

MUSTREAD

Veteran BJP MPV Sreenivasa Prasad passes away

Bengaluru: Former Union Minister and Lok Sabha member V Srinivas Prasad passed away in Bengaluru here on Monday. He won the Chamaraja Nagar Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket. Prasad was 76 years old and was suffering from old-age-related ailments. He was admitted to a private hospital here for treatment. Born on July 6, 1947, in Mysore, Prasad was initially associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Vidyarthi Parishad. Prasad was a minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government between 1999 and 2004 and in the Karnataka government between 2013 and 2016.

BRS faces setback as Gutta Amit Reddy joins Congress

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtira Samithi suffered a setback in the united Nalgonda district as its leader, Gutta Amit Reddy, son of Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukinder Reddy, on Monday resigned from the party and joined the Congress. He joined the ruling party in the presence of AICC party affairs in-charge, Deepa Dasmunsi. She invited Gutta Amit Reddy and presented him with a scarf. Roads and Buildings Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, AICC Secretary Rohit Chowdhary, DCC President Rohan Reddy, and others were also present at the event.

Major fire breaks out at busy Kolkata market hub

Kolkata: A major fire broke out at a godown in a multi-storied building, stacked with plastic materials and highly inflammable articles, in a thickly populated business hub and residential area near the city's biggest religious place, Nakhoda Mosque, in Burrabazar area on Monday. There has been no report of human casualty in the blaze, which was first noticed around 5 am in the central part of the city. Some 15 fire tenders were pressed into the services to douse the flames, which also damaged the lower floors of two adjacent buildings, the fire brigade sources said.

Heavy rain lashes Kashmir, showers to continue

Srinagar: A heavy spell of incessant rain since Sunday evening created havoc in several parts of the Kashmir Valley. The administration has assured the water levels were well below the danger mark. Moderate to heavy rainfall drenched the valley, inundating roads and low-lying areas, while some higher reaches experienced a fresh spell of snowfall bringing down the temperatures and disrupting normal life on Monday. The incessant rains forced closure of the Jammu-Srinagar highway and Mughal Road. The administration in north Kashmir also suspended classes in many schools.

SC declines to grant bail to suspended IAS officer Pooja Singhal

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea of suspended Jharkhand cadre IAS officer Pooja Singhal seeking bail in a money laundering case linked to the alleged embezzlement of MGNREGA funds and other charges. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta declined the bail plea saying it's an "extraordinary case". The apex court refused to interfere with the Jharkhand High Court order which had denied her bail.

BSF recovers China-made drone with narcotics in Ferozpur

Ferozpur: The Border Security Force (BSF) recovered a drone carrying a packet of suspected heroin from the border area of Ferozpur district on Monday, the BSF said in a press release. The recovered drone has been identified as a China-made DJI Mavic 3 Classic. According to the official release, the vigilant BSF troops while carrying out a routine search operation on April 29, 2024, at about 8.00 am, observed a small drone along with a packet in a farming field in the border area of district Ferozpur.

Country needs a strong govt of NDA led by Modi: Shah

Begusarai/Jhanjharpur (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the country needs a strong government of NDA led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not a weak government of INDIA bloc having no concrete policies and Prime Ministerial candidate.

Shah, while addressing public meetings in Jhanjharpur and Begusarai Lok Sabha seats, seeking support in favour of NDA candidates for ongoing Lok Sabha elections, said that the country strongly needed a strong government of NDA led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not a weak government of INDIA bloc having not even a Prime Minister candidate.

A top leader of INDIA bloc had disclosed responding to a query from a media person that there were several leaders like Sharad Pawar,



Lalu Prasad, Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee, M K Stalin and Rahul Gandhi who could become Prime Minister if INDIA bloc was voted to power after ongoing Lok Sabha elections, he pointed out.

"Pawar, Lalu, Kejriwal, Mamata, Stalin and Rahul each will become Prime Minister on turn basis in INDIA bloc if it was voted to power, of which chance is very slim", the Union Minister also a senior BJP

leader said adding that a weak government of INDIA bloc would fail to take care of interests of the country. On the other hand, the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi government had taken several decisions in the last ten years having far-reaching effects, he further added. On August 5, 2019, the Narendra Modi govt scrapped Article 370 relating to Jammu and Kashmir but Congress leader Rahul Gandhi opposed the move in Lok Sabha, saying it would lead to the shedding of pools of blood there, he recalled.

Shah said that Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge had taken strong exception to the reference to Article 370 made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his election campaign in Rajasthan, asking what was the need to talk about Article 370 in Rajasthan.

India's strength lies solely in Modi's leadership, asserts JP Nadda



Bhadradri Kothagudem (Telangana) (UNI) BJP National President JP Nadda declared that India's strength hinges exclusively on Prime Minister Modi's governance.

Addressing a public gathering in Kothagudem in this district on Monday,

Nadda paid homage to Bhadradi Ram, revered as the Ayodhya of the South.

He reiterated that India's resilience is intrinsically tied to Modi's leadership, highlighting the eradication of corruption as an inevitable consequence of Congress' rule.

Nadda underscored the Modi administration's commitment to tribal development while decrying what he termed as the rampant corruption under the BRS regime. He lambasted the current Congress government as ineffective.

In a scathing critique, Nadda denounced the "India alliance," accusing figures like West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and DMK parties of involvement in corruption.

Cong announces names of 4 more candidates from Punjab

Jalandhar: The Congress party on Monday released another list of 4 candidates from Punjab for the Lok Sabha election scheduled to be held on June 1. The list released by AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal includes the names of State Congress President Amarinder Singh Raja Warring from Ludhiana, Former Cabinet Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa from Gurdaspur, Vijay Inder Singla from Anandpur Sahib and Kulbir Singh Zira from Khadoor Sahib.

Raja Warring will face Former Ludhiana MP Ravneet Singh Bittu who had recently joined the BJP and has been fielded by the party to contest from Ludhiana. With the third list of candidates released today, the party has so far announced candidates for 12 of the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab.

Mehbooba urges EC to not defer Anantnag-Rajouri LS polls

Srinagar (UNI) Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief and party candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency Mehbooba Mufti on Monday urged the Election Commission to stick to the scheduled date of elections in the newly carved out Lok Sabha segment.

Mufti said that she is hopeful that the EC would uphold the high standards of fair play, set by it in the past, by not allowing the election process in the politically and strategically sensitive state of J&K to be fiddled with.

Some political parties, including the BJP have written to the poll panel seeking deferment of the elections due to bad weather. The EC sought a report from J&K authorities, which has already been submitted.

SC cancels K'taka seer's bail in POCSO case, asks him to surrender

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday reversed a Karnataka High Court order that granted bail to Seer Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, who is accused of sexually assaulting minor girls, and directed the police to take him into custody within one week. Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru was arrested under the POCSO Act and was released on bail on November 8, 2023.

A Division Bench comprising of Vikram Nath and Prashant Kumar Mishra, while hearing the criminal special leave petition filed by a minor girl's father against Karnataka High Court's November 8, 2023 order granting bail to Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, directed cancelling of the bail and asked the police to take the seer into custody within one week.

The petitioner alleged that the seer is an affluent and influential person, and the trial in the case is about to begin. He said if Shivamurthy is allowed to remain out on bail, he will likely adversely influence the victims and other witnesses.



"Nobody knows it better than the officials who have been asked to send their reports on the petition by the ruling BJP and its allies in Jammu and Kashmir to defer the elections, which in fact would mean invisible rigging of the democratic process," she said.

Poll notification for 6 LS, 42 assembly seats issued

Bhubaneswar: The Election Commission of India issued a notification on Monday for elections in six Lok Sabha and 42 Assembly seats in Odisha in the third phase in the state that will see a total polling in four phases.

According to the notification, the last date for filing nominations is May 6, and scrutiny of the nominations will be conducted on May 7, while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is slated for May 9.

The six Lok Sabha seats going to polls in the third phase in Odisha are Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Puri, and Bhubaneswar. Alongside 42 Assembly seats spread over 13 districts in the state that will also go to polls on May 25.

Rajnath Singh files nomination from Lucknow

Lucknow (UNI) Defence Minister and local MP Rajnath Singh on Monday filed his nomination from Lucknow parliamentary constituency after taking out an impressive roadshow from the state headquarters of Bharatiya Janata Party.

Singh filed his nomination at the Collectorate office in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, Deputy CM UP Brajesh Pathak, BJP's national spokesman Sudhanshu Trivedi and other senior leaders of the party.

Before filing his nomination the Defence Minister visited temples and sought blessings. His nomination procession 'Vikas Rath' started from the BJP office on Vidhan Sabha Marg and culminated near the Col-



lectorate office passing through Hazratganj and Parivartan Chowk.

A large number of party workers and leaders accompanied the Rath and chanted slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram'. The entire route was adorned with huge cutouts of Rajnath Singh and party flags.

Smriti Irani files nomination from Amethi

Amethi (UP): Union Minister and sitting MP Smriti Irani, who is seeking re-election for the second consecutive term, filed her nomination from the Amethi parliamentary constituency on Monday.

Smriti Irani was accompanied by Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Mohan Yadav. Before filing her nomination the union minister took out a roadshow. She said: "I want to tell respected MP CM Mohan Yadav that the workers of Amethi had created history in Indian politics in 2019. Ordinary workers of Amethi defeated the national president of Congress in his bastion."

PM Modi 'protecting' Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna: Congress

New Delhi (UNI) The Indian National Congress on Monday, while accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of 'protecting' Prajwal Revanna, Hassan MP and the grandson of former PM HD Deve Gowda, who has been allegedly involved in sexual violence against women, has questioned his silence on the issue.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Chairperson Media & Digital Platforms Supriya Shrinete slammed the Prime Minister for nominating Revanna as the joint candidate despite knowing about his misconduct and also praising and asking for votes in his favour.

She said the BJP MLAs through a letter had informed the Prime Minister and Home Minister about the



sexual abuse videos going viral and had requested them not to make him a candidate. The Congress leader alleged that the Hassan Lok Sabha constituency candidate had committed heinous crimes against women of all age groups including domestic helps, party workers and MPs.

Modi must apologise to India's daughters: Asaduddin Owaisi

Hyderabad: AIMIM chief and sitting Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday demanded an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of India's daughters for seeking votes in favour of NDA's Hassan candidate Prajwal Revanna, who is accused of blackmailing women by allegedly making sleaze videos.

The All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslemeen chief posted on X that the PM campaigned for NDA's Hassan candidate in Mysore. This candidate has been accused of sexually exploiting and coercing women, making thousands of videos to blackmail them.

The BJP was aware of this man's background, and the PM still supported him, he said.

Atishi meets CM Kejriwal in jail; says he is concerned about Delhi

New Delhi (UNI) After meeting the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in Tihar Jail on Monday, Aam Aadmi Party leader and Cabinet minister Atishi asserted that the Chief minister took stock of the functioning of its government.

Talking to media, Atishi said on being asked about his health the CM said, "Do not worry about me, my health. Rather, tell me how the work is going on, have the books reached the schools on time, are the children facing any problems in their studies? The problem of medicines which was going on in Mohalla Clinic has ended or not? Whether people are getting medicines or not?"

Kejriwal has instructed her to ensure that summer is coming. During this time, the people of Delhi should



not face any water problems. "CM has also given a message to the women of Delhi that he will come out soon and he is making a complete plan to give an honorarium of Rs 1000 per month to the women of Delhi as promised. The women of Delhi will get this honorarium from our government," he said.

SC to hear Muslim woman's plea challenging Shariat inheritance law

New Delhi (UNI) The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Union of India and the State of Kerala, on a writ petition seeking that a person who was born a Muslim but is a non-believer, would not be governed by the Shariat law.

The petition was filed by a Kerala-based Muslim Lady Safiya PM, challenging provisions of the Muslim law of inheritance saying that she was not a believer and hence should be governed by the Indian Succession Act 1925 to inheritance instead of the Muslim Personal Law.

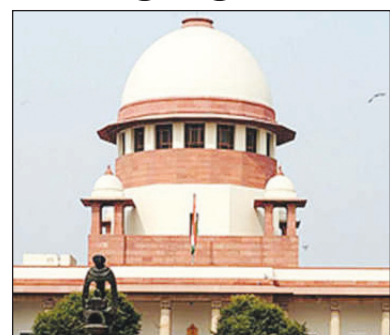
The petitioner is the President of an organization of Ex-Muslims. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwalla and Justice Manoj Misra, after elaborate discussions, decided to issue notice to the Union and

State on the petition, terming it an "important issue".

The bench requested Attorney General R Venkataramani to nominate a law officer to assist the court. The matter will be posted next in the second week of July 2024.

The bench initially was of the view that how can the Court give a declaration regarding the non-applicability of personal law to a person under Article 32 of the Constitution, when the petitioner has not challenged any statutory provision.

The bench also expressed reservations at the petitioner's proposition that the Shariat Act won't govern a non-believer. "The moment you are born as Muslim you are governed by the personal law. Your rights or entitlement are not governed by being a believer or non-believer," CJI Chandrachud said.



Appearing for the Petitioner Advocate Prashant Padmanabhan submitted that as per the personal law, a Muslim person cannot bequeath more than 1/3rd of his properties by way of Will. He pointed out that the petitioner's father is also not a believer.

The Lawyer said that Muslim

women are entitled to only 1/3rd of the share of male heirs.

The CJI pointed out that as per Section 3 of the Shariat Act, a person has to make a specific declaration to be governed by the Shariat law. The Court also pointed out that Section 58 of the Indian Succession Act states that the Succession Act will not apply to Muslims.

Therefore, a void may be created if a declaration as sought by the petitioner is granted. The bench also pointed out that the petitioner has not challenged Section 58 of the Indian Succession Act.

Padmanabhan stated that the petitioner was in a "peculiar situation." Her father cannot bequeath more than 1/3d of the property to her. The remaining 2/3rd will go to her brother who was suffering from Down's syndrome.

SC stays CBI probe in West Bengal teachers' recruitment scam

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed a Calcutta High Court order directing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the role of West Bengal government officials in the alleged teachers' recruitment scam.

A bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud listed the West Bengal government's plea to May 6. The SC stayed the Calcutta HC order directing the CBI to undertake further investigation against officials in the Bengal government who created supernumerary posts. The top court directed the CBI not to take any coercive steps into the matter till the next date of hearing. During the hearing, the SC also noted that the jobs of 25000 people were affected due to the High Court decision.