

## Editorial

### For elderly people

Old is gold so goes the much repeated and proven adage. Age brings experience, and with experience comes wisdom. These citizens have accumulated a lifetime of experiences and wisdom which is for us to learn and benefit from. The young and busy working people does not seem to have the time or the inclination to interact and consult older people often sidelining them in various matters personal and public. They are often viewed as people who are past their productive stage therefore becoming a burden to their families and are often mistreated and abused. Their opinion does not matter much and are often ignored and neglected. There have been instances where the old are physically abused. Their opinion does not matter much and are often ignored and neglected. There have been instances where the old are physically abused and ill-treated. They are left to fend for themselves and the few "Old Age Homes" which are being run in the state are no better and are often the last resort for these people to lead their remaining years. Government efforts in uplifting the welfare of the senior citizens have been dismal and inadequate, even negligible.

Still than Chief Minister N. Biren Singh announcement to take up measures for the welfare of the aged people during his visit at Chandel district needs appreciation from all sections of the people.

A pragmatic solution to the problems plaguing the older people in the state needs to be brought out and put into action in right earnest for them to have a better life and a sense of participation. Indeed it is the society which will stand to benefit from the vast experience and wisdom these people have acquired in their lives and their studied opinion and inputs will definitely be a guiding principle in the formulation of various plans and schemes. A place to start can be recreation homes where the senior people can collect and discuss various issues with the youths and even government officials can and should consult them in their official capacity with the old who have had experienced the particular field or department. These places may be constructed as strategic locations to enable them to have easy access and be made to have a cheerful and informal atmosphere with various items of entertainment which engages and relaxes them. The steps taken up by these wise people should be appreciated and encouraged with more opportunities for the youths be made to increase interaction which will lead to mutual appreciation on both sides which in turn will enable to build a balanced and improved society. It is time to give back to these people who have contributed their lifetimes for the society.

## Editor's Pick

### Global Warming: News, Facts, Causes & Effects

Global warming is the term used to describe a gradual increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and its oceans, a change that is believed to be permanently changing the Earth's climate. There is great debate among many people, and sometimes in the news, on whether global warming is real (some call it a hoax). But climate scientists looking at the data and facts agree the planet is warming. While many view the effects of global warming to be more substantial and more rapidly occurring than others do, the scientific consensus on climatic changes related to global warming is that the average temperature of the Earth has risen between 0.4 and 0.8 °C over the past 100 years.

The increased volumes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released by the burning of fossil fuels, land clearing, agriculture, and other human activities, are believed to be the primary sources of the global warming that has occurred over the past 50 years. Scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change carrying out global warming research have recently predicted that average global temperatures could increase between 1.4 and 5.8 °C by the year 2100. Changes resulting from global warming may include rising sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice caps, as well as an increase in occurrence and severity of storms and other severe weather events.

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## National & International News

### Court defers 2G spectrum cases for December 5

**HI** **New Delhi, Nov. 7:** A Delhi court on Tuesday adjourned the 2G spectrum allocation cases against former telecom minister A.Raja, DMK Rajya Sabha member Kanimozhi and others for December 5. CBI Special Judge OP Saini deferred the matter saying that judgement was not ready as documents filed in the case were voluminous and technical in nature which were still under perusal. The judge said that it might take two-to-three weeks more and deferred the matter for further clarification, if required.

The court said that it might decide the date of judgement on the next date fixed for hearing. The court issued fresh production warrant against Unitech managing director Sanjay Chandra and Bollywood producer Karim Morani on the next date fixed for hearing. The court was hearing two separate cases related to 2G spectrum allocation. One is being probed by the CBI and the other by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The court had concluded final arguments in the case on April 26. According to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Raja was

biased in allocating 2G mobile air waves and operating licences to telecom firms, causing a huge loss to the state exchequer. The CBI charge-sheet said Rs 200 crore were transferred from DB Group to Kalaigarn TV, which were kickbacks in lieu of allocation of 2G spectrum to Swan Telecom Pvt Ltd. The ED has filed a separate case related to money laundering alleging that a conspiracy was hatched by Raja, Kanimozhi, DMK supreme M. Karunanidhi's wife Dayalu Ammal and others and that the Rs 200 crore was proceeds of the crime. All accused, including Raja, are out

on bail in this case. On December 5, the court will also seek clarification in 2G case against Essar and Loop promoters. The CBI has alleged that the promoters of the Essar Group were the real investors and beneficiaries of the spectrum and licences issued to Loop Telecom, which was used as a front company by Essar to acquire 2G licences and spectrum in 2008. Essar and Loop promoters are facing trial for hatching conspiracy to cheat government for obtaining spectrum licence. All the accused have denied the charges.

### Trump reviews military forces in South Korea amid tensions

**AP** **South Korea, Nov. 7:** Reviewing American military forces along the Korean peninsula, President Donald Trump dined with U.S. and South Korean soldiers on Tuesday at the start of a two-day visit centered on pressuring the north to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Mr. Trump has repeatedly struck a hard line against Pyongyang and South Korea was warily watching Mr. Trump as he was poised to deliver bellicose warnings in the shadow of the North Korea. The President refused to rule out eventual military action against the North and exhorted dictator Kim Jong Un to stop weapons testing, calling the recent launches of missiles over American allies like Japan "a threat to the civilised world and international peace and stability." "We will not stand for that," Mr. Trump said at a Monday news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. "The era of strategic patience is over. Some people say my rhetoric is very strong but look what has happened with very weak rhetoric in the last 25

years." Shortly after arriving in South Korea, Mr. Trump travelled by helicopter to Camp Humphreys, a military base about 40 miles south of Seoul, and sat with troops for lunch in a large mess hall. South Korea's President Moon Jae-in was also seated at the table. "Good food," Mr. Trump told reporters as he chatted with U.S. and Korean service members. U.S. and South Korean officials have said the base visit was meant to underscore the countries' ties and South Korea's commitment to contributing to its own defense. Burden-sharing is a theme Mr. Trump has stressed ever since his presidential campaign. But he was skipping the customary trip to the demilitarized zone separating north and south a pilgrimage made by every U.S. President except one since Ronald Reagan as a demonstration of solidarity with the South. A senior administration recently dubbed the border trip as "a bit of a cliché" and several other members of the administration, including Vice President Mike Pence, have visited

the DMZ this year. And the White House believes that Mr. Trump has already made his support of South Korea crystal clear. Mr. Trump and Moon agree on the need to pressure the North with sanctions and other deterrence measures. But Mr. Trump has warned of unleashing "fire and fury," threatened to "totally destroy" the North, if necessary, and repeatedly insisted that all options are on the table. Moon, meanwhile, favors dialogue as the best strategy for defusing the nuclear tension and vehemently opposes a potential military clash that could cause enormous casualties in South Korea. Mr. Trump backed up his strong words about North Korea by sending a budget request to Capitol Hill on Monday for \$4 billion to support "additional efforts to detect, defeat, and defend against any North Korean use of ballistic missiles against the United States, its deployed forces, allies, or partners." And as he departed for South Korea, he tweeted that Moon is "a fine gentleman," adding, "We will

figure it all out!" On a personal level, Mr. Trump and Moon have not developed the same close rapport as Mr. Trump has with Abe or even China's Xi Jinping. Part of Moon's mission during the visit will likely be to strengthen his personal ties with Mr. Trump, said Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution. "Now poor President Moon is playing catch-up ball because everyone acknowledges that he's not bonding quite as much with Donald Mr. Trump as the rest of the region," said O'Hanlon. He said Moon could face pressure "to deliver a stronger relationship" whereas "in most other parts of the world, people are trying to keep their distance from Donald Mr. Trump." Mr. Trump will spend Tuesday in meetings with Moon, hold a joint press conference and be feted at a state dinner. Trade also is expected to be a major topic of discussion. Mr. Trump has considered pulling out of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, also known as KORUS, blaming it for the U.S.-South Korea trade deficit.

### Death toll from Vietnam typhoon rises to 61

**AFP** **Danang (Vietnam), Nov 7:** The death toll from typhoon downpours and floods wreaking havoc along Vietnam's south-central coast has risen to 61, an official said today, as the country opens its doors to world leaders for this week's APEC summit. Typhoon Damrey struck just before Vietnam was set to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings in Danang, which

will bring together US President Donald Trump, China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin, among other leaders. While Danang itself was spared the worst damage, muddy flood waters have submerged the hardest-hit provinces and swamped nearby Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was set to host APEC spouses later this week. Today an official from Vietnam's search and rescue committee told

AFP the death toll had reached 61, with victims perishing in floods, landslides and capsized boats at sea. "We are looking for more than 20 others," the official added. Authorities said rivers were raging as reservoirs filled up to near capacity in central and southern provinces, with rain still pelting some areas. Typhoon Damrey, which made landfall on Saturday, is the latest in

a string of major storms to thrash Vietnam's long coastline this year. Flooding and landslides in northern and central regions killed more than 70 people last month. In September, Typhoon Doksuri tore through central Vietnam, killing 11 people and decimating communities across several provinces. The country has reported at least 240 people dead or missing in floods and landslides since the beginning of the year.

### Kejriwal calls Delhi 'gas chamber' as air pollution hits severe levels, visibility down to 200m

**HI** **New Delhi, Nov. 7:** Pollution levels spiked to severe levels in Delhi with thick haze blanketing the city on Tuesday, reducing visibility drastically and affecting flights and trains, prompting chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to describe the national capital as a "gas chamber". The air quality index (AQI) - a measure of the level of pollutants in the air - shot past 400 in many places in Delhi by 9.30 am, the second time since Diwali and potentially signalled the start of Delhi's notoriously toxic winter. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) also issued a stern warning on potential health hazards, describing Delhi as a "public health emergency state" and asking authorities to shut schools as a precautionary measure. Chief minister Kejriwal also said he had requested education minister Manish Sisodia to "consider closing schools for a few days". "Delhi has become a gas chamber. Every year this happens during this part of year. We have to find a solution to crop burning in adjoining states," Kejriwal tweeted as AQI

measurements indicated presence of tiny particulate matter (PM) that can penetrate deep into human lungs and cause severe respiratory problems. Despite a ban, farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh burn crop residue in this time of the year, leading to toxic smoke to engulf vast areas of north India including Delhi. Lack of wind speed also leads to the smoke cover settling down over the city for days, which had led to one of the worst periods of smog in decades last year. Airport officials said at least seven flights were delayed while one flight from Lucknow was diverted to Jaipur. Train operations were also impacted, as 33 inbound trains were delayed by three hours or more. "Most of these trains were coming in from the east," said an Indian Railways spokesperson. According to Met officials, runway visibility dropped to around 400m at 8am in the morning but later improved to around 425-725m at 10.30am. While people on social media

described the haze as smog, a combination of fog and smoke, a met official denied it. "Pollution can be there but if there is no smoke, then the phenomenon is fog. We don't smoke now..." said RP Lal, a scientist at the regional weather forecasting centre. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, monitoring stations in Delhi-NCR recorded AQIs as high as 446 at 9.30am. Out of 19 monitoring stations in NCR, 12 recorded severe air quality. The lowest AQI was in Gurgaon at 357 at 9.30am, which is classified as very poor. Areas close to Shadipur in west Delhi, had the worst air quality at 9.30am, with an AQI of 446. The primary pollutant here was PM2.5, which is considered a finer and more dangerous pollutant. Anand Vihar area, which is usually highly polluted, also had severe air quality with an AQI of 405. However, the primary pollutant here was PM10. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said visibility in the capital was at 200m around 5.30am on Tuesday. In Noida, AQI was 430 at 9.30am.

Low visibility city resulted in slow traffic with long queues seen on the Delhi-Noida-Delhi Flyway and Noida-Greater Noida expressway during the rush hour. "It usually takes me 20 minutes to cover the DND but today, I drove for 45 minutes today," said Dhruv Gupta, a Jangpura-based IT professional. Noida traffic police said that traffic congestion was mainly near the Noida Gate and Sector 16A flyover. "Due to low visibility, there was traffic congestion. However, we are trying to clear roads as soon as possible," said Laya Singh, traffic inspector, Noida Police. In Gurgaon too, morning smog created problems for commuters due to low visibility. The weather, however, brought down the temperature considerably. The minimum temperature was 17 degrees Celsius on Tuesday which was 2 degree less compared to Monday. Officials at the weather department said that the weather is expected to remain cloudy for the next two to three days and the temperature to fall further.