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News Brief

Cash, liquor, freebies valued at Rs 71cr seized so far in Telangana

Hyderabad, April 9 (IANS) The pre-election seizure of cash, gold, liquor and freebies in Telangana has reached Rs 71.73 crore, an official said.

The enforcement agencies have seized cash, precious metal, liquor and other items across the state since the Model Code of Conduct came into effect last month.

During the previous week, they seized cash, liquor, gold and freebies worth Rs 25.67 crore. According to the office of the chief electoral officer, the police, the Income Tax department and the Enforcement Directorate have so far seized cash of Rs 29.31 crore.

Preparations for Lok Sabha elections reviewed in J&K's Baramulla

Srinagar, April 9 (IANS) The preparations for the Lok Sabha polls were reviewed and evaluated in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla by the District Election Officer (DEO) on Monday.

Baramulla DEO Minga Sherpa convened a meeting of all the designated Nodal Officers "to conduct a comprehensive review and evaluation of all preparations necessary to ensure the seamless conduct of the 18th Lok Sabha Elections in the district", an official statement said.

Three Tripura govt employees suspended for participating in poll campaigns

Agartala, April 9 (IANS) Three more Tripura government employees including a security personnel have been suspended for participating in political events and election campaigns in violation of the model code of conduct (MCC), officials said on Monday. An election official said on Monday night that Partha Pratim Debroy, a government teacher; Rasu Chowdhury, an Education Department staff; and Tripura State Rifles (TSR) jawan Kishan Debbarma were suspended by the respective authorities for participating in election campaigns and political events.

Sandeshkhali tense after attack on police camp

Kolkata April 9 (IANS) Tension prevailed in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali on Tuesday after an attack on a police camp here.

The attack happened late Monday night in which one constable was injured who was admitted to a local hospital. The cops have detained three persons concerning the attack.

Local police said that a group of miscreants, late Monday night, suddenly barged into a temporary police camp that was located at a flood centre in the Shitulia area at Sandeshkhali.

"The cops present there were caught by surprise and were beaten with rods and sticks.

Era of passivity towards terrorism is over: Yogi

Rampur (UP), April 9 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday attacked the opposition governments of yore and said that the era of passivity towards terrorism is over as earlier while Pakistan's provocations were met with silence, today even minor incidents prompt immediate denials from the other side of the border.

Addressing a public rally in support of MP and BJP candidate Ghanshyam Lodhi in Rampur, the CM extended New Year greetings to the people. He underscored India's transformative trajectory, asserting that before

2014, Indian passports lacked respect globally. "The nation's stance has evolved significantly, showcasing a resolute response to threats, including swift airstrikes," he said. Yogi urged the people to re-elect Ghanshyam Lodhi, citing his track record of service to Rampur. He cited the commemoration of the sacrifice of the four Sahibzadas of Guru Gobind Singh as 'Veer Bal Diwas' on December 26, the construction of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor and the long-awaited realisation of the Ram temple in Ayodhya after 500 years as glaring examples of the Modi ad-

ministration's efforts to unite the country.

Emphasizing a departure from caste-based politics, the CM reiterated a commitment to inclusive governance, ensuring that government schemes are accessible to all citizens based on need.

He emphasized that resources belong to every Indian, irrespective of caste, creed, or religion. "Under the 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas' motto, development is prioritised for all without favouritism. The Modi government aims to bring smiles to every face through its inclusive policies," he said. Yogi said that in the past candidates

used to disappear from public view soon after winning elections and used to talk about their families rather than development, which concerned people.

He highlighted the transformative approach of BJP's Ghanshyam Lodhi, who, driven by his simplicity, dedicated himself to Rampur's progress. "The NDA alliance secured victories in four out of five assembly seats in Rampur, with all elected representatives actively engaged in implementing developmental initiatives," Yogi said. CM Yogi announced the allocation of funds for setting up of Rudra Vilas Sugar Mill, affirming his commitment to realising this project. Emphasizing a proactive approach, he urged swift progress in preparing the DPR to ensure timely implementation of the project.



PILIBHIT, PM Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP leader Jitin Prasada and others during a public meeting ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Pilibhit on Tuesday. UNI

K. Kavitha highly influential, may tamper with evidence: ED

New Delhi, April 9 (IANS) The Enforcement Directorate (ED), while demanding the judicial custody of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC, K. Kavitha in a Delhi court on Tuesday, in its application said that she is highly influential and there is every likelihood she will influence the witnesses and tamper with the evidence if released.

The ED, in its judicial custody remand application submitted before Special Judge Kaweri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court, said that from the investigation conducted, it is evident that the Arrestee (Kavitha) is involved in the acts of payment of kickbacks to government

functionaries to gain illegal benefits in the Excise Policy 2021-22 formulation and implementation.

"That, the Arrestee (through her proxy Arun Pillai) was a partner in M/s Indo Spirits which is a vehicle for recoupment of the advance kickbacks paid and to generate further proceeds of crime. The Arrestee is actually involved in the transfer of PoC of Rs 100 crore through her staff/associates-Abhishek Boinpally and Buchi Babu which was paid to the AAP leaders," it read.

The ED has claimed that the Hyderabad-based businessman, Pillai, is a close aide of Kavitha, daughter of former Telan-

gana chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, and the frontman of the 'South Group' liquor cartel.

The ED further submitted that it is established that the Arrestee (Kavitha), who is the ultimate in-charge of the share of Arun Pillai in Indo Spirits, was intrinsically involved in the conspiracy of policy formulation, kick-back scheme and the final profits generated/PoC laundered through Indo Spirits.

"The arrestee is highly influential and there is every likelihood the arrestee will influence the witnesses and tamper with the evidence if released, it may hamper the ongoing investigation.

BJP veteran Eshwarappa attends RSS programme on Ugadi festival in K'taka

Shivamogga, April 9 (IANS) Veteran BJP leader K.S. Eshwarappa on Tuesday, participated in a programme organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on the occasion of the Ugadi festival in Shivamogga.

Eshwarappa, who recently rebelled against the BJP and declared his candidacy as an Independent for the Shivamogga Lok Sabha seat, attended the event alongside BJP candidate B.Y. Raghavendra,

the son of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

The programme, held in the premises of Adichunchanagiri School, saw both Raghavendra and Eshwarappa donning RSS uniforms. Despite being in close proximity, the two did not exchange greetings.

Raghavendra appeared cheerful while seated in the middle row, whereas Eshwarappa maintained a serious demeanour on the last row.

Eshwarappa's dissatisfaction stems from the denial of a Lok Sabha ticket to his son K.E. Kanthesh from the Haveri parliamentary seat. Blaming former CM B.S. Yediyurappa for this decision, Eshwarappa vowed to contest against Yediyurappa's son Raghavendra in the Shivamogga Lok Sabha seat.

He had also set a condition for the party to remove B.Y. Vijayendra, one of the sons of Yediyurappa, from the post of the state pres-

ident.

Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken to Eshwarappa during his visit to Bengaluru. Eshwarappa had claimed that Amit Shah requested him to withdraw from the contest but later refused to meet him. After returning from New Delhi, Eshwarappa maintained that by refusing to meet him, Amit Shah had given a green signal for him to contest the election as an independent candidate.

Karni Sena leader Raj Shekhawat detained

Ahmedabad, April 9 (IANS) Gujarat Karni Sena leader Raj Shekhawat was detained by the Ahmedabad police on Tuesday before visiting the BJP state headquarters. He has been at the forefront of protests against Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister and BJP candidate from Rajkot, criticising his remarks about Rajputs.

Shekhawat announced his resignation from the BJP on March 30 via social media, dismissing Rupala's apology for his controversial statements, which had upset the Kshatriya community.

The controversy began when the Kshatriya community saw Rupala's comments as derogatory. In response to the backlash, Rupala issued an apology at a community event in Shemla village, Gondal.

Expressing remorse for his remarks, Rupala stated that this was the first time he felt the need to retract a statement. He took responsibility for the offence caused to the Kshatriya community and the subsequent impact on the BJP.

--IANS



KATRA, Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board along with other officials performing rituals during Chandhi Maha Yagya organised on the auspicious occasion of 'Chaitra Navratra' at Bhawan in Katra town of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday. UNI

Rahul Gandhi makes surprise visit to women collecting 'mahua' flowers in MP's Shahdol

Bhopal, April 9 (IANS) A group of women collecting 'Mahua flowers' in a forest in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district on Tuesday had a surprise guest when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi stopped his convoy to meet them.

Rahul Gandhi, who stayed in Shahdol on Monday night, was heading towards a helipad to leave for Delhi. On seeing the women collecting Mahua along the highway in Umaria, he

stopped his convoy and met the women. MP Congress shared photographs of Rahul Gandhi with the women on social media. After a short interaction with the women, Rahul Gandhi moved on with the rest of the journey. Congress' top star campaigner Rahul Gandhi kick-started the party's election campaign in Shahdol, one of the five Lok Sabha seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates. On his first

visit to Madhya Pradesh on Monday after the declaration of the Lok Sabha election schedule, Rahul Gandhi addressed three back-to-back public rallies in three different Lok Sabha seats -- Balaghat, Mandla and Shahdol. As per the MP Congress office, he was supposed to leave for Delhi after addressing the rallies by late evening, however, the special aircraft could not take off for some reason, and he had to stay in Shahdol.

Candidate need not disclose every movable asset owned by him or his dependents: SC

New Delhi, April 9 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that a candidate need not disclose each and every movable asset owned by him or his dependents unless they constitute high-value assets having a substantial impact on his candidature.

The above observation was made by a bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose

and Sanjay Kumar as it upheld the 2019 election of the Independent MLA Karikho Kri from the Tezu Assembly constituency in Arunachal Pradesh.

Earlier, the Gauhati High Court had declared the election of Karikho Kri as null and void on the election petition filed by Congress candidate Nunej Tayang accusing the former of making false

declarations in his election nomination paper.

Tayang contended that Kri did not disclose details of vehicles owned by him and his family and a plot of land owned by his mother. Further, he claimed that Kri did not disclose that he was in occupation of a government accommodation and did not submit "No Duces Certificates" towards the

rent, electricity charges, water charges and telephone charges.

In a detailed judgment passed in July last year, the Itanagar bench of the Gauhati High Court declared the election of the returned candidate as void to safeguard the purity of the election process and to see that people do not get elected by flagrant breaches of the law.

AICC appoints Mitendra Singh as MP Youth Cong head

Bhopal, April 9 (IANS) The Congress has appointed Mitendra Singh as President of the Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress Committee. A notification in this regard was issued by the AICC on Tuesday.

Mitendra Singh has replaced Jhabua MLA, Dr. Vikrant Bhuria, son of Congress veteran and ex-Union Minister, Kantilal Bhuria. Dr. Bhuria headed the MP Congress Youth wing for the last three years and was elected MLA from Jhabua Assembly constituency in November last year. The re-organisation of the party's youth wing in Madhya Pradesh comes two

weeks before the Lok Sabha elections begin on April 19. "I am hereby pleased to appoint you as President of Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress Committee with immediate effect. India Youth Congress is confident that you will devote your full time and energy to further strengthening the organisation as well as the Congress party under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi," the AICC's notification read.

Mitendra Singh, a law graduate from Gwalior had been working as the National Secretary of the Youth Congress.

--IANS

UP couple held for forcing minor girl into flesh trade

Lucknow, April 9 (IANS) A couple in Lucknow has been arrested for forcing their minor girl into the flesh trade, police said on Tuesday.

Maneka and Arun Tiwari run a general store and were arrested late Monday night.

The victim, a 16-year-old Dalit girl, was offered the job to work for the couple by one Armaan.

Mahanagar Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Neha Tripathi said poor family background forced the girl to take up the job.

"The girl was forced into flesh trade. When she objected, she was brutally assaulted and subjected to humiliation for her being a Dalit," said ACP Tripathi. The girl narrated her ordeal to her father who registered a complaint against Armaan, said the police. ACP Tripathi said after an investigation it became clear that the couple forced her into prostitution and have been arrested.

--IANS



SURAT, Marathi community celebrating Gudi Padwa, in Surat on Tuesday. UNI

वेस्टर्न टाइम्स गुजराती आवृत्तिना
आगणना पाना वांचवा भाटे
नीचेनी **लींक पर क्लिक करो**

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