

OPINION 6
SARPANCHS NEED TO
BE ACCOUNTABLE

WORLD 9
'RUSSIA WILL STATION
TACTICAL NUKES IN BELARUS'

MONEY 10
MARKETS TO TRACK GLOBAL FACTORS
IN HOLIDAY-SHORTENED WEEK

NEW DELHI, MONDAY MARCH 27, 2023; PAGES 12 & 3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



MI CREATE
HISTORY, WIN
WPL TITLE
12 SPORT

Late City Vol. 33 Issue 84
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Cong's 'satyagraha' protests against BJP

Party slams Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from Lok Sabha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leaders and workers on Sunday observed "Sankalp Satyagraha" to protest against disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge lashing out at the ruling BJP and asking why it is pained if fugitives such as Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi are criticised.

Top party leaders P Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh, Salman Khurshid, Pramod Tiwari, Ajay Maken, Mukul Wasnik and Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary, were also seen at the protest.

Party workers in several States and UTs like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat took part in the satyagrah during which prominent party leaders addressed the protesters.

The police in Gujarat detained several party functionaries for holding the stir.



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi speaks during the party's 'Satyagraha' against disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha, at Rajghat in New Delhi on Sunday

While addressing a gathering at Rajghat in New Delhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday said a martyred Prime Minister's son who walked thousands of kilometres for national unity can never insult the country.

She said the time had come to raise a voice against an "arrogant government" as barring Rahul from contesting elections does not bode well for the country and its democracy.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi Police's 'no' to Rajghat event over law & order

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has denied permission to the Congress for holding 'satyagraha' at Rajghat to protest against Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha, officials said on Sunday.

In a letter, the Delhi Police said the request was rejected due to law and order and traffic reasons and prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC imposed in and around Rajghat.

Rassi jal gayi, bal nahi gaya: Nadda's dig at Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at Congress over its nationwide protest against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi, BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday said the court asked Rahul to apologise but there's so much arrogance in him that he did not apolo-

gise. "They give casteist slurs saying 'chor'. Court asked you (Rahul) to apologise but there's so much arrogance you don't apologise, membership goes, you're sentenced but 'rassi jal gayi, bal nahi gaya', Nadda said in Madhya Pradesh.

Continued on Page 2

ISIS's India focus: Forms 2 sub-groups

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In its apparent bid to further ramp up its activities in South India, international terror group Islamic State (ISIS) has launched two sub-groups for the region.

While one sub-group will cover Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka, the other one will target the rest of southern States like Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The ISIS has a significant footprint in South India as most of the cases linked to the group under investigation by the anti-terror probe body National Investigation Agency (NIA) are from these States.

A number of recruits from South India have also participated in so-called Hijrat (migration) for ISIS to other countries. The outfit has particularly been active in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The ISIS had even roped in the now banned Popular Front of India (PFI) recruitment, spreading the violent Islamist ideology, training and raising a militia of trained jihadist to execute terror attacks.

The PFI was initially raised in Kerala but subsequently shifted its headquarters to Shaheen Bagh in the national Capital.



Earlier, the ISIS had formed groups like ISIS JK for Jammu & Kashmir, ISIS Deccan for South India, and ISIS Hind for the hinterland, experts tracking the group said.

"Investigations in the case had revealed that the accused had been conspiring to drive a wedge between different communities and groups living in India, spread the concept of violent extremism and jihad in India with the objective of dismembering the country and taking it over by establishing Islamic rule in India by 2047," the NIA has been on record stating this.

Continued on Page 2

Nikhat bags 2nd world title; Lovlina breaks bronze jinx with gold



A combination of pictures shows India's Lovlina Borgohain (L) and Nikhat Zareen posing with their medals during award ceremony, at the 2023 IBA Women's Boxing World Championships, in New Delhi on Sunday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nikhat Zareen continued to grow in stature as she added a second world title to her swelling trophy cabinet while Lovlina Borgohain broke her 'bronze jinx' to claim her maiden gold medal at the marquee event here on Sunday.

Nikhat upstaged two-time Asian champion Nguyen Thi Tam of Vietnam by a 5-0 verdict to take the light flyweight title in front of a packed home crowd at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall.

Two-time bronze medalist Lovlina, on the other hand, defeated two-time Commonwealth Games medal-

ist Caitlin Parker of Australia 5-2 to win her maiden world title.

With the win, Nikhat becomes only the second Indian after the legendary MC Mary Kom to win the title of the prestigious tournament twice.

"I am very happy that I have become a world champion for the second time, especially in an Olympic category," Nikhat, who won the 52kg title last year, said after her bout.

The first bout of the day between the two Asians was an exciting affair that went down to the wire.

Continued on Page 2

India summons Canadian envoy over Khalistan stir

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking exception to protests in Canada outside its Embassy and consulates by alleged Khalistan supporters, India has summoned High Commissioner of Canada to New Delhi to register its displeasure over security arrangements outside the diplomatic premises there.

"It is expected that the Canadian Government will take steps which are required to ensure safety of our diplomats and security of our diplomatic premises so that they are able to fulfil their normal diplomatic functions," a Ministry of External Affairs statement on Sunday said. High Commissioner Cameron MacKay was summoned on Saturday.

"India sought an explanation on how such elements were allowed, in the presence of police, to breach the security of our diplomatic Mission and Consulates," the statement said.

MacKay was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry.

Continued on Page 2



Khalistan supporters protest outside Indian Embassy in Washington

Indian scribe assaulted by Khalistani protesters in US

PNS | AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI | WASHINGTON

Days after vandalising the Indian consulate in San Francisco, alleged Khalistan supporters have attacked Indian journalist Lalit K Jha working for the Press Trust of India (PTI) in Washington.

He was covering a pro-Khalistan protest outside the Indian Embassy there on Saturday afternoon when the

incident took place. Local police saved him. The Indian Embassy has condemned the attack. Jha took to twitter on Sunday and thanked the US Secret Service and police for protecting him.

Reports said Jha was physically attacked and verbally abused by Khalistan supporters. Washington-based journalist said he was hit on his left ear with two sticks by the Khalistan supporters.

Continued on Page 2

Centre notifies raised NREGA wage rates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has notified a hike in wage rates under the rural job guarantee programme for the 2023-24 financial year with Haryana having the highest daily wage at ₹357 per day and Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the lowest at ₹221.

The Union Ministry of Rural Development issued a notification on the change in wage rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on March 24. The notification was issued under Section 6 (1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, that says the Centre may, by notification, specify the wage rate for its beneficiaries. The wage hikes, which range from ₹7 to ₹26, will come into effect from April 1.

Compared to last year's rates, Rajasthan registered the highest percentage increase in wages. The revised wage for Rajasthan is ₹255 per day, up from ₹231 in 2022-23.

Continued on Page 2

PM bats for organ gift, hails women for spreading wings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded the increasing presence of women in different fields, and said "woman power" is playing a big role in India's growing strength. Also, he appealed to people to opt for organ donation, and said his Government is working on a uniform policy that will make the process easy and encourage people to adopt the life-saving exercise.

He mentioned several examples, including that of Surekha Yadav becoming the first woman loco pilot in Asia. Producer Guneet Monga and director Kartiki Gonsalves brought laurels to the country by winning an Oscar for their documentary "The Elephant Whisperers," he said and also lauded women's role in the NDRF's relief and rescue work in Turkey.



Modi said, "India has also deployed a Women-only Platoon in the Peacekeeping Force under the UN Mission."

Urging people to embrace organ donation, Modi said those who donate their organs

after death are "godlike" to recipients, he said in his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' radio broadcast, adding that people's preference for it can save and make many lives.

Continued on Page 2

CONGRATULATIONS TARUN RAWAT, A VIPS ALUMNI

for winning

RAMNATH GOENKA EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARDS

IN PHOTO JOURNALISM



Our Alumni Tarun Rawat from Vivekananda School of Journalism & Mass Communication (BAJMC 2019) receiving the award from Chief Justice D Y CHANDRACHUD



VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

TECHNICAL CAMPUS Accredited A++ by NAAC

AU- Block, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura, Delhi, 110034

@VIPS_Delhi @DelhiVIPS @delhivips https://www.linkedin.com/school/vivekananda-institute-of-professional-studies/

www.vips.edu

Daily Covid cases in country highest in 149 days

New Delhi: India logged 1,890 new coronavirus cases, the highest in 149 days, while the active cases increased to 9,433, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Sunday. The country had recorded 2,208 cases in a single day on October 28 last year.

CAPSULE

POLICE TAKE ATIQ TO UP FROM GUJ JAIL

Ahmedabad: A police team from Uttar Pradesh came to the Sabarmati central jail in Ahmedabad on Sunday and took gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed to Prayagraj, where he will be produced before a court on March 28 when it passes an order in a kidnapping case in which he is an accused, officials said.