

63rd Wildlife Week

DIPR
Bishnupur, Oct 5,

In connection with the 63rd Wildlife Week 2018, Bishnupur Forest Division a celebration at Loyala School, Bishnupur yesterday S. Dhananjay, Adl. Principal Conservation of Forest TR II, Khamsumnung Tawmbing, Conservator of Forest (Southern Circle), Pawan Yadav, DC, Hopson Sapam, SP, Dr. Kh. Samu Singh, Environmentalist and RK Birjit, Environmentalist

attended the function as Chief Guest, Functional President and Guest of Honours respectively. Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest, S. Dhananjay stated the need to protect and save the life of wild animals of which some are on the verge of extinction. He urged the participants to do their best in protecting and saving animals and the environment, without which 'life won't be possible on this earth'.

The Chief Guest also gave out

the prizes for spot painting, quiz and debating competitions to the winning students. These competitions were held on the 1st October, 2018 at different locations to generate awareness on protection and conservation of wildlife and also to inculcate love for wildlife amongst youths and students of the district. It might be mentioned that Wildlife Conservation Rally was organized at Thinungei, Bishnupur on the 3rd October as a part of awareness campaigns.

Nagaland AR apprehend two persons with arms & ammunition

Agency
Dimapur, Oct 5,

Kiphire Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (North) along with a police representative have apprehended two persons with arms and ammunition on September 30 at Kiphire - Chomi Road.

A press release by Assam Rifles stated that a mobile

vehicle check post was set up after the battalion received a specific information regarding movement of illegal arms and ammunition.

The release stated that two persons identified as Tsulenkiung Yimchunger (21) son of Yangtsumong Yimchunger and Y Lemtsuba Yimchunger (24), a resident of Village Salomi, Kiphire district riding a blue Pulsar 135 CC

motorcycle were intercepted. Assam Rifles stated that on thorough search, one 9 mm pistol (country made) along with a round of 9 mm were recovered from their possession. The apprehended individuals along with recovered items were handed over to Kiphire Police Station for further investigation, stated the release.

Sabarimala verdict: Congress, BJP attack state govt; NSS says will file review plea



Agency
Kochi, Oct 5,

The Congress and BJP on Thursday intensified their attack on the CPM government even as protests against the Supreme Court verdict on Sabarimala temple gathered momentum.

The state government and the Travancore Devaswom Board have made it clear that the apex court order — lifting the age restriction on entry of women into the hill shrine — would be implemented.

After convening a meeting of pro-Congress former devaswom board presidents, Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala questioned the government's move. "The government and board are showing undue haste in implementing the verdict. The government is against the interest of the devotees. The Congress will stand with the devotees, who are hurt over the approach of the board and the government," he said.

State BJP president PS Sreedharan Pillai said the party would protest against the government's stand. "The CPM government should avoid its obdurate stand against filing a review petition against the verdict. The impulsiveness of the government will make

Sabarimala a battleground. The government has hurt the sentiments of devotees. We will go to any extent to protect the traditions at Sabarimala," he said.

Upper-caste Hindu outfit Nair Service Society (NSS) also expressed disappointment and said it would file a revision petition in the Supreme Court.

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The BJP, which had left the protests to the Yuva Morcha and Mahila Morcha, announced that the party would directly step in for the cause of the faithful. BJP leaders met the erstwhile royal family of Pandalam, who have a stake in the rituals at the temple, and also extended support to the temple priests who are against the entry of women of all ages to the shrine. BJP sources said the RSS stand on women's entry remained the same. "However, we cannot ignore the public resentment, which has come out spontaneously," said a senior leader.

However, an opinion piece in Janmabhumi, the BJP-RSS mouthpiece in Kerala, on Thursday contradicted the

stand taken by the Sangh leadership in Nagpur. R Sanjayan, deputy director of Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram, argued that the SC ruling does not in any way affect the foundational traditions and rituals of the temple. In fact, as more female devotees throng the temple, he says, the temple's popularity and importance will increase.

The article reads, "The court ruling does not have anything that can adversely affect the Hindu religion or society. The court has pronounced invalid only the restrictions on the entry of women between the ages of 10-50. No one has been able to logically or through proper scientific methods prove the legitimacy of such traditions."

"The choice to visit/not visit the temple or even deciding the time to offer prayers must be left to the women. The rational notion is that women have the ability to make that choice. Everyone must understand that the age of patriarchy has ended," Sanjayan writes.

While the RSS had initially spoken in support of the verdict, the Sangh's second-in-command Bhaiyyaji Joshi said in a statement on Wednesday that devotees' sentiments cannot be ignored.

DUSU President from ABVP Ankiv Baisoya's degree "fake", says TN University letter

Courtesy-
The National Herald
New Delhi, Oct 15,

Troubles piled up for Delhi University Students' Union President Ankiv Baisoya on Thursday, October 4, when a letter issued by the Thiruvalluvar University Registrar surfaced stating that the education certificates provided by Baisoya from that university were "fake" and that he was not enrolled in the university.

In a letter on October 3 to the Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Tamil Nadu government, Registrar V Peruvalluthi stated: "I hereby submit that Mr Ankiv Baisoya has not enrolled either in our university or in any of our constituent of affiliated colleges and is not our student at all."

Taking cognisance of the news reports published regarding Baisoya's alleged fake degree, it further read: "The certificate he has produced is fake and not from our university. The

Controller of Examination has issued a letter stating that the certificate is not genuine after official verification of records of the Controller of Examination office."

Baisoya has been in the dock over allegations of securing admission in Delhi University on the basis of a fake degree from the Thiruvalluvar University in Vellore, Tamil Nadu. He is currently a student of Department of Buddhist Studies at Delhi University and is the centre of an inquiry by that department.

If found guilty, he may face cancellation of his admission from the university and also the forfeiture of post of president of the university students' union to which he was elected last month.

The controversy surrounding Baisoya's certificates erupted last month when the NSUI circulated a letter issued by the Controller of Examination of the Thiruvalluvar University dismissing Baisoya's graduation mark-sheet bearing that university's stamp and logo as "fake".



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UPSC to allow candidates to withdraw from exams

IT News
New Delhi, Oct 5,

Claiming that only half of the over 10 lakh aspirants who apply for civil services exam actually write the test, the UPSC on Monday said it has decided to allow the candidates to withdraw from the examination, according to an official statement.

The arrangement will be implemented beginning with Engineering Services Examination, 2019, it said.

Addressing an event Monday, Union Public Service Commission chairman Arvind Saxena said the UPSC's experience with the civil services examination is that roughly 50 per cent of the 10 lakh plus candidates who fill in the application forms for the preliminary exams actually write the papers, the statement said.

The civil services examination is conducted annually by the UPSC in three stages — preliminary, main and interview — to select officers for Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS)

and Indian Police Service (IPS) among others.

"The Commission has to book venues, print papers, hire invigilators and ship the documents for all the 10 lakh applicants — which turns out to be a 50 per cent waste of energy and resources," he said on the occasion of the 92nd foundation day celebrations Monday.

Saxena said, "The UPSC's view is that if we are able to work with genuine and serious candidates, we can give them better facilities and make our system more efficient."

A start is being made with the Engineering Services Examination, 2019 and more examinations will be brought under this arrangement, the statement issued by Personnel Ministry said. In order to avail this facility, the candidate has to provide details of application, it said. Separate One-Time Passwords (OTPs) will be sent on candidate's registered mobile number and e-mail id. "On successful completion of withdrawal of application, confirmation

message will be sent on e-mail and also an SMS. Once application has been withdrawn, it cannot be revived," the statement said. With a view to reduce the stress for the candidates, the UPSC has brought an increasing number of exam-related interactions and transactions online. In this regard, Saxena said the UPSC is also moving ahead with shifting from a 'pen and paper' mode of examination to a computer-based mode.

"Apart from making the examination process more candidate-friendly, the new systems also serves to cut down the time cycle for each examination," he said.

Bearing in mind the aspirations of the youth for better job opportunities, the chairman said that the Commission is now disclosing the scores and ranking of the non-recommended candidates in some examinations on its website and further linking it with the "National Career Services" portal of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

He said, central ministries and organisations can,

conceivably take advantage of this arrangement wherein candidates who have cleared a rigorous screening process in the civil services, engineering services or combined medical services examinations, but could not find a place in the merit list due to constraints of vacancies, can now look forward to being picked up for other government, public sector or private sector jobs, from the same data base.

The measure should obviate the need for conducting of multiple and separate examinations by different organisations for posts with similar entry level qualifications, he added. "This will reduce the stress on young job aspirants and also the time taken for recruitment by various bodies," Saxena said.

He also referred to the recent judgment of Supreme Court regarding appointment of DGPs of states as well as the government's proposal of lateral entry into the services. He said these developments have heightened the responsibilities of UPSC.

SC/ST Act: MP government reply on Shivraj Singh Chouhan's statement vague, says HC

Agency
Bhopal Oct 5,

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Thursday described as vague the reply filed by the state government in a case related to the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the public assertion by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan that those accused under the Act will not be arrested before a probe.

The Gwalior bench of the high court had on October 1 asked the state government to file a reply with an affidavit, supported by an officer not less than the rank of a Superintendent of Police, to clarify if the Chief Minister had made any such statement.

A 35-year-old Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in Shivpuri district has accused an

eye technician of sexual harassment. Atendra Singh Rawat, 40, was booked under sections of IPC and SC/ST Act. The accused then moved an anticipatory bail plea and his counsel Atul Gupta cited Chouhan's statement to argue against his arrest before probe. The government reply filed on Thursday stated that newspapers had reported the Chief Minister's statement made in Balaghat on September 20, but clarified that it has no legal sanctity and that no written order had been issued. Referring to the provisions of Section 18A (1) (a) and (b) of the SC/ST Act, the reply mentioned that, "If the Investigating Officer feels necessary then he does not require any permission of the senior police officer to arrest an

accused." The reply filed on behalf of SP, Shivpuri, said further instructions had been sought, but no instruction had been received from the government. Relying on an order passed on September 10 by another bench of the court, the reply said "the arrest of an accused is not mandatory when the offence has been registered for different offences under SC/ST Act and if the Investigating Officer (IO) feels necessary, then he can arrest an accused without any permission from the senior officer."

Observing that the reply was vague, Justice G S Ahluwalia said, "The question was whether any inquiry will be conducted before effecting arrest of an accused under the Act in the state or not? If the

authorities are of the view that the IO "if feels necessary" may arrest an accused without any permission from the senior officer, then it may give an uncontrolled and unchallenged discretionary power to the IO." At this stage, the government counsel prayed for a short adjournment for filing a detailed reply with regard to whether any public statement was made by the Chief Minister or not, and if it was, then in compliance of such public declaration, the police authorities would conduct an enquiry prior to effecting arrest of an accused or not.

Posting the matter for further hearing on October 11, Justice Ahluwalia asked the state to clarify the nature of the inquiry which will be proposed by the state before effecting arrest of an accused.