

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

22nd March 2026

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The All India Congress Committee has named T. Chalukumba Ao as its candidate for the 28 Koridang (ST) Assembly bye-election in Nagaland. The ticket was formally handed over to its official candidate - T. Chalukumba Ao by MP Lok Sabha & NPCC President , S Supongmeren Jamir at Congress Bhavan in Kohima last evening in the presence of its working President, Khriedi Theunuo, party leaders and workers. Mr Jamir said due procedures were followed and expressed confidence in Mr Ao's prospects.

T. Chalukumba Ao, who has contested the last three elections, said it was his first Congress ticket and a long-cherished aspiration. He will file his nomination tomorrow. and begin campaigning next week. The by-election election for the 28th Koridang Assembly Constituency is scheduled to take place on April.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday spoke with Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian and conveyed Eid and Nowruz greetings. Both the leaders expressed hope that this festive season brings peace, stability and prosperity in West Asia. In a social media post, Prime Minister Modi condemned attacks on critical infrastructure in the region, which threaten regional stability and disrupt global supply chains. He reiterated the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and ensuring that shipping lanes remain open and secure. Mr. Modi appreciated Iran's continued support for the safety and security of Indian nationals in Iran.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said, modern warfare now goes beyond borders, with national security covering economic, digital, energy and food sectors. Addressing the Raising Day and Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Sainik School Ghorakhal in Uttarakhand via video conferencing yesterday , Mr Singh stressed the need for a strong military, backed by alert and prepared citizens, noting that conflicts today also involve cyber, space and information warfare.

Addressing another programme in Haldwani on the completion of four years of the BJP government in Uttarakhand, Mr. Singh said, India has taken a clear stand on the ongoing conflict in West Asia. He emphasized that a solution should be found through dialogue and diplomacy.

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Twenty-two countries yesterday urged Iran to halt attacks and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, warning of global consequences. In a joint statement, countries including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Japan, South Korea and Australia condemned Iran's attacks on commercial vessels and energy facilities in the region. They warned that the impact of such actions would be felt worldwide, particularly by vulnerable populations, and called for immediate de-escalation.

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The Government has modified the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS) to Support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Manufacturers and Exporters in line with Budget 2025-26. The scheme provides 60 per cent guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited to Member Lending Institutions for credit facility upto 100 crore rupees sanctioned to eligible MSMEs under MCGS-MSME for purchase of equipment and machinery. In a statement, the Ministry of Finance said that modifications expand coverage, reduce compliance burden, and provide targeted incentives for exporter MSMEs. Under the revised norms, the five per cent upfront contribution has been made refundable, with one per cent returned each year from the fourth year onwards, subject to satisfactory loan performance.

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And, The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast thunderstorm accompanied by lightning and gusty winds at isolated places over Sub Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim today. According to IMD, Gangetic West Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Odisha and West Rajasthan will experience similar conditions.

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