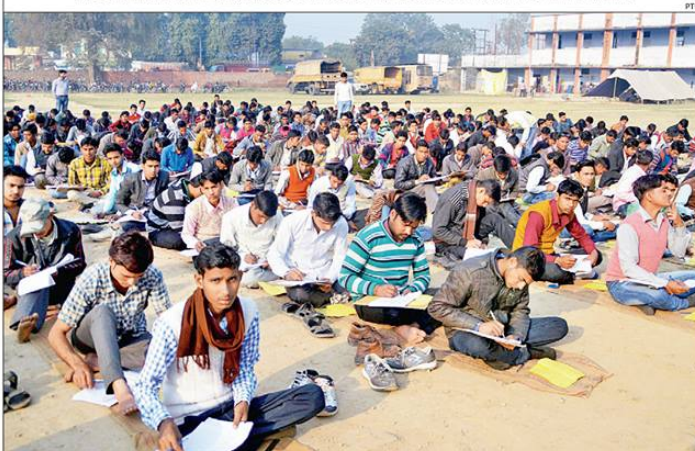


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HSC EXAM BRINGS STUDENTS DOWN TO EARTH



GROUND REALITY: Sitting on the ground, students in UP's Badaun take their higher secondary examination on Tuesday

A celestial spectacle on March 9

New Delhi: A total solar eclipse will occur on March 9 but will be seen as a partial solar eclipse at sunrise from most places in India except from north-west and western parts of the country. Solar eclipse is a phenomenon in which the moon passes precisely between the sun and the earth. It blocks the sun's bright face, revealing the tenuous and comparatively faint solar atmosphere. It happens only about once a year. The total eclipse phase will begin at 6:47 am and it will last till 9:08 am on March 9. The partial phase will, however, end at 10:05 am. In most places of India, the partial phase of the eclipse will begin before sunrise — it means partially eclipsed sunrise will take place on the day. "However, the start of the



DARKNESS AT SUNRISE: The total solar eclipse, a once-in-2-year occurrence, will be seen as a partial eclipse at sunrise from most places in India. The eclipse should not be viewed with the naked eye as it can cause permanent damage to eyes leading to blindness

partial phase of the eclipse will take place just after sunrise from extreme northeast India. As one moves towards the east of the country, the duration of the partial eclipse increases reaching up to a duration of about one hour and more in extreme northeast India and in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands," said an official statement of the ministry of earth science. Observation of the sun by the moon at the time of the greatest phase of the partial eclipse will be around 15% in Agartala, 24.5% in Bhubaneswar,

11% in Guwahati, 18.5% in Kolkata, 12% in Patna, 49% in Port Blair and 12% in Silchar. "However, the greatest phase of the partial eclipse will not be seen from many places in India as sunrise will take place after the time of occurrence of the greatest phase at these places," said the statement. Sounding a cautionary note, the ministry advised that the eclipsed sun should not be viewed with the naked eye, even for a very short time, as it will cause permanent damage to the eyes leading to blindness even when the moon covers most of the sun.

"A safe technique to observe the solar eclipse is to use a filter using proper filter-like aluminised Mylar, black polymer, welding glass of shade number 14 or by making a projection of the sun's image on a white board by telescope," said an official. The ED will now seek Modi's extradition from the UK through the ministry of external affairs. Modi has been living outside India since 2010 and has refused to join the probe. The income tax department, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the ED have cases pending against him. The former IPL chairman came on the radar of investigating agencies for the first time in 2009 when an income tax search on his premises revealed huge financial irregularities in the conduct of IPL tournaments.

ADMK targets Karti realty deals abroad

Disrupts House, Gives Relief To Govt

Karti says he's clean; Cong says he's a 'private individual'

Chennai: Even as AIADMK disrupted Parliament on Tuesday, raising Karti Chidambaram's alleged business interests in many countries established when his father was a central minister in the UPA Government, Chidambaram junior issued a statement to the media denying all the allegations. He noted that similar allegations had been levelled in the past too, and "were adequately refuted". "Myself and my business are fully compliant with all the laws and regulations," he said.



Karti Chidambaram said similar allegations had been levelled in the past too, and "were adequately refuted". For Alive, see P 2

New Delhi: AIADMK members on Tuesday disrupted proceedings in both Houses of Parliament demanding action against former Union minister P Chidambaram's son Karti over reports alleging that the enforcement directorate and the income tax department had revealed that he made huge investments in real estate overseas. As soon as Lok Sabha met for the day, AIADMK members rushed to the Well demanding action against Karti, waving copies of a daily which reported that ED and IT department had stumbled upon his alleged investments in the course of their probe into the Aircel-Maxis deal. They held up proceedings, and in the process threw a spanner in Congress's works to attack HRD minister Smriti Irani for allegedly misleading Parliament and her junior Ram Shankar Katheria for allegedly making anti-Muslim remarks. The protests forced the Lok Sabha Speaker to suspend proceedings yet again in the AIADMK contingent resumed its slogan-shouting, drowning out Congress's Mallikarjun Kharge when he tried to raise the issue of a privilege notice his party and CPM have brought against Irani. Surajwala said Karti, as also the company concerned, had issued statements and he was a private individual.

"A jittery Modi regime is using the modus operandi of news plants to divert Parliament's attention from its own exposed anti-Dalit, anti-student policies," Congress spokesman Randeep Surjewala said. "The attempt is obviously to distract attention from HRD minister Smriti Irani misleading Parliament and the disappointing Budget," he added. Surjewala said Karti, as also the company concerned, had issued statements and he was a private individual.

While the adjournment motion may not be admitted on Wednesday when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to participate in the debate on the motion of thanks to the President's address, it was the first time after two sessions that the dynamic in both Houses seemed to be shifting against Congress. The party which has aggressively attacked the government, appeared to be a target itself, that too from opposition columns. Its decision to join hands with CPM against "Trinamool Congress for Bengal elections can complicate matters for it, with Mamata's troopers, who played the role of force multiplier for Rahul, unlikely to provide similar auxiliary support any more.

Plane with 211 on board loses tyre but lands safely

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New Delhi: In a safety scare, a SpiceJet aircraft "dropped" one of its tyres while taking off from Bengaluru on Tuesday evening with 204 passengers and seven crew members on board. Maintenance personnel at the Bengaluru runway spotted debris of a tyre and immediately informed air traffic control (ATC). Since SpiceJet SG 517 was the last aircraft to take off before the tyre was found, the ATC checked on this with the airline staff.

Once it was confirmed that the tyre belonged to the SpiceJet aircraft, the ATC relayed the information to its pilot, who then made a precautionary landing in Kolkata, the flight's destination. Luckily for those on board, the tyre that fell off or burst — something which only a probe will reveal — was from the rear landing gear which has two sets each of as many tyres (one under each wing) and was able to land safely with one tyre less. Confirming the incident, a SpiceJet spokesman said: "One of the rear tyres fell off or burst while our aircraft was taking off from Bengaluru. The pilot landed the aircraft safely at the destination and all passengers have disembarked safely."

Directorate General of Civil Aviation chief M Sathiyavathy, who has a policy of zero tolerance for safety issues, has ordered a probe into this case. "The aircraft has landed safely and all passengers are safe," a senior DGCA official said. Bengaluru airport sources said that when the pilot was informed about the tyre, there were fears that the plane may get stuck on the runway after landing in Kolkata. But luckily for the single-runway airport, the plane was able to vacate the strip after landing.

Oral arguments in Marines' case to begin March 30

The Hague: The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), hearing the Italian Marines' case between India and Italy, has fixed March 30 and March 31 for oral arguments by the two sides in the matter. The court, which runs out of The Hague — a city on the North Sea coast of the Netherlands — also said on Monday that according to the rules of procedure in this arbitration, the hearing is in principle open to public. "However, portions of the hearing may proceed in camera (confidentially), if the Arbitral Tribunal considers so necessary for the smooth conduct of the proceedings or for the protection of confidential information," a statement released by the court said. The two Italian Marines who were on board the ship *Enrica Lexie* — Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Grieco — are accused of killing two Indian fishermen off the Kerala coast in 2012 after mistaking them for pirates. While Latorre is in Italy on medical grounds since September 2014, Italy has been seeking Grieco's return as well.

Court again drops case for bid to kill self against Irom

Imphal: Human rights crusader Irom Sharmila Chanzu, who has been fasting for over 15 years demanding the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Manipur, was on Monday released by an Imphal court which acquitted her of charges levelled against her under Section 309 IPC (attempt to suicide). Sharmila was last arrested on January 23, 2015. For the last 15 years, police have been arresting her every year, charging her with the same crime — attempt to suicide — every time. Interestingly, for the last few years, courts have been acquitting her every year. Straight after her release from the security ward of the JNIMS hospital, where she was forced through her nose, the 'Iron Lady of Manipur' went and camped at the historic Saheed Minar in Imphal and resumed her strike. She declined health examination by a team of government doctors which visited her at Saheed Minar. Titular king of Manipur, Leishemba Sanajoba met her on Tuesday and discussed the prevailing situation in the state. Sharmila told him her campaign is not for personal gain but for the people suppressed by the AFSPA. Sharmila told reporters she would continue her fast unless AFSPA is repealed.

ED gets court nod, will seek to extradite LaMo from UK

New Delhi: A special court in Mumbai allowed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to initiate extradition proceedings against former IPL chairman Lalit Modi. Lalit Modi, who is wanted in several cases of tax evasion and violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act and the FMLA Act. The ED will now seek Modi's extradition from the UK through the ministry of external affairs. Modi has been living outside India since 2010 and has refused to join the probe. The income tax department, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the ED have cases pending against him. The former IPL chairman came on the radar of investigating agencies for the first time in 2009 when an income tax search on his premises revealed huge financial irregularities in the conduct of IPL tournaments.

Exam time, for mom & daughters alike

Mumbai: On Tuesday, when Sarita Zagade, an SSC candidate, entered her exam centre in Mumbai, she attracted the attention of students and the invigilator alike. But that did not make the 43-year-old homemaker, who was appearing for her first ever board examination, nervous. "Everyone seemed to be looking at me and I realised that they weren't used to older people in the exam hall. But I had to concentrate on writing my paper," said Sarita, who is taking the class X examination along with her 16-year-old daughter Shruti. Also giving the exam is her elder daughter, Kshitiya, who is appearing for her 12th examination. Sarita had to discontinue her education after class 4.



Forty-three-year-old Sarita Zagade and her two daughters prepare for their examinations at their residence in Mumbai

thought of giving it a shot and told him I would continue only if I liked it. In just a few days, I began loving it," she said. The mother and her two daughters have been studying together for the past few months. "My mom and sister have been studying together since class 8 since most of the subjects are the same. I joined them in the past few months. We are studying and juggling household chores," said Kshitiya, a student of Sharadashram Vidyamandir in Mumbai's Dadar region. All of them are taking the examination from different centres. "I have been running around to drop them off at exam centres. I drop my elder daughter when she has an exam. On other days, I have to drop my wife. On those occasions, my elder daughter drops the younger one," said Vishwanath.



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