

# Western Times

Founder Editor : Ramubhai Patel PHONE : 079-2640 2880 (Advertisement : 2640 2881 mail : advt@westerntimes.co.in)

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News

Brief

## Five detained under PSA in J&K's Baramulla

Srinagar, April 2 (IANS) Police said on Tuesday that five people have been detained for disturbing law and order in J&K's Baramulla district.

A police press statement said, "While acting tough against anti-national elements, five persons namely Asif Ali Bhat, Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat, Waseem Mehraj Farash alias Waseem Farash, Bashir Ahmad Sualiah and Bilal Ahmad Dar alias Shakir have been booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) after obtaining formal detention orders from the competent Authority."

## Two die in truck, mini bus collision on Chennai-Trichy National Highway

Chennai, April 2 (IANS) Two persons were killed when an omni bus headed for Chennai collided with a truck near Sanjeevi Nagar on Chennai-Trichy national highway on Tuesday morning.

According to police, the omni bus hit the brick-laden truck from behind.

The driver of the bus, M.Chandran (38) from Theni, and a passenger, R.Palaniammal (64), died on the spot. Fourteen people have been injured in the accident and admitted at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital. The police have filed a case and investigation is underway. Details are awaited.

## Woman, son held for murder of priest in UP's Sitapur

Sitapur, April 2 (IANS) A woman and her son were arrested for the murder of a 28-year-old priest of Rameshwari Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur, said officials.

The woman was identified as Ganga Devi and her son as Sonu. Both were arrested on Monday.

The bloodstained body of the priest, Himanshu Mishra was found on the temple premises on March 28.

The arrested accused told the police that the priest had tried to coerce her into a sexual relationship with him, assuring her to solve all her problems.

When he tried to force himself on her, the woman retaliated. SHO, Misrikh, Satyendra Vikram Singh, said that the deceased priest used to entice women into sexual relationships under the guise of resolving their personal tribulations. He claimed himself to be a 'tantrik'.

## KGMU intern mowed down by truck in Lucknow

Lucknow, April 2 (IANS) A dental intern at the King George's Medical University (KGMU) was mowed down by a truck near her house on IIM road while she was on her way to the medical university on a two-wheeler.

The deceased was identified as Dr Dikshanvita Anand, a 2019 batch BDS student. The victim succumbed to injuries on the spot. The driver managed to flee from the spot while the truck was seized, said police.

# SC grants bail to AAP leader Sanjay Singh

New Delhi, April 2 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

A three-judge bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Dipankar Datta and P.B. Varale presided over the case. After hearing the matter at length, the apex court said: "Leave granted. Sanjay Singh is released on bail during pen-

dency of proceedings." The bench noted that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has no objection with Singh being released on bail. However, the bench said that he shall be released on terms and conditions to be fixed by the trial court. "Concession shall not be cited as precedent. Sanjay Singh is entitled to continue with political activities," the top court bench said.

It noted: "... we must record that concession

made on behalf of ED has been made before commencement of arguments. We clarify we have not made any comments on merits." Earlier, the top court had issued notice to the ED and directed tagging of the bail plea along with another petition filed by Sanjay Singh challenging his arrest and subsequent remand in the money laundering case.

On Tuesday, the bench dismissed as "infructuous" the aforementioned peti-

tion filed by Singh against ED arrest and remand.

Sanjay Singh had moved the Delhi High Court seeking bail on January 4 after Special Judge M.K. Nagpal of Rouse Avenue Court on December 22, 2023 dismissed his plea.

Pursuant to the liberty granted by the Supreme Court in the pending matter, the AAP leader had moved a regular bail application before the jurisdictional trial court.

## PM Modi changed India's politics in last 10 years: J P Nadda

Bhopal, April 2 (IANS) BJP President J.P. Nadda on Tuesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the politics of the country in the last 10 years which was based on "division" and "appeasement" and a tool in the hands of the opposition.

He claimed that PM Modi has brought the politics of inclusive developments in the past 10 years across the country. Nadda said PM Modi has hit hard on the politics of 'parivarvaad' and has given space for inclusive development. "Besides the development in the past 10 years, the politics of appeasement and division has shrunk gradually," he said.

Nadda was addressing a gathering of intellectuals, organised by the Madhya Pradesh BJP unit in Jabalpur on Tuesday. On his first visit to the state to campaign for the Lok Sabha election, Nadda said he would appeal to the party workers to devote their entire efforts to ensure the victory of the BJP candidates in all 29 parliamentary seats in Madhya Pradesh.

"As a BJP worker, I would appeal to all of you (party workers) that the party needs not only your support but your efforts as well in convincing others to support BJP candidates in Lok Sabha seats," Nadda said.

Nadda is among the 40-star campaigners, along with PM Modi and the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, for Madhya Pradesh. The first phase of the Lok Sabha election scheduled for April 19 will cover six out of 29 parliamentary constituencies of the state, including Jabalpur and Chhindwara.

## Arun Govil files nomination, huge crowds mark his roadshow

Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), April 2 (IANS) Actor Arun Govil, who became a household name after he essayed the role of Lord Ram in the Ramnand Sagar serial, Ramayana, started his political innings on Tuesday by filing his nomination as the BJP candidate from Meerut, for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "Seeing the response of the people here today, I am confident of their love and support for me. It is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity that is manifesting itself in this crowd," he told reporters.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, who accompanied Arun Govil for the nomination, said, "The BJP will win 80 seats in UP and cross 400 seats in the country and there is no doubt about it."

He further said, "Arun Govil has been given a tremendous welcome by the people of Meerut and the

country which is evident here today." Speaking on Samajwadi Party (SP), Maurya said that SP should change its name to Badla candidate name. He said that this time BJP is going to break all the records in the elections while SP and BSP will be washed out. Earlier, Arun Govil took out a massive roadshow in Meerut where he was cheered by the people. Sitting BJP MP Rajendra Agarwal and other party leaders accompanied the actor.

## AAP plans to move court for designating small area in Tihar Jail as office for Delhi CM: Sources

New Delhi, April 2 (IANS) The AAP wants a small area in Tihar Central Jail to be segregated for Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal's use as an office, and the party intends to approach court for seeking this facility for its leader.

The AAP wants the Delhi CM to have access to essential office facilities, including video conferencing in the designated area in Tihar, sources within the party said on Tuesday.

According to sources, the AAP's legal team is reportedly gearing up to cite past instances where undertrials were permitted to establish and operate offices within Tihar Jail.

The party plans to argue in court that if other accused were granted such privileges, then why an elected Chief Minister should be deprived of similar facilities.

CM Kejriwal, arrested



Devotees pull the Chariot of Lord Rangnath during annual 'Rath ka Mela' festival in Vrindavan near Mathura on Tuesday. UNI

on March 21 in connection with the excise policy case, has been lodged in Tihar Jail, which is expected to further complicate the process of running the government from prison. CM Kejriwal is lodged in Tihar's Jail No 2 and is permitted to meet Delhi government officials regarding work as per names approved and submitted to court. He can also meet family members twice a week, but their names must be on a list that is cleared by prison security. Regular health check-ups will also be provided to the Delhi CM as he has diabetes. The ED had claimed in its remand application that "on the basis of the material in possession, Kejriwal, who is also the National Convenor of the AAP, was found guilty under Section 3 of the PMLA, 2002 for the commission of the offence of money laundering for being actively involved in the process and activities connected with the proceeds of crime."

## Rumble in the BJP Bronx? 'Ticketless' Jalgaon MP cozying up to Shiv Sena-UBT

Mumbai, April 2 (IANS) Shiv Sena (UBT) President and ex-Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray had an unexpected visitor – the sitting Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Jalgaon Unmesh B. Patil, raising more than just political eyebrows, here on Tuesday.

Patil (52) was a BJP MLA for a term when he got the ticket to contest from Jalgaon in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections – and he did not let the party down.

He created a record – winning the seat with the second-highest votes, 7,13,874 (65.6 per cent), and the third-highest victory margin of 4,11,617 votes. Incidentally, this was rivalled by BJP's Gopal C. Shetty from the Mumbai North seat, who

secured the highest victory margin of 4,65,247 votes from his total vote count of 7,06,678 (71.40 per cent). However, both Patil and Shetty have been dropped by the BJP for 2024, disappointing their supporters and even the constituents. Patil has been sidelined in favour of BJP MLA Smita Uday Wagh, a former state BJP women's wing chief, while Shetty was edged out by Union Minister Piyush Goyal's maiden LS contest.

Before meeting Thackeray, a miffed Patil held preparatory meetings with the party's chief spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut, and other leaders, paving the way for his possible entry into the SS (UBT).

On Tuesday afternoon,

SS (UBT)'s senior leader in Jalgaon, Sanjay Sawant, told the media that "you will get the news of Unmesh Patil very soon", hinting at today or tomorrow, plus the possibility of being nominated by the SS (UBT) for the same (Jalgaon) constituency.

In the political circles of Jalgaon, it is claimed that Patil was livid at being replaced for the Lok Sabha polls by Wagh, and he had made his displeasure known to the party bigwigs.

In case Patil decides to switch sides, it will mark the first major 'incoming' into the SS (UBT) from a rival party, and make the election scenario even more exciting.

## Rajasthan CEO hospitalised after 'breathing difficulty'

Jaipur, April 2 (IANS) Rajasthan's Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta was admitted to the Sawai Mansingh Hospital (SMS) here on Tuesday after he complained of difficulty in breathing, but discharged after a few tests.

Doctors said that Gupta's guards brought him to the hospital and he underwent an ECG, a chest X-ray and some routine blood tests. Further treatment will be given after the reports are received.

The senior IAS officer had also fallen ill soon after the Assembly elections in November last year. After he complained of having trouble breathing and fell unconscious, he was admitted to the ICU and underwent tests.



MEERUT, Actor and BJP candidate Arun Govil files his nomination for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in presence of UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, in Meerut on Tuesday. UNI

## Constituency watch: BJP has an advantage in Bengal's Alipurduar LS constituency

Kolkata, April 2 (IANS) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Manoj Tigga in the tribal-dominated Alipurduar Lok Sabha constituency in West Bengal has an advantage in the upcoming elections as he is considered to be the strong candidate given his influence in the party and in the state Assembly.

Alipurduar constituency will go to polls in the first phase on April 19. The BJP has replaced the sitting MP John Barla with Tigga, an MLA from Ma-

darihat, one of the seven assembly constituencies under Alipurduar constituency.

Tigga is also BJP's Chief Whip in the Assembly. The first advantage for Tigga is the huge victory margin for BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. In the 2019 general elections, John Barla secured 7,60,804 votes (54.40 per cent of the total votes) and defeated Trinamool Congress's Dasrath Tirkey who secured just 5,06,815 votes (36.73 per

cent).

The second advantage for Tigga is his popularity in the Alipurduar district both as party organiser and his role in the Assembly as the Chief Whip.

The third advantage is that even in the massive Trinamool Congress wave which was reflected in the 2021 state assembly elections, BJP was victorious in the majority of seven assembly constituencies under Alipurduar constituency.

Finally, BJP's winning

## BJP's Muzaffarpur MP Ajay joins Congress

Patna, April 2 (IANS) BJP MP Ajay Nishad resigned from the primary membership and all posts of the party on Tuesday and joined the Congress in Delhi.

Ajay Nishad won the Lok Sabha seat on a BJP ticket in 2019. However, this time the party did not give him the ticket from Muzaffarpur, and instead fielded Raj Bhushan Nishad.

In a post on X, Ajay Nishad said: "Respected @JPNadda Ji, shocked by the betrayal of @BJP4India, I resign from all posts and primary membership of the party." Ajay Nishad is likely to contest Muzaffarpur seat as a Congress candidate.



TIRUMALA, Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam, which also known as the temple cleaning ritual, was held amidst spiritual fervour at the sacred abode of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala on Tuesday. UNI



  
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