

News

Brief

Northern Railways slash fare in Kashmir Valley by 50 pc

Srinagar, March 20 (IANS) As a major relief to commuters, Northern Railways on Wednesday decided to reduce the train fare in the Kashmir Valley. "Railways have reinstated second class ordinary fare on passenger trains in the Valley," the officials said.

The charges have dropped from 40 to 50 per cent. Before the relief, the fare was Rs 35 from Sadura station (Anantnag district) to Srinagar. It has now come down to Rs 15.

"This relief is applicable across the Valley in Kashmir and travelling by train has become highly affordable and cheap after the relief," officials said.

J&K: Body recovered under mysterious circumstances in Sopore

Srinagar, March 20 (IANS) The body of a local was recovered from an orchard on Wednesday under mysterious circumstances in J&K's Sopore town.

Police said that the body of 40-year old Mushtaq Ahmad Mir son of Ghulam Rasool Mir of Duroo village in Sopore town was recovered from an orchard in the area.

"The body was taken to Sub District Hospital for completion of medico-legal formalities including ascertaining the actual cause of the victim's death," police said.

J&K likely to witness rain, snow from March 21

March 20 (IANS) MeT office on Wednesday forecast widespread rain and snow in Jammu and Kashmir from March 21.

A MeT Department statement said: "On March 21-22nd the weather would generally be cloudy with possibility of light to moderate rain/snow at many places with thunder/lightning and gusty winds over plains of Kashmir and Jammu Division."

The MeT predicted likely dry weather on March 23.

On Wednesday, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 4.2 while Gulmarg recorded minus 0.8 and Pahalgam minus 1.1.

Cops nab two minors for water-filled balloon attack in south Delhi

New Delhi, March 20 (IANS) Delhi Police have apprehended two minors after a video of them throwing water-filled balloons on passersby while riding an SUV in southwest Delhi, police said on Wednesday. The incident occurred in the Vasant Kunj area and the video of the entire episode has been also doing rounds on social media since Tuesday. "Various social media handles had tweeted about 2 persons in an SUV throwing balloons in public and passersby," Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Rohit Meena wrote on X.

"Taking cognisance into the matter legal action has been initiated and two juveniles have been apprehended in this regard," the officer wrote.

No decision yet on BJP-BJD alliance: Shah

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, March 20 (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday that no decision has been taken yet on the issue of an alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha.

"No decision on an alliance has been taken yet. The party president will take the final call. However, it is certain that we are going to significantly increase our strength in Odisha. Our workers feel and accept the love and affection of the people of Odisha towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the Home Minister said while responding to a question on the issue of alliance during a programme in

Delhi. The Union Minister also said that the BJP's tally in the Lok Sabha seats in Odisha as well as state Assembly will increase several times more than what is being predicted by political observers.

"If an alliance happens, then we will contest elections as partners under the leadership of (Odisha Chief Minister) Naveen Patnaik. If we have to fight alone, then we will contest to form the government," Home Minister Amit Shah added.

Notably, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik's close aide and 5T Chairman, V.K. Pandian had earlier said that both parties (BJP and BJD) are in talks about an alliance.

Day after quitting Congress, Odisha MLA joins BJD with supporters

Bhubaneswar, March 20 (IANS) A day after tendering his resignation from the Congress, Adhiraj Mohan Panigrahi, the MLA from Odisha's Khariar Assembly constituency, joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) along with his supporters at a special programme here on Wednesday.

The block chairpersons of Khariar, Boden, and Sinapali in Nuapada district also joined the BJD during the programme held in the presence of BJD General Secretary (Organisa-

tion), Pranab Prakash Das, Rajya Sabha MP Manas Ranjan Mangaraj, and former minister and senior BJD leader Snehangini Chhuria.

"I want to thank Adhiraj Panigrahi for realising that only Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik can bring development in Odisha, especially in areas such as Khariar and Nuapada. When I told him (Naveen Patnaik) about the joining, he said the youth should work for the development of Odisha as well as for their respective districts through hard work," said Pranab Prakash Das.

While welcoming Panigrahi and his supporters into the BJD, Das also said that they would get all the due respect and honour in the BJD.

"I am inspired by CM Patnaik's ideology of 'talk less and work more'. I have joined the BJD with the hope that CM Patnaik will give me a chance to contribute towards his pledge to make Odisha the number one state in India, and to include Nuapada and Khariar in that journey," Panigrahi said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting stalls at Startup Mahakumbh 2024, in New Delhi on Wednesday.UNI

India will become the world leader in AI, says PM Modi

New Delhi, March 20 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that he was convinced that India will become the world leader in AI with its young innovators emerging as a driving force to take the nation ahead. Addressing the Startup Mahakumbh at the Bharat Mandapam here, the Prime Minister said, "India will have the upper hand in AI and we will not let the opportunity go." He exhorted the young startup founders to find solutions that will not only help India solve its problems and achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat but also create a better future for the world. PM Modi

said tried and trusted innovations that were successful in India with its diverse geography would work anywhere in the world. He said that India had now become the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, and the government had for the first time introduced the chapter of Startups as an Engine of Growth in the G-20 agenda this year bringing the country's innovative talent on the world map. PM Modi pointed out that India's startup ecosystem had come a long way since he first launched the Startup India and Stand Up India movements at a small gathering in Vigyan Bhavan attended by a few

experts. "Today the ecosystem has grown with over 1.25 lakh registered startups in the country and with which over 12 lakh youngsters are linked. The startups are providing employment on a large scale and the young founders have turned out to be job creators instead of mere job seekers as was the case earlier in the country," he added. He pointed out that over 45 per cent of the startup founders were women and this showed how the daughters of the country were playing an important role in nation building after the technological empowerment. PM Modi said that the government's policies

of providing funds and incubators at leading educational institutions, such as IITs, to nurture startups have borne fruit and the huge numbers of the startup ecosystem are a reflection of this success story. He also assured the young talent that the government would invest thousands of crores in the National Research Foundation to promote innovation. PM Modi pointed out that that in the interim budget presented ahead of the polls, as much as Rs 1 lakh crore has been allocated for Research and Innovation and the funds would be made available to support long term projects.

Sexual harassment case: Delhi Health Minister urges L-G to take strict action against Asst Prof

New Delhi, March 20 (IANS) Delhi's Health Minister, Saurabh Bharadwaj, on Wednesday wrote to Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena, urging him to take strict action against Assistant Professor accused of sexually assaulting MBBS students at BSA College, Rohini.

The letter also highlights the Chief Secretary's (CS) lack of compassion and apathy towards the victims.

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj emphasised the safety and security of the female students in the medical college, questioning why the Secretary

(Health) didn't report a sexual harassment incident, and why the CS is defending him.

On Monday, the Health Minister directed the Chief Secretary (CS) to take strict action against the Professor accused of sexually assaulting MBBS students at BSA College, Rohini.

Bharadwaj had also directed immediate action against the Principal and Head of Department (HoD) for their reprehensible act of pressuring students to withdraw their complaint.

However, on Wednesday, the Minister ex-

pressed his disappointment for inaction in the matter saying, 'shocked to see the CS is trying to defend the culprits by lame excuses.'

"CS is justifying the Health Secretary for not disclosing this incident of sexual assault to the Minister, despite clear instructions by the Health Minister to the Secretary (Health) to report such incidents promptly," said Bharadwaj.

"Victims had to finally approach police in an individual capacity when the Vigilance Department and Health Department failed to take timely action."



Volunteers at an awareness programme at the zoo on the occasion of World Sparrow Day, in Patna on Wednesday.UNI

Cong moves Delhi HC challenging tax re-assessment proceedings

New Delhi, March 20 (IANS) The Congress has approached the Delhi High Court challenging the re-assessment proceedings initiated against it by tax authorities.

A Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora on Wednesday scheduled the matter for an expedited hearing on Thursday.

The counsel representing the Congress stressed the urgency of the situation, stating that the Income Tax authorities have decided to re-open the assessment for the last four years.

He said three such petitions pertaining to three different years are already listed for hearing during the day.

This development comes on the heels of the Congress facing a substantial tax demand, exceeding Rs 100 crore for the assessment year 2018-19, wherein the party's income was assessed to be over Rs 199 crore.

The Bench allowed the request saying, "Okay if in order by 12:30 pm, it will be listed tomorrow."

The move comes after the Delhi HC, last week,

upheld the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal's (ITAT) order dated March 8 rejecting the Congress' plea for a stay on outstanding tax recovery for the assessment year 2018-19.

A Division Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Purushendra Kumar Kaurav had pronounced the verdict.

"We find no ground to interfere with the (chal-

lenger) order," the Bench had said.

It had, however, granted liberty to the Congress to move the ITAT afresh in case of any change of circumstances.

The Bench had expressed dissatisfaction with the handling of the matter by the party, saying that it seemed someone at its office had been negligent since 2021.

Dinhata Trinamool-BJP clash: FIR registered against Union Minister

Kolkata, March 20 (IANS) An FIR has been registered against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nisith Pramanik and 44 BJP supporters over the clashes with the Trinamool Congress workers at Dinhata in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district. The FIR was registered by the state Minister for north Bengal development and ruling party MLA from Dinhata, Udayan Guha. During the clashes on Tuesday night, in which the local sub-division police officer Dhiman Mitra sustained injuries, Pramanik and Guha were seen dashing towards each other. Meanwhile, Governor C.V. Ananda Bose started for Dinhata from Kolkata to take an on the spot review of the situation. Earlier in the day, the Governor sought a detailed report from the newly-appointed Director General of Police, Sanjoy Mukherjee on the clash. An air of tension continued to prevail in pockets of Dinhata. Although the Trinamool Congress convened a 24-hour bandh at Dinhata on Wednesday, it was called off later in the day. "Let the Governor come to Dinhata and take stock of the situation. If he gets a single proof of my direct involvement in the matter, I will resign as a member of the state cabinet," Udayan Guha told the media.

RBI

RETAIL DIRECT SCHEME

Visit: <https://rbiretaildirect.org.in>

Invest directly in Government Securities

Including

- Treasury Bills
- Sovereign Gold Bond
- Floating Rate Savings Bond, 2020

- Zero Brokerage and no other fees
- Easy and convenient mode of payment



Call 1800-267-7955 or +91-22-61546335 for more information: 10 am – 6 pm (Monday – Saturday)
Write to us: support@rbiretaildirect.org.in



Issued in public interest by
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in


વેસ્ટર્ન ટાઈમ્સ ગુજરાતી આવૃત્તિના
આગળના પાના વાંચવા માટે
નીચેની લીંક પર ક્લિક કરો

વેસ્ટર્ન ટાઈમ્સ

[Click here](#) 


**To read the other pages of
Western Times English Edition
Click on the link below**

Western Times

[Click here](#) 

www.westerntimesnews.in

For any type of inquiry
079-26402880