

WORLD 6 Russia fires 31 missiles at Kyiv in the first attack in 44 days NATION 8 Vietnam's vice president becomes interim president Provided all details of electoral bonds to EC: SBI tells SC Electoral Bonds scheme worst corruption scam: Yechury

Vol .No. I Issue No. 24 RNI-ASSENG/2023/86488 GUWAHATI, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 PAGES 12 PRICE ₹ 8

ED arrests Kejriwal NIA takes custody of ISIS duo



NEW DELHI, March 21: Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday night in an excise policy-linked money laundering case, officials said.

Officials said the ED would produce the chief minister before a court here on Friday and seek his custody for interrogation. As the ED officials carried out their action inside, additional Delhi Police personnel and Rapid Action Force (RAF) and CRPF teams were deployed around the chief minister's residence.

15 days analysis of intel inputs, planning led to arrest of ISIS India head: Police

GUWAHATI, March 21: Assam Police's Special Task Force (STF) inspector general Parthasarathi Mahanta on Thursday informed that the two dreaded ISIS cadres, who were apprehended on Wednesday, have already been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further legal action.



"We got information from a central agency around 15 days back that there could be possible movement of top-rung ISIS leaders in certain parts of Dhubri. The input was credible and so the STF was involved," he added.

HT BRIEFS

Teacher's attendance

GUWAHATI: In a bid to bolster accountability and streamline attendance management in the state's educational institutions, the Department of School Education, Government of Assam, has issued a groundbreaking directive mandating the use of the Shiksha Setu app for tracking daily attendance of both teachers and students.

Earthquake

ITANAGAR: In the early hours of Thursday, Arunachal Pradesh experienced two earthquakes, stirring residents from their sleep with tremors but fortunately causing no immediate harm or damage.

Two detained

SHILLONG: In a significant development, two individuals were detained on Thursday as part of ongoing investigations into the activities of the proscribed outfit HNLC.

US recognises Arunachal as Indian territory: Official

WASHINGTON, March 21: The United States recognises Arunachal Pradesh as Indian territory and strongly opposes any unilateral attempts by China to advance its territorial claims across the Line of Actual Control, a senior Biden administration official has said, days after the Chinese military reiterated its claim over the state following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit there.

Pradesh as South Tibet, routinely objects to Indian leaders' visits to the state to highlight its claims. Beijing has also named the area Zangnan. On March 9, Prime Minister Modi dedicated to the nation the Sela Tunnel built at an altitude of 13,000 feet in Arunachal Pradesh that will provide all-weather connectivity to strategically located Tangang and is expected to ensure better movement of troops along the frontier region.

Congress moves EC against 'Modi Parivaar' and 'Modi ki Guarantee' advertisements

NEW DELHI, March 21: Alleging misuse of state resources for the poll campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress on Thursday complained to the Election Commission against "Modi Parivaar" and "Modi ki Guarantee" advertisements and sought their immediate removal and action against those behind it.



A delegation of Congress leaders comprising Mukul Wasnik, Salman Khurshid and Supriya Shrinete met the Election Commission and handed over a set of complaints about alleged violations of the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha polls and demanded immediate action.

No nomination for first phase LS polls in Assam

GUWAHATI, March 21: No nomination was filed by any candidate on Thursday for the first phase of polls to five Lok Sabha constituencies in Assam scheduled to be held on April 19, an election commission official said.

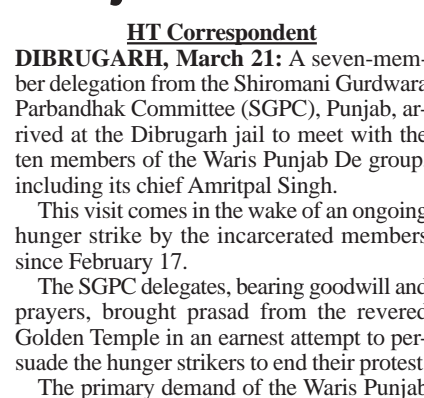
Rahul's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' won't impact BJP's electoral prospects: Rijiju



ITANAGAR, March 21: Union minister Kiren Rijiju has asserted that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' will have no impact on the BJP's electoral prospects, and the NDA will win the Lok Sabha polls with a thumping majority.

seats," Rijiju, the Union Earth Sciences and Food Processing Industries Minister, told PTI in an interview. The BJP leader also slammed Gandhi for his "hate speeches" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, contending that it reflects a "deep-seated animosity."

SGPC delegation visits Dibrugarh jail to meet NSA detainees



DIBRUGARH, March 21: A seven-member delegation from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Punjab, arrived at the Dibrugarh jail to meet with the ten members of the Waris Punjab De group, including its chief Amritpal Singh.



Bhagwant Singh, also known as Pradhan Mantri Bajek are facing charges under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) along with other criminal offenses.

In India, there were more than 1.6 crore and over 2.2 crore livebirths in 1950 and 2021 India's fertility rate down from 6.2 to under 2 since 1950, will fall to 1.3 in 2050: Study

NEW DELHI, March 21: India's fertility rate dropped from nearly 6.2 in 1950 to just under 2 in 2021, and is projected to fall further to 1.29 and 1.04 in 2050 and 2100, respectively, according to a new global research published in The Lancet journal.



countries will still be facing high fertility issues during the 21st century, said the researchers from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2021 Fertility and Forecasting Collaborators.

The high fertility in these low-income regions, particularly in some countries and territories in western and eastern sub-Saharan Africa, will result in a demographically divided world, they said.

Sonowal criticises Congress for neglecting development in North Bank of Brahmaputra

DIBRUGARH, March 21: Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal accused Congress party of ignoring development of North bank of Brahmaputra for decades here at Kotoha in Dibrugarh on Thursday. Sonowal asserted that from Jonai to Dhubri, little had been accomplished to alleviate public transportation woes and enhance the quality of life.



the Khowang Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC). It is ironic but Assam failed to get much out of Congress rule, even though it sent then Prime Minister of Congress led UPA government to Rajya Sabha, the union minister said.

The attack came after repeated Ukraine aerial attacks in recent days on Russia

Russia fires 31 missiles at Kyiv in the first attack in 44 days, and 13 people are hurt

KYIV, March 21: Russia fired 31 ballistic and cruise missiles at Kyiv before dawn Thursday...



said around 80 people were evacuated from their homes. Falling wreckage from the intercepted missiles set fire to at least one apartment building...

come more common. "Every day, every night such ... terror happens," he said on Telegram after Thursday's attack on Kyiv...

EU leaders gather with Ukraine ammunition production and Gaza aid at the top of their agenda



BRUSSELS, March 21: European Union leaders gathered on Thursday to consider new ways to help boost arms and ammunition production for Ukraine...

Leaders of over 30 countries meet in a Brussels summit to promote nuclear energy. BRUSSELS, March 21: In the shadows of a massive monument glorifying nuclear energy...

Leaders of over 30 countries meet in a Brussels summit to promote nuclear energy

Such a summit would have been unthinkable a dozen years ago in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan...

Vietnam's VP becomes interim prez

HANOI, March 21: Vietnam's Vice President Vo Thi Anh Xuan will serve as acting president after the previous president's resignation...

Khac Giang, an analyst at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. And it is likely to be followed by a "very complicated" succession...

carrying out the anti-corruption campaign, implied that Thuong was "implicated in the anti-corruption" campaign, Giang said.

2 Pak soldiers and 8 Baloch terrorists killed in attack on Gwadar Port Authority complex

KARACHI, March 21: At least two soldiers of the Pakistani Army were killed and eight Baloch terrorists were "sent to hell" when security personnel foiled an attempt...

BLA's Majeed Brigade, which was formed in 2011, is a particularly lethal guerilla cell of the BLA. It was named after a guard of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto...

A suicide bomber attacks a bank in Afghanistan, killing 3 people and injuring 12

ISLAMABAD, March 21: A suicide bomber carried out an attack on Thursday at a private bank in Kandahar city in southern Afghanistan...

All of the victims were people who had gathered at the branch of New Kabul Bank to collect their monthly salaries...

Australia and UK sign defence and security treaty to meet 'contemporary challenges'

SYDNEY, March 21: Australia and the United Kingdom signed a new defence and security cooperation agreement with the defence ministers of both countries...



important partnerships," the statement said. Refreshing the bilateral defence treaty was a commitment made at the AUKMIN conference held last year in the UK...

Cash-strapped Pakistan seeking 24th bailout, IMF confirms

ISLAMABAD, March 21: Announcing the staff-level agreement on the successful completion of the existing short-term facility, the IMF has confirmed that cash-strapped Pakistan is seeking a 24th medium-term bailout package...



energy sector's viability by accelerating cost-reducing reforms, including improving electricity transmission and distribution...

implementation" by the State Bank of Pakistan and the caretaker government in recent months...

Oppn leader Jitendra Chaudhury, Cong MLA Sudip Roy Barman to lead 25-member panel INDIA bloc partners form campaign committee for LS polls

AGARTALA, March 21: The Left parties and the Congress, which are constituents of the opposition bloc INDIA, have formed a committee to plan joint campaigns for the upcoming parliamentary elections in Tripura, leaders of both sides have said.

in the campaign, he said. "We will deploy all our resources in the ensuing elections. I appeal to electors to take note of the country's disastrous situation before casting their votes in the polls," he said.



mentary elections. Leaders of the Left parties and the Congress will join rallies for the submission of nominations by the INDIA bloc candidates for two Lok Sabha constituencies and the bypoll in the Ramnagar

will submit his paper on March 27. Left Front candidate for East Tripura Lok Sabha seat Rajendra Reang will submit his nomination paper on March 28.

Tripura CM launches door-to-door campaign for LS polls

AGARTALA, March 21: Tripura chief minister Manik Saha on Thursday launched a door-to-door campaign from Sepahijala district for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the state. Accompanied by BJP leader Nabadal Banik and several party activists, the chief minister commenced the campaign from the Kanchanmala area in Tripura West Lok Sabha constituency and handed over copies of a letter written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to voters.

Cong announces 1st list of 34 candidates for Arunachal assembly polls

ITANAGAR, March 21: The Congress on Thursday announced the first list of 34 candidates for the upcoming assembly polls in Arunachal Pradesh, scheduled for April 19.



Jermai Krong (Tezu) and Marina Kenglang who would contest from Changlang North constituency.

(Pasighat West), Karo Tayeng (Mebo), Losi Lego (Mariyang-Geku), Eri Tayu (Anini), Tobin Lego (Dambuk), Chenge Mitapo (Roing), Bufatso Krong (Hayuliang), Bayamso Kri (Chowkham), Shotika Hopak (Namsai), Tama Tamar Tara (Lekang), Khimshom Mossang (Nampong), Timpu Ngemu (Changlang South), Tangse Tekwa (Khonsa West), Sompha Wangsa (Kanubari) and Holai Wangsa from Pongchou-Wakka constituency.

No nominations filed for LS polls in Manipur

IMPHAL, March 21: Even as notification allowing filing of nomination papers for contesting the 18th Lok Sabha elections from two seats in Manipur was issued on Wednesday, no candidate has filed nomination papers till Thursday.

NSCN-IM chairman highlights Naga constitution's significance

DIMPUR, March 21: NSCN-IM chairman Q Tuccu on Thursday called upon the Nagas to reflect on the significance of the Naga constitution and the values it upholds.

centred and domineering narrative. Our perseverance was ultimately rewarded when the final breakthrough came in 2002 when the unique history of the Nagas and the situation was given official recognition by the Government of India.

2 drug peddlers arrested, heroin recovered in M'laya



SHILLONG, March 21: Two alleged drug traffickers have been arrested along with heroin from Happy Valley in Shillong in Meghalaya.

Mizoram: Congress names retired cop Lalbiakzama as candidate for LS polls

AIZWAL, March 21: The Congress on Thursday fielded Lalbiakzama, a retired Mizoram police officer and former state home secretary, as the party's candidate for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in the northeastern state.



officer to hold the position of home secretary. Following his retirement in 2020, Lalbiakzama joined the Congress ahead of the Mizoram assembly polls in 2023.

Rights team evaluates welfare schemes in Peren



DIMPUR, March 21: A Nagaland State Human Rights Commission (NSHRC) team paid a two-day visit to Peren district to evaluate various government welfare schemes and their implementation in the district from a human rights perspective.

MNF to field Rajya Sabha MP K Vanlalvena for lone LS seat in Mizoram

AIZWAL, March 21: Mizoram's main opposition party Mizo National Front (MNF) will field sitting Rajya Sabha MP K Vanlalvena for the state's lone Lok Sabha seat, a senior party leader said on Thursday.



singer and lyricist Rita Malsawmi, 48, as its candidate. Former Congress leader Lalhriatrenga Chhangte, who quit the party recently, told PTI that he will contest the Lok Sabha polls as an independent.

'World Poetry Day' celebrated in USTM

Noted Assamese poet Anis Uz-Zaman highlighted importance of preserving folk culture, unique expressions

GUWAHATI, March 21: The department of English of the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) organized a function at the university premises on the occasion of 'World Poetry Day' on Thursday.



academician, Shamim Akhtar on the occasion. The event was also attended by G D Sharma, vice-chancellor of USTM and R K Sharma, advisor at the university.

Their creativity. The welcome address was delivered by Mitali Goswami, the head of the department of English of the university. GD Sharma in his speech spoke about the role of poetry in capturing the complexity of human emotions and also emphasized the importance of translation and the role of technology in developing translation interfaces.

10 INDIAN CITIES SCREENING FILMS SHOWCASING LGBTQIA+ NARRATIVES TILL MAR 24

NEW DELHI, March 21: Five short films from India, Spain, the Philippines, the UK and the US showcasing LGBTQIA+ narratives that resonate with resilience and authenticity are being screened in 10 cities across India. British Council in partnership with British BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival launched the 10th edition of the 'Five Films for Freedom' last week. In India, in partnership with The Queer Muslim Project, 12 screenings for the films will be held. At the launch event in Delhi, the first screening was held, showcasing diverse narratives and fostering dialogue on LGBTQIA+ issues. "We are very happy to be working together with BFI Flare, and The Queer Muslim Project once more on 'Five Films For Freedom', a celebration of diversity and cross-cultural understanding," said Alison Barrett, director (India) of British Council. "At British Council, we think there are no boundaries to love. 'Five Films For Freedom' respects creativity and expressiveness and stands in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community. We are proud of our continued support of this programme, which not only spotlights fresh stories but also creates new connections and understanding," she added. The films selected for screening are "The First Kiss", directed by Miguel Lafuente (Spain); "Little One", directed by Clister Santos (Philippines); "Compton's 22", directed by Drew de Pinto (US); "Cursive", directed by Isabel Steuble-Johnson (UK); and "Halfway" directed by Kumar Chheda (India). Chheda said there could have been "no greater joy than to see my film reach audiences around the world". These films will be promoted across the British Council's extensive global digital networks and made accessible via BFI Player. In India, the films are being screened till March 24 in Delhi, Kolkata, Gangtok, Agartala, Shantiniketan, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Goa. (PTI)

Was impossible to make 'The Goat Life' 10 years ago: Prithviraj Sukumaran

MUMBAI, March 21: Actor Prithviraj Sukumaran says it took him and director Blessy a decade to mount their passion project "The Goat Life", a real-life survival drama, as revenue models in Malayalam cinema weren't as streamlined back then as they are today.

Based on the 2008 bestselling novel "Aadujeevitham" by Benjamin, the film follows Najeeb, a Malayali immigrant labourer who finds himself forced into slavery as a goatherd in the secluded farm of Saudi Arabia.

It was never about funds, said Prithviraj as Blessy has also pulled double duty as a producer.

"Even in 2009, Blessy's vision for the film was grand. Back then, it was impossible to do the filming in Malayalam and be hoping to find some sense in the business model. It took us 10 years to finally get to a point where we could think of doing this and maybe think of making the money back.

"The revenue streams have opened up and the industry has changed. Finances were never in question because Blessy is producing it himself and I know, in all honesty, that he has put his life savings into it," the Malayalam star told PTI in an interview here.

Prithviraj said he had also heard about Benjamin's book as it became a smash hit soon after it hit the stands, and it was Blessy who handed him a copy of "Aadujeevitham". "I was in the middle of doing multiple films at that time, and I had not yet got the time to get around reading it. But Blessy gave me a copy, and that's the copy I read, and that was in back 2009," he recalled. The actor, known for films such as "Ennu Ninte Moideen", "Kaaviya Thalaivan", "Lucifer", and

"Aiyya", described "The Goat Life" as a glorious manifestation of the "alternate human spirit".

"The fact that this is a true story and there is someone who lived through this and survived. This who's amongst us alive and well today to be able to tell the tale is just incredible. "The spirit of survival is something that cannot be articulated, but what this film will make you feel when you see it. That is the essence of the human spirit of survival," he said. When they started shooting for the movie, the pandemic broke out. The crew was stranded in the Jordan desert for 70 days from March to May 2020 due to pandemic's restrictions.

"We had to suspend shooting for almost two years. Then we got back to finish the shoot. We went back to Algeria and Jordan, and then to Kerala. I guess that is the story that this film had to live through. This film had to be made," he said.

To prepare for the role, the 41-year-old actor said he met with Najeeb, whom he described as the "epitome of human strength".

"I've met him more than once. Imagine the amount of strength he must have carried within himself, the faith he must have had to (keep)."

Prithviraj, who is also distributing the film in Malayalam through his banner Prithviraj Productions, said Malayalam cinema is slowly finding a distribution network.

"The Malayalam industry is still very much in the nascent stage with our distribution networks and systems, especially outside Kerala, which we call the rest of India market, and the rest of the world market.

"We have a fairly healthy network in place in UAE and GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries, and North America's fast catching up.

Once we achieve full potential, the numbers are going to shoot up. Because thankfully, we make great content, and I believe when great content travels well, it will be received."

The actor, who will next be seen in "Bade Miya Chote Miyan", said he is happy to be working at a time when somebody sitting in Srinagar can find out about a fantastic Malayalam film that is available on a streamer.

"That's where this sort of diffusion of talent and the migration of content is becoming easier, more consistent, more regular. In the not-too-distant future, we will all be just making Indian cinema, which is great," he added.

Produced by Visual Romance, "The Goat Life" also features Amala Paul, K.R. Gokul, as well as Hollywood actor Jimmy Jean-Louis and Arab actors Talib al Balushi and RikAby in pivotal roles.

Academy Award winners A R Rahman and Resul Pookutty have given music and sound design, respectively. The film is set to release in theatres worldwide on March 28. (PTI)



Want to do a romantic Bollywood movie, says Ankita Lokhande

NEW DELHI, March 21: After "Manikarnika" and "Swatantra Veer Savarkar", actor Ankita Lokhande says she wants to star in a contemporary Bollywood romance.

Lokhande, who was last seen in Bigg Boss 17, is now awaiting the release of "Swatantra Veer Savarkar" with Randeep Hooda. The film is set to release on Friday.

"Whatever characters I am playing right now, they are powerful. (But) I personally wish to play something that is more of me, which is modern-age and more commercial. A Bollywood film where I am dancing and romancing. That is my thing. I want to do such films," Lokhande told PTI in an interview.

The actor said she agreed to play Yamuna Bai in the biopic without even reading the script.

"I always knew who Veer Savarkar was and portraying his wife's character was something for which I couldn't say 'No'. But when I got to know more about Yamuna Bai, I was more fascinated."

The actor credited Hooda for his thorough research on the project.

"I have gone through a few researches. Randeep was already there and he researched a lot about each and every character. I got to know more about Yamuna Bai because of him."

Lokhande, 39, rose to fame with her role in serial "Pavitra Rishta" which also featured late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. She made her Bollywood debut with "Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi".

Hooda has also written and directed "Swatantra Veer Savarkar". (PTI)

Maisy Stella boards untitled thriller starring Anne Hathaway and Ewan McGregor

LOS ANGELES, March 21: Singer-actor Maisy Stella is set to star alongside Anne Hathaway and Ewan McGregor in an untitled project from Bad Robot and Warner Bros Pictures. Stella, the breakout star in 2024's Sundance Film Festival hit "My Old Ass", will play the third lead in the movie after Hathaway and McGregor.

According to Variety, David Robert Mitchell of "Under the Silver Lake" will direct the film.

Details of the plot are being kept under wraps but it is said to be a thriller.

Mitchell will direct the project from his original script and will produce alongside J J Abrams and Hannah Minghella for Bad Robot and Matt Jackson of Jackson Pictures.

Jake Weiner and Chris Bender of Good Fear Content are attached as executive producers. Sheila Walcott and Zach Hamby will oversee the movie for the Warner Bros Motion Picture Group. (PTI)



EWAN MCGREGOR, WIFE MARY ELIZABETH WINSTEAD HAD INTIMACY COORDINATOR FOR SEX SCENES IN NEW SHOW

LOS ANGELES, March 21: British star Ewan McGregor has revealed that he and actor-wife Mary Elizabeth Winstead had roped in an intimacy coordinator for filming intimate scenes for their new show "A Gentleman in Moscow".

In an interview with the British news outlet Radio Times, the 52-year-old actor said they felt the need for a professional as it was "odd" for them to be "intimate in front of the camera".

"It's still necessary, because it's also about the crew, and it's odd to be naked in front of people, it's odd to be intimate in front of the camera," McGregor said.

"If you were doing a dance scene, you'd have a choreographer," he added. "It's an important part of the work now, because it's somebody that the director and actors meet in the middle."

For McGregor, it's also crucial that productions hire intimacy coordinators because in the past, a young actor — similar in age to his 22-year-old daughter Esther — may have felt pressured to perform in "unnecessary" scenes.

"My daughter is 22. If an older, famous director goes to a 22-year-old and says, 'I want you to be naked in this scene,' that actress might feel, 'Oh, my God, I've got to do it, my career might depend on it,'" McGregor said. "And then five years after that, she could look back and go, 'I wish I hadn't. Why am I naked in that scene? It's unnecessary.'"

McGregor plays Count Alexander Rostov in "A Gentleman in Moscow," while Winstead portrays Anna Urbanova, described as "a glamorous, independent and self-made film actress, at the height of her fame."

Per the official logline, the series "follows Count Alexander Rostov (McGregor) who, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, finds that his gilded past places him on the wrong side of history. Spared immediate execution, he is banished by a Soviet tribunal to an attic room in the opulent Hotel Metropol, threatened with death if he ever sets foot outside again. As the years pass and some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history unfold outside the hotel's doors, Rostov's reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery. As he builds a new life within the walls of the hotel, he discovers the true value of friendship, family and love."

"A Gentleman in Moscow" premieres March 29 on Paramount+ with Showtime. (PTI)



