

News

Brief

UP CEO asks candidates to conduct bank transactions above Rs 10k

Lucknow, March 19 (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa has asked political parties and candidates to conduct transactions exceeding 10,000 rupees through banks.

Parties have been asked to submit a list of star campaigners within a week, with their expenses to be included in the campaign budget.

The UP CEO, issued directives necessitating political parties to seek permission for rallies and processions, including a cap on campaign expenditure at 95 lakh rupees for the Lok Sabha elections and Rs 40 lakh for the Assembly elections, said a release from the office of the CEO.

Five-layer security cover in place for PM's Salem rally today

Chennai, March 19 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a whirlwind tour of southern states, will address a mammoth rally at Salem in Western Tamil Nadu on Tuesday afternoon. Heavy security has been deployed in Salem with more than 5,000 police personnel on duty and a five layer security in place.

The PM will reach Salem after attending a roadshow at Palakkad in Kerala.

PMK founder leader, Dr S Ramadoss, will attend the PM's programme at Salem.

The BJP entered into an electoral understanding with the PMK on Tuesday morning with Ramadoss' party being allocated ten seats to contest from Tamil Nadu.

Lucknow's Jurassic Park nearing completion

Lucknow, March 19 (IANS) The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) is developing the state's first Jurassic Park in five acres of Janeshwar Mishra Park.

The park is in its final stages of completion. The dinosaur model will be 55-feet high and a four-metre-high talking tree will be part of Jurassic Park.

A cafeteria will also come up in the park.

Larger than life models of King Kong, Godzilla, Dinosaur, Mammoth and other animals are part of this project. These models will be equipped with sensors, and visitors will enjoy the sound effects of their breathing and movement.

Explosive material found near B'luru school

Bengaluru, March 19 (IANS) The police seized explosive material from a vacant land near a private school in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The development has raised concerns in view of the March 1 Bengaluru cafe blast which was carried out by using a low intensity improvised explosive device. According to police, the substances were kept in a tractor parked at an empty site near the school.

SC declines to stay Citizenship Amendment Rules

New Delhi, March 19 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to pass any interim order staying the implementation of the rules notified by the Union Home Ministry under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Emphasising that the Union government must be given a reasonable time to respond to the interlocutory applications challenging the introduction of 2024 Citizenship Amendment Rules, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, posted the matter for further hearing on April 9.

The Bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, refused to pass any direction subjecting grant of citizenship under the impugned

law to the outcome of the petitions challenging the validity of CAA.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, pleaded that the impugned law does not take away but grants citizenship and hence, no prejudice must be caused to the petitioners on implementation of the CAA.

Referring to the multiple applications filed seeking stay on implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Rules, SG Mehta added that all these applications had not been served on them and a four-week time may be allowed for filing of reply.

On the other hand, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing on behalf of the petitioners, strongly pressed for a stay on implementation of the Ci-

zenship Amendment Rules.

"The problem is if somebody gets citizenship, it will be irreversible to reverse it and these petitions (challenging CAA) will get infructuous," Sibal argued.

He reiterated that the top court in 2019 did not pass any stay order on implementation of the CAA because of non-existence of the rules.

Last week, the top court had agreed to urgently list the pleas seeking a stay on implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Rules.

In its application, Indian Union Muslim League (IUMU) stated the rules notified under CAA are manifestly arbitrary and created an unfair advantage in favour of a class of persons on the ground

solely of their religious identity, which is impermissible under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

It added that around 250 petitions challenging the provisions of the CAA are pending before the Supreme Court and in case CAA is held to be unconstitutional, an "anomalous situation" would arise when people who would have got citizenship under the impugned Act and Rules would have to be stripped of their citizenship.

"Therefore, it is in the best interest of every person to defer the implementation of CAA and impugned rules till this Hon'ble Court finally decides the matter...The Petitioner had pressed for a stay of the implementation of the provisions of the impugned Act.



Former Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu joined the BJP at Party HQ, in New Delhi on Tuesday. UNI

Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train to be launched in 2026: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, March 19 (IANS) Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday that the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train will be launched in 2026.

"India's first bullet train will be ready in 2026, and will run in one section from Surat," the minister said.

He said significant progress has been made in the construction of various stations and work has begun on the sea tunnel through which the train will reach Mumbai from Thane.

The Railway Minister had earlier shared a video of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad 'Bullet train' corridor

which will cut the travel time on the 508 km route between the two cities to a mere 2 hours.

"Stay tuned for #BulletTrain in Modi 3.0!," the minister had posted on X. The video highlights some of the features of the state-of-the-art train project being built with an investment of Rs 1.08 lakh crore. These include: The Bullet train is expected to touch a maximum speed of 320 kilometres per hour on the route. The corridor will feature a slab track system, a technology to be used for the first time in India. As many as 24 river bridges, 28 steel bridges,

and seven mountain tunnels are being erected for the Bullet train route. The corridor will also have a 7 km undersea tunnel. The video described the project as "a marvel of world-class engineering" and the "future of India."

The objective of the project is to develop a high-frequency mass transportation system by constructing the High-Speed Rail between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, using Japan's Shinkansen technology (also known as the Bullet Train), thereby enhancing mobility in India and contributing to regional economic development.

Delhi court extends Sisodia's judicial custody till April 6 in excise policy case

New Delhi, March 19 (IANS) A Delhi court on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia, in the excise policy case till April 6. The former Dy CM was produced before Special Judge, MK Nagpal, of Rouse Avenue Court on the expiry of his previously-extended judicial custody in the case being probed by the ED. Last week, the Supreme Court has dismissed the curative petitions filed by the senior AAP leader challenging the dismissal of review pleas against the 2023 verdict of the apex court denying him bail.

RLJP chief Pashupati Kumar Paras resigns as Union Minister

Patna, March 19 (IANS) Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP) national president Pashupati Kumar Paras resigned from the Union cabinet on Tuesday, a day after NDA sealed seat-sharing pact in Bihar.

While addressing the mediapersons in Delhi, Paras said: "When I interacted with the media five to six days ago, I said that I would wait till the seat-sharing formula in NDA is announced. I honestly served as an alliance partner in NDA. PM Narendra Modi is a big leader of the

country but injustice happened with my party and me. Hence, I am giving resignation from the post of Union minister."

"We will discuss with our leaders and workers of the party to decide the future course of action," he said.

After the resignation of Pashupati Kumar Paras, Chirag Paswan said: "Time is powerful and not an individual person. Today, time has displayed its power. It has done the justice. I am ready to accept all challenges."

JD(U) MLC Neeraj Ku-

mar said: "The central leadership of BJP was negotiating with the alliance partners of NDA on the seat-sharing formula. JD(U) has no role in this matter. The central leadership of BJP and Chirag Paswan have taken the decision. It is a matter between Pashupati Kumar Paras and BJP. It is up to Pashupati Kumar Paras to decide where he will go. Nitish Kumar gave respect to every person."

RJD spokesperson Shakti Singh Yadav, said, "BJP always neglects its alliance partners."



President Droupadi Murmu with Election Commissioners of India Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi UNI

PM Modi hits out at DMK and Cong in TN's Salem, says 'INDIA alliance deliberately insults Hinduism'

New Delhi, March 19 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a public rally in Tamil Nadu's Salem on Tuesday, hit out at the INDIA bloc allies including Congress and DMK and accused them of deliberately insulting Hinduism and the followers of Hindu faith.

"Leaders of INDIA alliance are intentionally insulting Hinduism and their statements are also well-planned and thought of. Congress and DMK, in particular don't hesitate in denigrating Hinduism with their profane remarks, as they are not so generous for other beliefs and religions," said PM Modi at the rally, attended by thousands of supporters.

PM Modi further lashed out at the INDIA bloc for their opposition and condemnation of 'Shakti', while describing the latter as 'women power and mother power'. The controversy on Shakti ignited after Rahul Gandhi's controversial remarks during display of Opposition strength at Mumbai's Shivaji Park on



Sunday. "Whoever planned to destroy Shakti in the past got wiped out themselves. Our holy textbooks are witness to it," the PM thundered at the rally.

He also slammed the DMK and Congress for 'promoting corruption and parivaarvad' and described them as two sides of the same coin.

PM Modi said that when Congress was removed from power, the country saw the launch and expansion of 5G technology but in Tamil Nadu, the DMK was running its own 5G, hinting at party's family fiefdom for past five generations.

The PM further said that the BJP is receiving

immense love and support from people of Tamil Nadu and this is giving "sleepless nights to DMK."

"Tamil Nadu has decided Abki baar, 400 paar. For a developed India, we need 400 paar. For a developed India, we need 400 paar," PM Modi said amid loud cheers and slogan-shouting by the crowd.

The PM also informed the gathering that his government was establishing seven mega textile parks in the country and Tamil Nadu was one of the states to have one such facility. Notably, PM Modi has been leading the BJP's South Push drive in the run-up to Lok Sabha elections 2024. On Monday, he held a mega roadshow in Coimbatore and received unprecedented surge of supporters.

BJP has set its eyes on Tamil Nadu and Kerala, in particular, in its Mission South and hopes to win as many seats in the Southern states, aiming to send 39 and 20 MPs to the Lok Sabha respectively.

Be smart.

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Prasidh Krishna
Indian Cricketer, RBI Employee

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