

News Brief

J&K: Man kills nephew with licensed firearm in Poonch

Jammu, March 30 (IANS) A man shot down his nephew with a licensed 12 bore gun in Jammu & Kashmir's Poonch district, on Saturday.

Officials said that during a family feud, one person identified as Joginder Singh fired at his nephew, Gangandeep Singh with his licensed 12 bore gun and killed him on the spot. "The incident happened during a clash between two families. Joginder Singh has been arrested and his licensed weapon is seized by police," officials said.

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat files nomination papers in Jodhpur

Jaipur, March 30 (IANS) Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from Jodhpur on Saturday filed his nomination papers in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Before filing his papers, he said that the top leadership of BJP has once again given him an opportunity to serve the people of Jodhpur.

"We all have united with the resolve that Narendra Modi ji has to be made the Prime Minister once again and BJP has to win from the Jodhpur Lok Sabha seat with an overwhelming majority.

"This has become clear looking at the tremendous presence of workers today on the nomination filing day," he said.

President Droupadi Murmu extends greetings to people on Easter eve

New Delhi, March 30 (IANS) President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday extended her greetings to people on the eve of Easter.

President Murmu in a message said, "On the auspicious occasion of Easter, I extend my greetings and good wishes to all citizens living in India and abroad, especially the Christian brothers and sisters."

"This festival marks the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, and is a symbol of love and compassion. Easter gives the message that truth is eternal and shows us the path of sacrifice and forgiveness. The teachings of Jesus Christ guide us on the path of peace and harmony," she added.

The President further called on everyone to spread love and harmony in society by adopting the values of Jesus Christ and contributing to the development of the nation.

NCP leader Nawab Malik hospitalised

Mumbai, March 30 (IANS) Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former minister Nawab Malik has been hospitalised in the City Hospital after he complained about breathing problems on Saturday.

His daughter and party spokesperson confirmed that Malik was taken to the hospital and has been kept under medical observation. Malik is currently on medical bail in connection with the money laundering case.

Congress on INDIA bloc's 'Loktantra Bachao Rally': 'Not about one person but to protect democracy'

New Delhi, Mar 30 (UNI) The Indian National Congress said on Saturday that Sunday's rally will not be 'person-specific or of one party' but to save the democracy and Constitution of the country and will be called 'Loktantra Bachao' rally. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress General Secretary in-charge communication Jairam Ramesh said, "Tomorrow's rally will not be a rally of one party or save one person but of 28 parties of INDIA alliance. Moreover, it will be necessary to save our democracy and Constitution." He said the rally will be attended by Congress president Mallikarjun

Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and other senior leaders of the party, Sharad Pawar, Tejashwi Yadav, D Raja, Akhilesh Yadav, Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, Tiruchi Siva, Jharkhand CM Champai Soren, and Derek O'Brien.

He added, "Tomorrow's rally at Ramlila Ground will send a message to the BJP government that the INDIA bloc is united and will fight the election together." Calling it the second biggest rally of INDIA bloc after the Shivaji Ground rally in Mumbai, Ramesh said, "Despite failed seat sharing with the TMC in West Bengal, the party will participate in the rally at Ramlila Maidan."

At the Ramlila ground rally, Ramesh said that the INDIA parties will raise issues like price of rice, unemployment, financial crisis, social disparity, atrocities on farmers, targeting opposition parties, misuse of government agencies, and the Electoral Bonds scam, which is the biggest scam in the history of Independent India.

Slamming the government for targeting the opposition, Ramesh said, "The government, by misusing the central agencies, is arresting elected Ministers and Chief Ministers. This is nothing but a conspiracy. The Prime Minister wants all opposition parties to become handicapped."



Police trying to save a person trying to commit suicide by pouring diesel in front of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's residence, in Hyderabad on Saturday.UNI

Media reports are incorrect, baseless': Ambadas Danve on joining BJP

Mumbai, March 30 (IANS) The Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray leader and Maharashtra Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Ambadas Danve on Saturday said that media reports about him joining the BJP are 'incorrect' and 'baseless'. "The media reports are incorrect and baseless. There is no truth in it. I cannot think of quitting my party," Danve told media persons at his Mumbai residence. He said that he would file a defamation case against the TV channel which reported about him joining the BJP.

He said that there has been no offer made to him

by MahaYuti comprising BJP, Shinde faction and Ajit Pawar group.

"I am a fighter and will take forward my fight on the thoughts of Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray. I grew up in politics and from a grassroot worker became the Leader of the Opposition (LoP). Many middlemen have become active in running a misinformation campaign against me," he said. The trigger for the media report was his purported displeasure over the party's decision to nominate former MP Chandrakant Khaire from the Sambhajanagar seat, known recently as Aurangabad. Danve had openly

expressed his desire to contest from the Lok Sabha seat. However, after Khaire's nomination, he said he would work for party's victory and not for any individual. He said he has already completed visits across the villages in Sambhajanagar where the party has announced the nomination of former MP Chandrakant Khaire.

"I am committed, loyal and disciplined Shiv Sainik and will work with full strength for the party's victory in the general elections," he said, adding that the people from Sambhajanagar love Shiv Sena, its founder Balasaheb Thackeray and the present Chief Uddav Thackeray.

President Murmu honours Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh with Bharat Ratna

New Delhi, March 30 (IANS) In a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday, President Droupadi Murmu honoured four great personalities of India -- former Chief Minister of Bihar Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur, former Prime Ministers of the country P. V. Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh and the country's famous agricultural scientist credited for Green Revolution, M. S. Swaminathan.

They all have been given India's highest civilian honour posthumously. Karpoori Thakur's son, Ramnath Thakur, received the honour during

the event.

Karpoori Thakur was an Indian politician who served two terms as the Chief Minister of Bihar, first from December 1970 to June 1971, and then from June 1977 to April 1979. He was popularly known as Jan Nayak (People's Hero).

Narasimha Rao's son P. V. Prabhakar Rao received the honour from the President. At the same time, Chaudhary Charan Singh, another former Prime Minister of the country who was considered the 'messiah of farmers', was also honoured, and his grandson Jayant Chaudhary received it.

Narasimha Rao was an Indian lawyer, statesman and politician who served as the ninth Prime Minister of India from 1991 to 1996. He is known for introducing various liberal reforms to India's economy.

Chaudhary Charan Singh was also a freedom fighter who served as the fifth Prime Minister of India and fifth Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

The country's famous agricultural scientist M. S. Swaminathan's award was received by his daughter Nitya Rao.

Swaminathan was an Indian agronomist, agri-

cultural scientist, geneticist, administrator and humanitarian. He was a global leader of the Green Revolution.

On the occasion, many Union Ministers and other dignitaries including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President J. P. Nadda and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge were present.

Along with them, Lal Krishna Advani is also honoured with Bharat Ratna. However, President Murmu will visit Advani's house and honour him with Bharat Ratna there on Sunday.

TN police arrest warden, psychologist of private rehab after inmate dies

Chennai, Mar 30 (IANS) The Kovilpalayam police in Coimbatore district, on Saturday, arrested the warden and psychologist of a private de-addiction centre at Kovilpalayam.

The warden, M. Aravind Hari (28), and the psychologist B. Jeba Prasannaraj (28) were arrested on Saturday in connection with the death of a 20-year-old inmate, Kishore.

According to police, Kishore, son of a doctor and a student of Computer Science, was addicted to ganja and was admitted in the private de-addiction centre called Helping Hands at Kovilpalayam in Coimbatore district, on February 28.

Helping Hands De-Addiction centre has more than fifty inmates.

Constituency Watch: With many factors in favour, BJP fancies its chances in TN's Tirunelveli

Chennai, March 30 (IANS) The Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP has zeroed in on four Lok Sabha seats which it feels it can win -- Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Coimbatore, and Madurai.

In Tirunelveli, the party has fielded the sitting MLA from the Tirunelveli Assembly constituency, Nainar Nagendran, who's a name to reckon with in the region.

Nagendran is presently the leader of the BJP in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, and the party fielding him from Tirunelveli is viewed as a political move aimed at capturing the seat.

The Tirunelveli Lok Sabha seat is presently represented by the DMK's S. Gnanathiraviam, who had won in 2019 by a huge margin of 1,85,720 votes against AIADMK leader P.H. Manoj Pandian. The BJP was in alliance with the AIADMK in the 2019 polls.

Interestingly, the INDIA bloc allocated the Tirunelveli Lok Sabha seat to the Congress, which has fielded Robert Bruce as its candidate from the seat. The AIADMK is also in the fray with party leader M. Jansi Rani contesting the seat.

The Tirunelveli constituency comprises Tirunelveli, Alangulam, Ambasamudram, Palayamkotai, Nanguneri, and Radhapuram Assembly seats. While Nagendran is the Tirunelveli MLA, the Alangulam seat is represented by Manoj Pandian, who is presently with the rebel faction of the AIADMK.

The BJP is in alliance with the rebel faction of the AIADMK led by former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam.

This means that in the two Assembly constituencies of Tirunelveli and Alangulam, the BJP can-

didate has an edge.

Meanwhile, there is resentment against the ruling DMK and the state police in the Ambasamudram Assembly constituency -- which is represented by AIADMK's Esakki Subai -- over the torture of a group of youth by then ASP Balvir Singh (IPS). This could also lead to antagonism against the INDIA bloc candidate. The Palayamkotai Assembly seat is represented by M. Abdul Wahab of the DMK. The Nanguneri seat is represented by Congress' Ruby M. Manoharan, who had led a group of party workers and local leaders to the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) headquarters in Chennai against then TNCC President K.S. Alagiri. The move had led to a major division in the party in Nanguneri, which can turn into an advantage for the BJP.

Himachal temperatures dip as Manali receive snow

Shimla, March 30 (IANS) As March is drawing closer, nearby hills of the popular tourist destination of Manali received more snow on Saturday, while lower hills across Himachal Pradesh experienced rains, pushing down the mercury by several notches.

Hoteliers, however, cheered up in the hope that tourists would converge in large numbers in the next few days.

Likewise, the Solang ski slopes, 13 km uphill from Manali, and Kalpa, 250 km from the state capital, also witnessed snow.

However, tourist spot Shimla and its nearby destinations such as Kufri, Fagu, Narkanda and Chail only witnessed rains.

"As per inputs from Dhundhi, the area around South Portal, is witnessing heavy snowfall, and the road from South Portal up to Solang Nallah is not fit for any type of traffic," said the HP Traffic, Tourist and Railways Police. The meteorological office here said high-altitude areas of Lahaul-Spiti, Kullu, Kinnaur, Chamba, Mandi, Sirmour and Shimla districts have been experiencing moderate to heavy snow. The minimum temperatures dropped by 4-5 degrees Celsius. Keylong, the administrative centre of Lahaul-Spiti, was the coldest place in the state at minus 0.3 degree Celsius. Shimla recorded a low of 6.6 degrees, Kufri minus 4.8 degrees, Kalpa 1.4 degrees, Manali 1.6 degrees and Dalhousie 4.5 degrees.

LS polls: After Congress fields Brahmin candidate, community demands greater roles in party hierarchy

Jaipur, March 30 (IANS) After Congress fielded Brahmin leader and former Speaker C.P. Joshi from the Bhilwara parliamentary seat in Rajasthan, the community has demanded greater role roles for their community leader in the party's hierarchical set-up.

Congress in Rajasthan had to face the ire of the Brahmin community after the grand old party denied ticket to the community for the upcoming Lok Sabha election and

Congress Brahmin leader Varun Purohit expressed satisfaction over the decision to field Joshi.

"The community wanted the party to field at least one candidate for the upcoming elections. There are 15 per cent Brahmin votes

which were being neglected by not fielding any candidate from our community," he added.

He said that the community is also aggrieved over the neglect shown by the party and not taking the leaders from the community into the decision-making roles.

He told IANS that prominent ex-MPs and former MLAs from different states had a meeting in Delhi to build up pressure on the Congress high command to bring back Brahmins in the party organisation.

"Bringing Brahmins back to the party organisation is necessary for the revival of the Congress," Purohit said.

He said that the community would wait for the response of the party's high command in the coming days.

"Brahmins are not

happy with several decisions of the top leadership. They are also not convinced by the demand for the caste census pitched by Rahul Gandhi. The census should be held for society as a whole and not for a cross-section. Congress should not deviate from its ideology of social welfare," he added.

The Brahmin community was left anguished when none of the Brahmin leaders was fielded from any Lok Sabha constituency in Rajasthan.

Sunil Sharma was the only Brahmin who was given a ticket from the Jaipur seat however he returned the ticket after a controversy emerged over his connection with pro-RSS organisation, Jaipur Dialogues.



A spectacular view of Mustard field in the vicinity of South Kashmir,s Anantnag district after rainfall on Saturday.UNI


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

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