

News

Brief

Odisha: Another BJD heavyweight quits party

Bhubaneswar, April 5 (IANS) One more Biju Janata Dal (BJD) heavyweight resigned from the primary membership of the party following the announcement of the third list of candidates for the Assembly constituencies in Odisha.

Ramesh Chandra Sai, the sitting MLA from Athamallik assembly segment under the Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency, resigned from the primary membership of the party on Thursday.

Though Sai mentioned personal reasons for walking out of the party, in a video message, he clarified that denial of ticket by the party forced him to tender his resignation.

LS polls: Tejasvi Surya files nomination from Bengaluru South constituency

Bengaluru, April 5 (IANS) Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha president and MP Tejasvi Surya on Thursday filed his nomination as BJP candidate from the Bengaluru South constituency -- the seat he represents in Lok Sabha.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur, Leader of the Opposition in Karnataka R. Ashoka and other leaders accompanied him.

With thousands of party workers turning out on the occasion, Surya appeared confident of a victory by a huge margin for the constituency. The Congress has fielded Sowmya Reddy, former MLA and daughter of Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy.

211 Independent candidates among 358 file nominations for 14 LS seats in K'taka

Bengaluru, April 5 (IANS) A total of 358 candidates including 211 Independents in Karnataka on Thursday filed nominations for 14 Lok Sabha seats by the end of the final day of submission of nominants.

Among 358 contestants, 333 are male and 25 are female, according to a release by the State Election Commission. Thursday (April 4) was the last date for the submission of the nomination. On the final day (Thursday) of submission of nomination papers, a total of 183 candidates (171 male and 12 female) filed their nominations.

CM Sawant hails resumption of mining in Goa, calls it historic day

Panaji, April 5 (IANS) Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday hailed the resumption of mining activity in the state after a gap of nearly 12 years and termed it a "historic day".

"It's a Historic Day for Goa. I congratulate Vedanta for the commencement of mining in Bicholim (in North Goa). This has revived one of the key economic backbone of the state of Goa," CM Sawant said in a post on social media platform X.

The CM also thanked the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "continued support to resolve the issue".

'Enemy knows this is New India': PM Modi

Jaipur, April 5 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a scathing attack on the opposition, saying the Congress never permitted soldiers to get even with the enemy.

Addressing a mammoth rally in Rajasthan's Churu in support of paralympic Devendra Jhajharia, PM Modi said that things have changed now as "the enemy knows that this is New India, which enters into enemy territories to give a befitting reply to them (Yeh Naya Bharat hai jo ghar mein ghus ke marta hai)."

"As long as the Congress people remained in power, they kept the hands of our soldiers

tied... The enemy would attack and leave but they did not allow the soldiers to respond. The soldiers kept demanding one rank one pension, but they did nothing... When our government came, we gave them open permission to give befitting replies to enemies on borders. Today even enemies know that 'This is Modi; This is New India which attacks after entering into territories of enemies.'"

PM Modi recalled his visit to Churu on February 26, 2019, which came soon after the Balakot airstrikes. "We had taught the terrorists a lesson," he said. He repeated the words he shared in Churu last year and said, "Main

desh nahin jhukne doonga, saugandh mujhe hai mitti ki..." "When our Army carried out the surgical strikes, the Ghamandiya Ghatbandhan demanded proof of bravery from the Army. Insulting the Army and dividing the country is the identity of the Congress party," he said. PM Modi attacked the opposition's alliance and said the people of the 'Ghamandiya Ghatbandhan' had called Lord Ram "imaginary".

"Just a few months ago, the dream of Ram temple in Ayodhya was fulfilled. The Congress party was openly insulting our faith," he said, adding, "The country has always paid the price for the sins

of Congress."

He further said that a journalist told him that the Congress Party has issued an advisory out of fear in which they have asked their workers to stay tightlipped if there is any discussion about the Ram temple. "Our country now cannot tolerate this grave insult to our faith," he added. Speaking on the bold steps taken by the NDA government, the PM said, "Today Article 370 has been abolished from Kashmir. The law on triple talaq is helping our Muslim sisters. Entire families used to live in tension in fear of triple talaq. Modi has saved not just Muslim sisters but all Muslim families."



Muslims devotees offering last Friday namaz on the occasion of holy month of Ramzan, in Patna on Friday. UNI

RBI's decision on 3rd-party UPI apps to democratise wallet market: Experts

New Delhi, April 5 (IANS) Industry experts on Friday welcomed the move by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to permit the use of third-party UPI apps for making digital payments from prepaid payment instruments (PPI) wallets.

PPIs can come in the form of payment wallets, smart cards, magnetic chips, vouchers and mobile wallets, etc.

At the moment, UPI payments from PPI can only be through the web or mobile app provided by the PPI issuer.

Shivaji Thapliyal, Head of Research and Lead Analyst, Yes Securities, said that at the moment, the wallet market had been thrown wide open due to the RBI's diktat on Paytm Payments Bank.

"The new guideline, in

a sense, serves to make PPI wallets somewhat inter-operable and democratises the wallet market to that extent," said Thapliyal.

In FY23, Paytm Wallet had a gross merchandise value (GMV) of \$19.1 billion, with Mobikwik being a distant second with \$1.01 billion GMV.

"It would be interesting to see what scenarios could emerge if third party UPI apps, which would include Paytm, would be able to access other PPI wallets," Thapliyal noted.

With the RBI's move, the PPI wallet holders will not have to be completely dependent on the issuer of the PPI wallet.

It would, thus, enhance customer convenience and boost adoption of digital payments for small value transactions.

Furthermore, the RBI's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent aligns with expectations, said Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

"It provides added support to consumers, ensuring economic growth remains robust. Furthermore, the RBI Governor's optimism is bolstered by the resilience in domestic macro fundamentals," he said.

Saty Agarwal, Founder, MD and CEO, AU Small Finance Bank, said the RBI's maintenance of status quo on the repo rate and the policy stance marked by 'withdrawal of accommodation' is a "prudent decision amid increasing geopolitical uncertainties and any adverse climate impact".

Arun Gawli to get premature release from life term

Nagpur (Maharashtra), April 5 (IANS) In a significant development, the dreaded ex-mafia don-turned-politician Arun Gawli is set to be freed prematurely from the life term he is undergoing in Nagpur Central Jail, as per a Bombay High Court order, here on Friday.

A division bench comprising Justice Vinay Joshi and Justice Vrushali Joshi has allowed a criminal repetition filed by Arun Gawli challenging the rejection of his previous plea claiming premature release given a government notification of January 10, 2006.

"Gawli's application was rejected on grounds that the state government had come up with a fresh notification on December 1, 2015, by which a convict under the MCOCA Act

was held entitled to the benefit of the policy decision," his lawyer Mir Nagman Ali told IANS shortly afterwards.

The state had registered Gawli's petition on the ground that the 2015 notification specifically excludes the convict under MCOCA from the benefits of the policy. It contended that even the 2006 notification makes it clear that convicts under laws like the NDPS, TADA, MPDA, etc., are not entitled to the 2006 policy benefits, explained Adv. Ali.

After hearing both sides, the court directed the state to decide on Gawli's release within four weeks from Friday, paving the way for his premature release from the jail where he has spent 16 years, added Adv. Ali.

Faizabad will celebrate the return of Lord Ram in 2024 polls

Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh), April 5 (IANS) It is the land of Lord Ram, celebrating the return of the deity after 500 years. Yet the Faizabad constituency, which ensconces Ayodhya city, has not been kind to women as the constituency has never elected a woman candidate since 1951.

The major political parties have not fielded any woman candidates and the ones who did contest were independents.

Former UP chief minister Suchitra Kripalani did contest the Faizabad seat

in 1971 but lost.

"There is no specific reason why women have not won from here. Major political parties did not field women candidates and this could be a reason," says Rakesh Tiwari, a local journalist. This year's election is rather special for Faizabad, now renamed as Ayodhya district. The year marks the opening of the grand Ram temple and also the massive infrastructural development of the holy city.

"The BJP has completely transformed Ayodhya with a new airport,

ED cracks down on Pune ponzi kingpin, seizes Rs 24.41 cr in bank accounts

New Delhi, April 5 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate has issued a 'provisional attachment order' attaching movable assets worth Rs 24.41 crore of various individuals, entities and firms which are used by Vinod Khute, owner of the Pune-based VIPS Group of Companies and Global Affiliate Business Company, in an alleged money laundering case, an official said on Friday.

According to ED, the attached assets, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) of 2022, are in the form of balance in 58 bank accounts amounting to Rs 21.27 crore and deposits of Rs 3.14 crore. The probe agency has

commenced an investigation following an FIR lodged by the Bharti Vidyapeeth Police Station in Pune. The FIR, filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, implicates Vinod Tukaram Khute, Santosh Khute, Mangesh Khute, Kiran Pitamber Anarase, Ajinkya Badadhe, and unidentified others.

They are accused of deceiving individuals and conspiring to entice them into a Ponzi scheme and forex trading with promises of high returns. This resulted in the collection of over Rs 100 crore in the bank accounts of numerous fraudulent firms and entities.

"ED investigation revealed that Vinod Khute who is absconding and suspected to be presently residing in Dubai, is the mastermind of various illegal trade, crypto exchange, wallet services, and forex trading through Dubai-based firm M/s Kana Capital Limited," said ED in a statement issued on Friday.

Delhi : Man kills wife,

daughter before taking his own life

New Delhi, April 5 (IANS) A 42-year-old man allegedly killed his wife and four-year-old daughter before committing suicide by hanging by a ceiling fan in Delhi's Nihal Vihar area, police said. Their bodies were found by his son in the house, who was out for work and arrived on Friday morning.

The deceased are identified as Ajay, Teena (38) and their daughter Varsha. They are residents of Gali no 5, Nihal Vihar.

Sharing the details, police said that on Friday at 9:30 a.m., a Police Control Room (PCR) call regarding a suicide was received, following which a police team rushed to the spot.



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with senior party leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi releases the party's manifesto ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in New Delhi on Friday. UNI

Delhi HC denies bail to man accused of circulating fake currency

New Delhi, April 5 (IANS) The Delhi High Court recently refused to grant bail to a man implicated in a fake currency case.

The accused, identified as Irshad alias Bhuru, was allegedly involved in the supply and distribution of fake Rs 2,000 notes. Counterfeit notes worth Rs 3 lakh were reportedly seized from his premises.

Presiding Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma noted the severe implications of circulating counterfeit currency on the nation's economy, security, and the general public's welfare.

Noting the gravity of the offence, Justice Sharma stressed the need for the judiciary to adopt a stringent stance in such matters.

The court also elaborated on the broader dangers associated with counterfeit currency, noting its role in enabling money laundering, terror financing, and other organised crimes.

Moreover, the innocent individuals who might unwittingly handle such money face substantial financial and reputational risks, along with potential legal consequences.

"It is further observed that individuals who unknowingly come into possession of counterfeit currency also face significant risks and repercussions. Innocent consumers and businesses may unknowingly accept counterfeit money in transactions, only to later discover that they have been defrauded or cheated," the court said.

It added: "This can lead to financial losses, legal liabilities, and damage to reputations, particularly for businesses that unwittingly accept counterfeit currency as payment for goods or services." Despite the defence counsel's claims of wrongful implication and accusations of evidence tampering by the police, the court found the allegations and the recovery of counterfeit notes from Irshad's premises compelling enough to reject the bail application.

BJP aims to repeat win in K'taka's Dakshina Kannada LS seat

Bengaluru, April 5 (IANS) Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha Seat in Karnataka is considered a bastion of the BJP as the party has remained unbeatable here since the 1991 Lok Sabha election.

The parliamentary seat in the state's coastal part has the most Hindu pilgrimage centres.

The BJP has denied a ticket to three-time parliamentarian and former state president of the party, Nalin Kumar Kateel. The ticket has been allotted to a loyal party worker, fresh face, and ex-serviceman, Captain Brijesh Chowta. The Congress party has fielded R. Padmaraj, an advocate from Mangaluru city. After retiring from the Army, Captain Chowta, who hails from the influential Bunt community, was associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and later worked for the BJP party.

Congress' Padmaraj hails from the Billava community, which is dominant in the region. The Congress party wanted to field Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader from the seat considering his popularity among all sections of soci-

ety. However, with Speaker Khader refusing the offer, the party had to field Padmaraj.

Sources in the Congress said that Padmaraj was preferred over other minority candidates considering the chances of winning. The Congress is also playing the caste card this time to achieve victory. Sources, however, said that there is no place for caste politics in the region, unlike other parts of Karnataka. The murder of Praveen Kumar Nettaru, a BJP youth leader, at the height of the hijab controversy on July 26, 2022, rattled the region and resulted in a series of communal clashes and murders.

A probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) revealed that members of the Popular Front of India (PFI) were involved, and Nettaru's murder was part of a larger conspiracy to strike terror among the members of a section of society.

The appointment of Nettaru's wife by the previous BJP government on a contractual basis and then her removal by the current Congress government made an impact in the re-



A muslim greets to a police officer after last Friday namaz during the holy month of Ramzan, in Patna on Friday. UNI


વેસ્ટર્ન ટાઈમ્સ ગુજરાતી આવૃત્તિના
આગળના પાના વાંચવા માટે
નીચેની લીંક પર ક્લિક કરો

વેસ્ટર્ન ટાઈમ્સ

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