

Revisiting Emergency of 1975, Yes today is the 43rd anniversary

Today is the 43rd anniversary of the Emergency. The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed Emergency on the midnight of June 25th, 1975. Civil liberties were suspended and lakhs of people were put behind the bar across the country. Media was also censored.

In her address to the nation, Mrs. Gandhi said the president has proclaimed national emergency. The days before the imposition of emergency, Mrs Gandhi's election was declared null and void by Allahabad High Court on a petition by socialist leader Raj Narain and she was unseated from her Lok Sabha seat. The court also banned her from contesting in any election for next six years.

Mr Narain who was defeated by Indira Gandhi in the Rae Bareilly

parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh had challenged her election on charges of corruption in the election process.

Socialist Jayaprakash Narayan had been organizing campaign in Bihar to oust Indira Gandhi and her Congress party from office.

On the evening of June 25th 1975, Jay Prakash Narayan called for a civil disobedience campaign to force the resignation of Mrs Gandhi.

In response, the authority of the maintenance of Internal Security Act was used in the early hours of 26th June and an era of repression of political opponents began which continued till early part of 1977 when the fresh elections for Lok Sabha was announced.

Government proposes to set up 3000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30,000 SHGs across the country



PIB
New Delhi, June 25,

The Government proposes to set up 3000 Van Dhan Kendras involving 30,000 SHGs across the country under the Van Dhan Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In a new game changing initiative, the Prime Minister launched the Van Dhan Scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED on 14th April, 2018 during the celebrations of Ambedkar Jayanti at Bijapur Chattisgarh. Emphasizing the important role of value addition in increasing tribal incomes, the Prime Minister stated that Van Dhan, Jandhan and Gerdhan Schemes had the potential to change the tribal-rural economic system. All these three schemes in tandem need to be promoted for this purpose by the State Governments.

Under Van Dhan Scheme, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers each have been constituted at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh. They are then trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the Jungle. Working under the

leadership of Collector, these groups can then market their products not only within the States but also outside the States. Training and technical support is provided by TRIFED.

Van Dhan Mission is an initiative for targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing non-timber forest products, the true wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan with an estimated value: Rs.2 Lakh Cr. per year. It shall promote and leverage the collective strength of tribals (through SHGs) to achieve scale. It also aims to build upon the traditional knowledge & skill sets of tribals by adding technology & IT for value addition. Further it is to set-up tribal community owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (the Kendra) in predominantly forested tribal districts. A Kendra shall constitute of 10 tribal SHGs, each comprising of upto 30 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Kendra.

Value addition assumes critical importance in ensuring remunerative prices to the tribals in this approach. Three stage value addition

would be the corner stone for enhancing incomes of the tribals under the scheme. The grass root level procurement is proposed to be undertaken through SHGs associated with Implementing Agencies. Convergence and Networking with other Govt. departments/scheme shall be undertaken to utilise the services of existing SHGs like Ajeevika, etc. These SHGs shall be appropriately trained on sustainable harvesting/ collection, primary processing & value addition and be formed into clusters so as to aggregate their stock in tradable quantity and linking them with facility of primary processing in a Van Dhan Vikas Kendra.

Talking about the new initiative, the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Jual Oram said that the scheme has a huge potential to empower the tribals. The Minister said that convergence with Panchayat Raj is envisaged. Initially, the focus of the scheme will be in aspirational districts and gradually the scheme will be implemented in all tribal areas, Tribal Affairs Minister explained.

Mega Miss North East, Mega Mister North East contestants pledge to conserve Biodiversity



IT News
Guwahati, June 25,

As a part of Mega Entertainment's association with the Assam State Biodiversity Board for the 16th Sunilk Mega Miss North East and 9th Garnier Men Mega Mister North East, the 100 contestants of the two pageants attended a workshop Biodiversity Awareness and Conservation at the Assam State Zoo on Sunday. The main aim of this workshop was to send out a message to the masses regarding the need to conserve the biodiversity through these 100 hundred contestants. The workshop, conducted in

accordance with the theme of the two pageants this year: **Biodiversity - For Posterity and Prosperity**, gave the contestants an idea on what biodiversity is, how it can be conserved, and what people can do on an individual level to contribute towards protecting our biodiversity. The contestants were also provided an insight into the process of adopting animals at the zoo, where one can take care of all the requirements of a particular animal for a specified period, thus contributing their bit towards the conservation of a species. They were also introduced to two adopters who have pledged to take care of two animals at the zoo.

Speaking regarding the activity, **Tejas Mariswamy, Divisional Forest Officer of Assam State Zoo**, said, "Biodiversity comprises of all the species in nature, and every species is important to maintain the balance of nature. It is important that people understand and promote to the younger generations the importance of other species, else we too will be doomed." **Abhijit Singha, Founder of Mega Entertainment** said, "I am thankful to the Assam State Biodiversity Board for helping us educate our contestants regarding biodiversity conservation. Being from the glamour world, the contestants of Mega Miss and Mega Mister North East have

a good public following, and hence, they have the ability to influence a big target audience. When these 50 men and 50 women speak out about the need to conserve the biodiversity, and pledge to contribute their bit towards the same, they will influence hundreds of more people as well. And that is where, we get one step closer towards accomplishing our goal." Later, the contestants were taken on a kilometer-long trek in the forests at the zoo, where they were explained regarding the correlation of different plants and trees with different animals, and how they are interdependent for survival in the long run.

International & National News

SC to hear disqualified AIADMK MLAs' plea seeking transfer of case from Madras HC

Agency
New Delhi, June 25,

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear on Wednesday a plea filed by 18 disqualified MLAs of Tamil Nadu's ruling party, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, PTI reported on Monday. The MLAs sought to transfer their case from the Madras High Court to the Supreme Court after the lower court delivered a split verdict.

A vacation bench of Justices Arun Mishra and S K Kaul will hear the plea on Wednesday. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the 18 MLAs, said it was a serious matter that needs an urgent hearing as a judge of the Madras High Court is scheduled to hear the matter afresh.

The Madras High Court on June 18 appointed Justice S Vimala to hear the pleas against the disqualification of the rebel MLAs after two judges gave a split verdict on June 14. Chief Justice Indira

Banerjee had upheld the disqualification, while Justice M Sundar disagreed.

In September 2017, Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker P Dhanapal disqualified 18 MLAs of the AIADMK after they supported ousted party leader TTV Dinakaran. Their disqualification brought the Assembly's effective strength down to 215 and the half-way mark to 108. If the MLAs are reinstated, the AIADMK government headed by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami could collapse. The 18 MLAs are now supporting TTV Dinakaran, who has formed his own political outfit, the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam. He had won the RK Nagar by-elections in December, necessitated by the death of former Chief Minister J Jayalalitha, by a huge margin.

There has been constant political bickering in the state after AIADMK chief Jayalalitha died in December

2016. In February 2017, after O Panneerselvam had rebelled against VK Sasikala and quit as chief minister and the latter was convicted in a disproportionate assets case, high drama gripped the state.

A trust vote was held for MLAs to choose between the

AIADMK factions, and Sasikala's nominee Palaniswami. The DMK was evicted from the House during the vote, which ensured an easy win for Palaniswami. However, Palaniswami later switched sides and joined hands with the Panneerselvam faction.

Supreme Court notifies new roster for judges

Agency
New Delhi, June 25,

The Supreme Court has notified a new roster for the allocation of cases to the judges, which will come into effect from July 2 when the top court reopens after summer vacation.

The new roster which was released yesterday said that the bench headed Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra will hear all public interest litigations, besides pleas relating to social justice,

elections, habeas corpus and contempt of court.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who is the senior-most judge after the Chief Justice following the retirement of Justice Chelameswar on June 22, will deal with labour laws, indirect taxes, personal law and company law cases.

The roster was put in the public domain for the first time on February 1.

The notification lists the matters that will be heard by benches headed by the chief justice and 10 other judges.

7 dead, 12 missing in Vietnam floods, landslides

Agency
Hanoi, June 25,
Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains have killed at least 7 people and left 12 others missing in northern Vietnam.

Five people were killed the worst hit province of Lai Chau, and authorities have been mobilising forces to search for the 12 missing. The Vietnam Disaster Management Authority said in a statement on Monday that two people were killed in neighbouring Ha Giang province when their house collapsed.

Nine people killed in Bihar lightning incidents

AIR,
Patna, June 25,
Casualty in lightning has gone up to nine in five districts of Bihar last night. Expressing grief over the incident Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has announced an ex gratia of four lakh rupees next to the kin of the deceased. Pre-Monsoon shower witnessed in several parts of the state. The Met department has forecast of more thunderstorm in the next 24 hours in several parts of the state.

AIR correspondent reports, maximum five deaths have been reported from Katihar and Munger districts of the state. Remaining four casualties are from Nalanda, Gaya and Banka. The state government has announced an ex gratia of rupees four lakh next to the kin of the deceased. Pre Monsoon shower witnessed in several parts of the state. The Met department has forecast more thunderstorm in the next 24 hours in several parts of the state.

WCD Ministry aims to bring down stunting of children

New Delhi, June 25,
Women and child development secretary Rakesh Srivastava said the Ministry aims to bring down stunting of children in the age group of 0 to 6 years from 38.4 per cent to 25 per cent by 2022. Speaking to media in New Delhi, Mr Srivastava said WCD will organize a national level seminar called TECH-THON on 28th June, to foster partnership for the Poshan Abhiyan.

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