



BRIEF

Paid News could be Punishable - PCI

New Delhi, Nov 9 (UNI) The government is considering making "paid news" a punishable electoral malpractice, as recommended by a group appointed by the Press Council of India, Parliament was told today.

"Make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice" is among key recommendations, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting C M Jatua said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

DSS protests

Dharwad, Nov 9 (UNI) The members of Dalith Sangharsha Samiti today protested in Dharwad against the "apathy" of the government in taking up rescue and relief operations in rain affected areas of the district.

In a memorandum submitted to district authorities, they alleged that the leaders of the State have forgotten the sufferings of the people in their bid to set right their political crisis.

The developmental activities were totally paralysed due to the utter negligence of the government, they charged.

They alleged that the government had forgotten the normal schemes in providing shelter to the economically backward classes and simply wasting time in political jugglery.

Cartoon



Karnataka Government withdraws ordinance on reservation of OBC seats

Bangalore, Nov 9 (UNI) The Karnataka Cabinet tonight decided to nullify an Ordinance issued earlier leading to reduction in number of seats to be reserved in the coming Zilla and Taluk Panchayath and bring in another Ordinance.

Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting, Minister for Higher Education Dr V S Acharya said taking into implications of an ordinance issued earlier which had curtailed the number of seats reserved for OBC category in the

ZP and TP seats the State Government had decided to issue another order reversing to earlier.

He said that Government had issued an Ordinance on October last in compliance

with the Supreme Court verdict, instructing to maintain 50 per cent of seats for the General category after reserving 21 per cent to SC

While maintaining that the Government had decided to nullify its earlier Ordinance after taking into consideration of the

decision of the Government will not deter the State Election Commission to go ahead with announcing the election schedule for the ZP and TPs," he said.

Mr Acharya said today's Cabinet also approved the revised estimate of the II Phase Metro works in Bangalore from Rs 5453 crore to Rs 6395 crore for the 51-km stretch. The Minister said the Cabinet also approved Rs 1053 crore Tumkur-Rayadurga new

Railway line work to be undertaken jointly by State Government and the Ministry of Railways. The government would release its share of Rs 480 crore in a phased manner in five years.

Members of Obama entourage visit Mysore Silk Factory

Mysore, Nov 9 (UNI) Ms Marie Browner and Mr Ernest Comerantz, business persons who were among the members of the entourage of US President Barack Obama, who was on a three-day visit to India, visited the famous Mysore Silk Factory here today.

Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murthy and her daughter Akshata accompanied the US officials.

They were received by Mr Krishnappa, In-charge General Manager of Karnataka Silk Industrial Corporation (KSIC), who took them around various sections of the factory like soaping, warping, weaving, dyeing, quality inspection and other departments.

Speaking to reporters, Ms Murthy said "Though I visited Mysore on many occasions, I had not visited the Silk factory.



courtesy:bangalore.citizenmatters

and ST categories in the coming Zilla and Taluk Panchayath elections. "New Ordinance would replace the earlier ordinance which allows to maintain status-quo ante," he added.

adverse public opinion, the Minister said the issue would be discussed in the next session of the Karnataka Legislature before taking any final decision on the issue. "The

Over 1,000 tigers killed in a decade of Illegal trade

TOKYO, Nov 10 (Reuters) More than 1,000 tigers have

been killed over the last decade for illegal trade in parts such as skin and bones, and this is likely only a small fraction of the true numbers, a study by wildlife protection groups says.

India saw by far the most seizures of tiger parts, followed by China, Nepal, and Indonesia, said British-based Traffic International, which carried out the study with help from the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

"With parts of potentially more than 100 wild tigers actually seized each year, one can only speculate what the true numbers of animals are being plundered," said Pauline Verheij, joint

Traffic and WWF Tiger Trade Programme Manager and an

author of a report on the study. A study issued in September by the US-based Wildlife Conservation Society said Asia's tiger population could be near extinction, with fewer than 3,500 remaining in the wild. Tiger parts reported in trade ranged from complete skins, skeletons, and even whole animals — alive and dead — through to bones, meat, claws, teeth, skulls, penises and other body parts, the report said.

A total of 481 parts seizures were analysed, suggesting at least

1,069 tigers killed and a maximum of 1,220, between January 2000 to April 2010.

That works out to an annual average ranging from 104 to 119 tigers, though the report warns that this is only a fraction of the total trade.

Though India remains a major player in the supply of tiger parts, the roles of Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam as suppliers are growing as demand remains for tiger products.

"The data show that illegal tiger trade continues unabated despite considerable and repeated efforts to curtail it on the part of tiger range and consumer countries, inter-governmental organizations, and NGOs," the report says.



Indian sportspersons hope for better show at the Asian Games

Workshop on Panchayat Raj Institutions begins

New Delhi, Nov 9 (UNI) With loads of expectations and hopes of improvement in the medal tally, the 17-member Indian cuesports team left for Guangzhou, China, to participate in the Asian Games to be held from November 12 to 27, in the wee hours today.

The 10-men squad includes defending champion Pankaj Advani and senior pros like Geet Sethi, Ashok Shandilya and Yasin Merchant. India have sent seven women team to China for the debuting women's event.

Advani won the gold in Billiards singles category in 2006 Doha Games while Sethi along with Ashok Shandilya, won the bronze in the billiards doubles event.

Both the cueists exuded confidence of a good Indian show in China and said the contingent will look to better its medal tally this year.

"My conservative prediction

is around 5 or 6 medals but you never know what's going to happen," Advani said before leaving for China.

"The expectations are going to be high. It's not going to be as easy as the Commonwealth Games. All I can say is that do not expect the same number of



medals at the Asian Games," he added. About his own form he said, "I want to shrug-off my losing streak.

I know I cannot win always but I am hoping to do well this time." "I am looking forward to another gold medal this time in Billiards. It is the biggest event for us as cuesports is not there

in the Olympics," he said.

"Our preparation is good and we have a lovely blend of youth and experience," he added.

As part of the preparation for the mega event in Guangzhou, most of the men's players have featured in series of tournaments, in the last three months.

For the final preparation, all the members of the Indian team attended a conditioning camp in

Bangalore that began on October 20, with two international coaches England's Derek Del Hill (snooker) and Jorge C Dacer (pool) of Philippines.

Yasin Merchant, who won bronze medal in the last edition of the Asian Games in Doha, feels the 15 day stint with foreign

coach has helped them prepare better for the Games.

"We are better prepare this time around. We had the best coaches this time and I am hopeful of doing better than what we did in Doha," Merchant said.

India is amongst the top contenders in the billiards category and had a one-two finish at the 2006 Asian Games.

"On paper we still are the best team in Billiards. We should get gold and silver but it does not always happen the way you want it.

We need to be cautious about that one turnaround which happens at such big events," he said. The BSFI had a series of selection camps since April before naming the squad for the quadrennial event. Squad: Men: Billiards singles: Pankaj Advani, Geet Sethi; Snooker singles: P Advani, Aditya Mehta; Snooker team: A Mehta, Brijesh Damani, Yasin Merchant; 8-ball pool singles: 3-cushion singles: Dharminder Lilly, Vijay Goel.

Woman killed & 20 injured as boulders fall on Matsyagandha Express

Karwar, Karnataka, Nov 9 (UNI) A woman was killed and 20 others injured when loose boulders from a hillock rolled over Matsyagandha Express in the Konkan railway line near here last night.

Konkan railway officials said the landslide occurred amid heavy rains throughout the day yesterday under the influence of a depression, which had crossed the East coast as the cyclonic storm 'Jal' on Sunday night.

Karwar had recorded the highest rainfall of 21 cms in Karnataka yesterday.

The deceased woman was identified as Shyna (30) belonging to Munnala Kannur in Kerala. All the injured and the woman who died, were travelling in S-5 compartment. Shyna died after she was shifted to Patanjali hospital in the nearby Naval base 'Sea Bird'.

The landslide occurred between Amballi and Thodur stations in Uttara Kannada district, and resulted in the boulders

Panaji, Nov 9 (UNI) A two-day regional workshop on sharing experience of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) for capacity building, training, planning and delivery, organised by Ministry of Panchayat Raj and UNDP, commenced at Dona-Paula, near here, today.

Sudhir Krishna, Additional Secretary in Ministry of Panchayat Raj and National Project Director (MoPR-UNDP CDLG Project) inaugurated the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Krishna said capacity building and training to Panchayat Raj representatives was vital as the Union Government was keen to know whether Panchayat Raj Institutions were capable of getting more powers.

come crashing down onto two coaches of the express train travelling from Mangalore to Mumbai.

Most of the affected people including the deceased, belonged to Mangalore and Udupi districts in Karnataka and the bordering Kasargod and Kannur districts in Kerala. The injured passengers were rushed to the government hospital in Karwar and to INS Patanjali. The two bogies were replaced and the train proceeded after a delay of five hours.

According to officials some of the injured were identified as Gregory, Tejas, Sudarshana, Anusha Shetty, Vijeta, Sebastian, Sunil Damadoran, Suvarna Bhat, three-year-old Arya Prashant Kotyan, Brijesh, Adarsh, Ajeet and Ravi Bhat.

Konkan Railway officials, Uttara Kannada SP Raman Gupta and Assistant-commissioner Kishan Chand led the rescue operations.

Liquid biopsy to check cancer treatment

CHICAGO, Nov 10 (Reuters) Researchers are closing in on highly sensitive devices that trap bits of cancer in the blood, offering a "liquid biopsy" that would give doctors and drug companies a better way to see if cancer drugs are working.

Scientists have long known that cancer cells can break off from the main tumor and circulate in the blood, but these cells are so rare and so fragile they have been hard to capture and study in a meaningful way.

Johnson & Johnson has the only approved test on the U.S. market, but researchers say its usefulness is limited because it only traps a few of the cells.

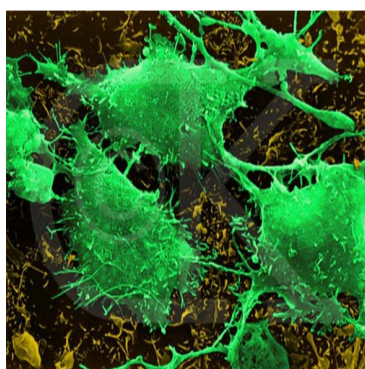
So, several teams have gone back to the drawing board and are now close to developing more sensitive tests. If they work, they could usher in a new age of personalized cancer treatment in which doctors use cancer cells from a patient's blood to guide treatment.

"Once you have these cells, you now have the very cancer you are trying to attack in the palm of your hand," said Dr.

Bob McCormack of J&J's Veridex unit. "You can begin to direct therapy from a test tube." So far, there are about 25

different technology companies vying to develop tests, ranging from small labs to very large companies.

Researchers say a better test could be worth billions.



"The huge interest in this is that this is blood," said Dr.

Minetta Liu of Georgetown University Hospital in Washington.

"It is not sticking a needle in an organ," she said.

Most tests for cancer cells circulating in the blood look for epithelial cells, which form the outer layer of organs.

These cells do not belong in blood, but are found there in 85 to 90 per cent of cancers.

"The supposition is these circulating cells are the very cells that kill," said Dr. Mehmet Toner, a biomedical engineer at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

FROM KILLER DISEASE

TO CHRONIC If they can be detected in the blood before they attack a new organ in the body, doctors may be able to keep cancer from spreading, turning a killer like lung cancer into a chronic disease. "That could really turn the whole cancer field upside down," Toner said in a telephone interview.

His team last month published a study showing that their new silicon chip spotted more than 90 percent of cancer cells the team added to blood samples.

The device, an improved version of a chip developed in 2007, has microscopic posts coated with antibodies that act like glue to trap epithelial cells but not blood cells.

"With the current technology, you may find one cell in an 8 milliliter tube of blood. We find hundreds or thousands of cells in the same amount of blood," Toner said.

Once trapped, scientists can run any number of tests to see what type of cancer it is and what drugs might best attack it. Instead of capturing cells, scientists at the Scripps Research Institute in California are using digital imaging and high-tech computing to count and characterize the cells.