

IRCTC scam: Bail granted to Lalu's wife, son

New Delhi, Oct 6 /- A Delhi court Saturday granted bail to IRCTC chief Lalu Prasad's wife Rabi Devi and son Tejashwi Yadav and others in an Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) scam case lodged by the CBI. Special Judge Arun Bhartiya also granted interim bail till November 19 to Rabi Devi, Tejashwi Yadav and others in a money laundering case filed by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in relation to the alleged scam. The court also directed Prasad to be produced through video conference on November 19 in the cases filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and private firm. The court granted bail to Rabi Devi and Tejashwi Yadav in the CBI case on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and a

surety of a like amount. However, the regular bail was not granted in the case in the ED case after the agency sought time to file a reply to the bail applications. The court had earlier granted interim bail to the accused, except Prasad, on August 31 till today in the case filed by the CBI after the agency had sought time to file a reply today. Earlier, the court had summoned and asked Prasad's family and all others involved to appear before it. The case is related to alleged irregularities in granting the operational contract of two IRCTC of private firm. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Prasad did not appear before the court on Friday as he is imprisoned in a Jharkhand jail on another charge. The CBI, which had on April 16 filed the charge sheet in the case, had said there was enough evidence against Prasad, Rabi, Tejashwi and others. Earlier, the CBI had informed the court that sanction has been procured from authorities concerned to prosecute Additional Member of Railway Board B K Agarwal, who was then the group general manager of the IRCTC. Besides Lalu Prasad, and his family members, former Union minister Prem Chand Gupta and his wife Sarla Gupta and Agarwal, then managing director of IRCTC P K Goyal and then IRCTC director Rakesh Saxena were also named in the charge sheet. The other names in the charge sheet include then group general managers of IRCTC V K Asthana and R K Goyal, and Vijay Kochhar, Vinay Kochhar, both directors of Sujata Hotels and owners of Chanakya Hotel. Delight Marketing Company, now known as Lara Projects, and Sujata Hotels Private Limited have also been accused in the charge sheet. The CBI had registered a case in July last year and carried out searches at 12 locations in Patna, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar and Gurgaon in connection with the case. The charges in the case include criminal conspiracy (120-B), cheating (420) under IPC and corruption. The Central probe agency had said. The ED had filed a case based on the CBI FIR. (PTT)

Mizoram fully prepared for November 28 Assembly election

AIZAWL, OCT 6 /- Mizoram Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) S B Shashank Saturday said the state election machinery was fully prepared to conduct elections to the 40-member Assembly on November 28. Earlier in the day, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) O P Rawat in New Delhi announced that polling in Mizoram would be held on November 28. The CEO told reporters here that Mizoram has a total electorate of 7,68,181 people including 3,93,685 female voters. Shashank said that the electorate would cast their votes in 1,164 polling stations where EVMs would be used for the polls. He said that 1,859 ballot units and 1,841 control units of EVMs would be used along with 1,751 VVPATs in the elections. Tight security arrangements would be made to ensure peaceful, free and fair polls by deploying 40 companies of state police and 40 companies of central paramilitary personnel, the CEO added. Major political parties in Mizoram have welcomed the announcement of the poll date to the 40-member state legislative Assembly by the Election Commission of India. However the major political parties in Mizoram welcomed the announcement of the poll date to the 40-member state legislative assembly by the Election Commission of India Saturday. The Election Commission announced that the polling in Mizoram would be held on November 28. Ruling Congress leader and Social Welfare Minister P.C. Lalhangliana said the state Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) was fully prepared for the Assembly poll and had been expecting an early announcement of the election date. Lalhangliana said the ruling party was ready and the date of election being after the monsoon season would help polling officials, especially in remote areas. Former minister and vice president of the opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) Dr. R. Lalhangliana said the party was enthusiastic about the announcement of the date. Lalhangliana expressed optimism that the MNF would be voted to power after being in opposition for a decade. Election in Mizoram is important as it would decide whether the Congress manages to hold its lone fort in the northeast or not. (PTT)

State Notes Police arrest two dacoits

JAJPUR, OCT 6 /- Police Saturday arrested two highway robbers and seized stolen mobile phones, cash and sharp weapons from their possession in Jajpur district. A police officer said the two robbers were arrested from Kantigadia village late Friday night. The duo had recently assaulted a truck driver and looted money, mobile phone from him after intercepting his truck on the Paradeep-Daitary national highway on September 30, the officer said. "By using the stolen mobile phone's IMEI number, we started tracking the device and were gathering information about the robbers. During tracking we came to know their location at Kantigadia village and arrested them," said Umakanta Nayak, inspector-in-charge of Dhamrasala police station. Police recovered the stolen mobile phone, cash Rs 4000 and other valuables from their possession. Police also seized other stolen mobile phones and sharp weapons they use in the crime from their possession. "The two robbers have committed a number of crimes along the Paradeep-Daitary national highway," Nayak said. (PTT)

Journalist organisations protest closure of Tripura daily

New Delhi, Oct 6 /- The Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ) and the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) staged a protest here Friday against the deregistration of 'Daily Desher Katha', a 40-year-old daily in Tripura. The publication of Daily Desher Katha, the mouthpiece of Tripura CPM, was suspended last Monday by the Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI), based on a verdict passed by the district magistrate of West Tripura. The DUJ and the KUWJ held demonstration outside Tripura Bhawan against the decision of the state government and the Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI). They submitted a memorandum to the Tripura government and handed it over to the stateside registrar. The RNI had deregistered the daily on the grounds that there were some anomalies in a declaration of ownership. The real reason, however, is that the BJP government wants to suppress dissenting voices. It does not want Opposition voices to be heard or read among the public. Such a step is a blatant attack on the freedom of the press, the memorandum said. DUJ general secretary Sujata Madhok said such actions were unheard of even in the time of Emergency and remind one of the British regime, where newspapers were banned at the whims and fancies of the colonial rulers. The founder of the Daily Desher Katha, Gautam Das, said newspaper was known for adversarial stories exposing the present BJP government in Tripura. Indian Women's Press Corps, Press Club of India, Press Association also condemned the move of the RNI. (PTT)

Jharkhand Guw chairs meeting on Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations

RANCHI, OCT 6 /- Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu Saturday said the year-long celebrations of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will take Bapu's ideology and philosophy to the new generation. The governor chaired a meeting at Raj Bhavan on making an outline for the celebrations of the year-long 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the nation. An official release quoting the governor said that it was necessary to work on Gandhi's life vis-à-vis in the context of importance to Jharkhand. Saying that Mahatma Gandhi had given villages a special importance, the governor said that the youth should be made aware of it. School children should be connected with the celebrations and art, seminars, workshops based on Gandhi should be organised during the period, she said. Padyatra, Prabhatheri and slogans should be given emphasis, she said, adding Gandhi's philosophy and thoughts should be publicised in the villages and women also be connected during the period. Chief Minister Raghubar Das, who was present in the meeting, said the committee set up with the governor as the head for the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi will soon meet with all political parties, followers of Gandhi's ideology, social organisations, religious gurus and others and their suggestions would be taken. (PTT)

Two students die in Assam

TEZPUR/GUWAHATI, OCT 6 /- A PhD scholar of Tezpur Central University and a post graduate student of the Gauhati University have died in the last two days, said police and family sources Saturday. Computer Science Engineering (CSE) research scholar Kangkan Kalita (31) was found dead in his hostel room in the Tezpur Central University campus on Friday; they said. When Kangkan did not take a scheduled examination in the morning hours, his friends in the afternoon went to his room in Saraighat CV Raman Men's Hostel where they found his door locked from inside. When they peeped in from the sky window, they saw him lying in his bed and foaming at the mouth. On being informed, police retrieved the body and sent it for post-mortem to the Kanaklata Civil Hospital in Tezpur before sending it home to Garmur in Jorhat district, police said. The post-mortem report is awaited, police added. Kangkan was a first semester PhD student under Quality Improvement Program (QIP) in the Department of CSE and a faculty member in the Central Institute of Technology (CIT) Kokrajhar in the state, his family sources said. Meanwhile, in Gauhati University, a post graduate student identified as Himangshu Neog on Thursday night fell unconscious repeatedly said his hostel mates. He was rushed to the University hospital and then to the MMC Civil Hospital where he was declared "brought dead" by doctors, Himangshu's parents said. His parents have filed an FIR alleging that their son died due to negligence of the Gauhati University authorities which sent him to MMC Civil Hospital in an ambulance without a doctor or paramedical staff. The FIR also said that there was no oxygen supply in the ambulance to aid the student who was suffering from breathlessness. Police said his body has been sent for post-mortem to the Gauhati Medical College Hospital and the report is awaited. His body has been handed over to the family, police said. Meanwhile, Gauhati University students protesting against the incident have locked up the university hospital saying it would not be opened until the medical facilities are improved. (PTT)



Aam Janta Party activists during their Raj Bhawan March in support of their demand of removal of Creamy Layer for OBCs, in Patna on Saturday

Regulation of train services due to NI work At Nimpura yard of SER

KOLKATA, OCT 6 /- In view of Non-Interlocking (NI) work at Nimpura Yard in Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway (SER) for centralised electronic interlocking of cabins, the following train services will be regulated:-

- Cancellation of Trains:**
- 68021/68022 Kharagpur-Balasore-Kharagpur MEMU Passenger will remain cancelled on October 12 and October 13.
 - 68003/68004 Howrah-Ghatilsia-Howrah MEMU Passenger will remain cancelled on October 14.
 - 68047/68048 Kharagpur-Belda-Kharagpur MEMU Passenger will remain cancelled on October 14.
 - 38723 Howrah-Kharagpur EMU local will remain cancelled on October 14.
 - 38710 Kharagpur-Howrah EMU local will remain cancelled on October 14.
- Diversion of Trains:**
- 22892 Ranchi-Howrah InterCity Express will run on diverted route via Purulia-Adra-Midnapur-Kharagpur on October 10, October 11 and October 13.
 - 22858 Anand Vihar -Santragachi Express will run on diverted route via Bhojudih-Adra-Midnapur-Kharagpur on October 10.
 - 22893 Sai Nagar Shirdi-Howrah Express will run on diverted route via Tatanagar-Chandil-Adra-Midnapur-Kharagpur on October 14. (EOIC)

Santragachi-Chennai-Santragachi Antyodaya Express to run as per schedule

KOLKATA, OCT 6 /- 22841 Santragachi-Chennai Central Antyodaya Express will run from Santragachi on October 9, 22842 Chennai Central -Santragachi Antyodaya Express will also run from Chennai on October 10. Previously it was informed by the authority that the up & down journey of this train would be remained cancelled but now the decision has been changed and the train from both destinations will run as per schedule. (EOIC)

Headmaster held for sexually abusing class 5 girl

BHAWANIPATNA, OCT 6 /- A student of class 5 was allegedly sexually abused by her school headmaster in Odisha's Kalahandi district, police said Saturday. The accused headmaster of the upper primary school was arrested on Saturday after the girl's family lodged a police complaint against him, they said. According to the girl's family (PTT) members on Friday evening lodged a complaint against the teacher and police immediately detained him for interrogation. He was arrested on Saturday morning, police said. The accused headmaster has denied the allegations and claimed that it was a conspiracy against his mother, police said. The girl's family (PTT)

Overhead wire parted between Singur, Diara

KOLKATA, OCT 6 /- Suburban train services in Seoraphuli-Tarakeswar section of Howrah Division were affected on Saturday as the pantograph of a Tarakeswar-Howrah local (37312) broken and overhead wire parted on Down line between Singur and Diara stations at about 4:24 am. Up line in the section was unaffected. The affected rake of Tarakeswar-Howrah local cleared from site with diesel engine at 7:58 am. Single Line work to restore down direction movement in the section started at 8:10 am. Repairing of overhead wire of down line between Singur and Diara completed at 8:45 am and after that normal train services gradually resumed on Seoraphuli-Tarakeswar section. As a result of this, 11 pairs of EMU locals of this section had to be cancelled and 10 EMU locals were delayed en route. (EOIC)



School students participating at the 26th National Child Science Congress, in Patna on Saturday

Sonowal urges all stakeholders to protect wildlife population

GUWAHATI, OCT 6 /- Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal Saturday urged all stakeholders to take a pledge to protect and sustain the state's wildlife population. He asked conservationists, people in general, students and government machinery to put up a united effort to create a protective shield for the wildlife population. "Assam has the proud privilege of sustaining a very vibrant wildlife but trespassing into this territory by vested interests including poachers has put their population in peril," Sonowal said at a function organised to mark the 64th Wildlife Week here. He hailed the role of forest guards, conservationists and people living in the fringe districts. He also asked the Environment and Forest Department to organize awareness rallies in all parts of the state to sensitize people and motivate them to protect and promote the rich bio-diversity of the state. (PTT)

Brought transparency in 3-and-half months: Tripura CM

KOLKATA, OCT 6 /- Tripura chief minister Biplab Deb Saturday said he brought transparency in the system in three and a half months. When he took over six months ago in March, Deb said, Tripura was in a debt of Rs 11,500 crore, but he is optimistic to make the state a model one in the next three years. Taking over as the chief minister he thought he would have no work to do, but was surprised by the amount of neglect the previous government had shown towards Tripura, Deb said while speaking at an interactive session at the India Today Conclave East here. Asked about what he has done as the chief minister in the past six months, Deb said the first thing that his government introduced was transparency in the system. "It took me three and a half months to bring in transparency in the system. We introduced a transparent recruitment policy as well," he said. Talking about his comments making news, he said people have always quoted him without hearing the full speech. During his tenure as chief minister, Deb has made it to headlines often because of his statements. From hinting at the existence of the Internet during the Mahabharata era to questioning whether Diana Hayden deserved to win the Miss World title and whether she or Aishwarya Rai symbolised true 'Indian beauty', Deb has said it all. "What I had said

there was something... May be it was Internet, may be satellite... but there was some technology. Else how did (the mythological character) Sanjaya see (the war between the Pandavas and Kauravas that) he saw," Deb asked. Asked if he was ever scolded by BJP president Amit Shah because of his statements, Deb said Shah never told him anything about his statements. On illegal immigrants, he said Assam NRC is an issue of Assam and the Centre. He said if the Centre decides to approach Tripura for an Assam-like NRC, he will take it forward but until then there is no plan to implement an NRC in Tripura. "We should wait for the results from the Assam NRC and then see if we want to implement it in other states or not," Deb said. Stating that his government will make Tripura a drug-free state, Deb said Tripura's drug problem is bigger than Punjab's. Expanding on that, he said 50,000 kg of marijuana was confiscated from Tripura. "The drug mafia was growing in the state. They used to pay Rs 500-700 per kilogram to farmers and sell it for Rs 20,000 per kg in the market," Deb said. Can Biplab Deb do 45 pushups in one go? Accepting moderator Rahul Kanwal's fitness challenge, Deb pulled off 45 pushups in one go, eliciting cheer from the audience. He had earlier accepted the fitness challenge after being nominated by Union minister Rajyavardhan Rathore. (PTT)