both the offender and the victim decide to settle the case’.
- The Delhi High Court has ruled that the offence of rape falls under the category of “heinous and serious crime” which cannot be quashed even if the parties have settled their dispute or got married.
The High Court has noted that even when there is a settlement, the view of the offender and victim will not prevail since it is in the interest of society that the offender should be punished to deter others from committing a similar crime.

The Court also referred to a judgment of the Supreme Court which said that heinous and serious offences involving mental depravity or offences such as murder, rape and dacoity cannot appropriately be quashed though the victim or the family of the victim have settled the dispute.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan—First Country to introduce WHO approved India made Typhoid Vaccine

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Roar of the sea: Naval Exercise between Qatar and India

A three-day naval exercise, Za’ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) is being conducted between November 17 and November 21, 2019 between the Indian and Qatar Naval Forces.

The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the naval forces.

The first diplomatic defense agreement between India and Qatar was signed in 2008.
According to the agreement the countries permit annual defense training. However, an exercise between the countries is being conducted for the first time.

Indian Army conducts Sindhu Sudarshan exercise in Barmer, Rajasthan

The Strike Corps (also known as Sudarshan Chakra Corps) of Indian Army is conducting the annually held exercise, dubbed Sindu Sudarshan-VII, in Barmer, Rajasthan.

APPOINMENT

Justice SA Bobde was administered the oath of office of Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind. He succeeds Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who retired on 17 November.

Justice SA Bobde was on November 18, 2019, sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India (CJI), a day after the retirement of Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

Justice SA Bobde was administered the oath of office of Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind.

Justice Bobde will serve as the CJI for one year and five months till April 23, 2021.

He was one among the five-judge constitution bench which passed the historic judgement of construction of Ram Temple at the disputed site.

About Sharad Arvind Bobde
Presently, he is holding the position of the Chancellor of Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai and Nagpur’s Maharashtra National Law University.

He was elevated as a Supreme Court Judge on April 12, 2013.

He has previously served as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Justice Bobde has rendered judgements in some important cases such as Aadhaar, Pro-life, extreme air pollution in Delhi-NCR, and others.

CJI Bobde was a part of a nine-judge bench headed by then CJI JS Khehar which ruled that the Right to Privacy is a constitutionally protected fundamental right.

He also headed a three-member panel which gave a clean chit to Justice Ranjan Gogoi on a sexual harassment charge.

**AWARDS**

Well-known documentary film-maker R.V. Ramani received the Bala Kailasam Memorial Award 2019 for his film Oh that’s Bhanu.

The film explores themes of memory and time via Bhanumathi, who is suffering from memory loss herself.

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

Ambient air purifier for the outdoors - IIT-M, ‘Cyclofine’ has a four-stage filtering system and an air quality monitoring sensor.

‘Cyclofine’ sucks in ambient air at a rate of 750 cubic metre per hour and sends out cleaner air.

Called the ‘Cyclofine’, it has been developed by IIT-M’s Department of Civil Engineering and EnviTran, a student start-up at the IIT-M Research Park, and removes 60% of PM10 (particulate matter of 10 microns and less).

With additional filtration, it removes 80% of PM2.5 (particulate matter of 2.5 microns and less) and 100% of PM10 from the air we breathe.

It has a four-stage filtering system and also has an air quality monitoring sensor, which provides real-time air quality index.
✓ A trial for the prototype is on to measure how much of pollution there is at different distances from the road and how much is being trapped by the filters at these locations.

SPORTS

◆ Stefanos Tsitsipas beats Dominic Thiem to win ATP Finals title.

◆ A nerveless Stefanos Tsitsipas came from a set down to beat Dominic Thiem on a thrilling final-set tie-break and become the youngest winner of the ATP Finals in 18 years.

◆ The Greek, 21, won 6-7 (6-8) 6-2 7-6 (7-4) to claim the biggest title of his fledgling career.

◆ Harmeet’s second international title of the year after the Commonwealth championship.

◆ Harmeet Desai, seeded fourth, defeated seventh seed A. Amalraj 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9 in the final of the ITTF Challenge Indonesia Open table tennis championship here on Sunday.

◆ This was Harmeet’s second international title of the year after the Commonwealth championship in July at Cuttack.

◆ Harmeet said it felt great to win his first title on foreign soil.
IAAF will now be World Athletics.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will now be known as World Athletics, a statement said.
“We’re now World Athletics,” the sport’s governing body said in their website.

Indian women clinch five gold medals in Asian Youth Boxing C'ship

It rained gold for India at the Asian youth boxing championships as all five of the country’s women finalists emerged victorious while two men signed off with silver medals here on Sunday.
Naorem Chanu (51kg), Vinka (64kg), Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Poonam (54kg) and Sushma (81kg) were the gold medallists.
Selay Soy (49kg) and Ankit Narwal (60kg) returned with silver in the men’s clashes.
India signed off with 12 medals, bronze coming from Arundhati Choudhury (69kg), Komalpreet Kaur (+81kg), Jasmine (57kg), Satender Singh (91kg) and Aman (+91kg).