

Western Times

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News Brief

Four killed as boat capsizes in J&K's Jhelum River

Srinagar, April 16 (IANS) Four people were killed and three injured on Tuesday when a boat capsized in the Jhelum River in J&K's Srinagar district. Officials said a boat carrying seven people capsized in the river at Gandbal in the district. "A rescue by SDRF, police and people was immediately organised. Four people died in this accident while three were shifted to SMHS hospital in Srinagar for treatment," officials said. "The bodies of the victims have been retrieved and medico-legal formalities are being completed," the officials added. Doctors at the hospital confirmed that the injured persons were being treated at the hospital.

Three from Andhra Pradesh killed in road accident in Karnataka

Hubballi, April 16 (IANS) Three persons from Andhra Pradesh were killed in a road accident on the national highway at Anchatageri near Hubballi city in Karnataka on Tuesday. According to police, the incident occurred after a private bus and a car collided head on. All the car occupants died in the accident. Another person, who got seriously injured, has been shifted to a hospital. The victims hailed from Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. Some of the passengers in the bus have suffered minor injuries. The Hubballi Rural police have rushed to the spot and are investigating the matter.

TSRTC to run fewer buses in Hyderabad due to scorching heat

Hyderabad, April 16 (IANS) The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has decided to reduce city bus services in Greater Hyderabad between 12 noon and 4 p.m. from Tuesday in view of the scorching heat. As the occupancy rate has come down during the peak summer heat hours, the TSRTC authorities decided to ply fewer buses. TSRTC's Greater Hyderabad Zone Executive Director V. Venkateshwarlu said the decision was taken in view of the drop in number of passengers. The state-owned transport body also cited the alert issued by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to people to be cautious in view of the heat wave conditions. The municipal authorities have advised people not to go out unless inevitable.

Minor fire breaks out in Home Ministry office in North Block

New Delhi, April 16 (IANS) A fire broke out in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) office in the North Block on Tuesday, a fire department official said, adding that it was brought under control quickly. Sharing the details, Delhi Fire Service (DFS) said that a call regarding a blaze on the second floor at IC Division in the MHA office was received at 9.22 a.m. "A total of seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot and flames were doused by 9.35 a.m.," said a senior DFS official. The official said that the fire was in a Xerox machine, computers and some documents.

UNCTAD forecasts India's GDP growth at 6.5 pc in 2024

New Delhi, April 16 (IANS) The latest UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report released on Tuesday forecasts global economic growth at 2.6 per cent in 2024 barely above the 2.5 per cent threshold commonly associated with a recessionary phase. However, amid the gloomy global scenario, it states that India's economy is buoyed by strong public investment and service sector growth, with a forecasted expansion of 6.5 per cent in 2024.

The report states that in Europe, countries like Germany and Italy are struggling with weak economic activity and facing industrial slowdowns and

fiscal constraints, impacting their growth projections.

As far as the Americas are concerned, growth is expected to slow, with Argentina facing severe inflation, and Brazil's economic momentum dampened by external pressures and reliance on commodities. North America remains relatively resilient, though challenges continue.

Africa is projected to grow at 3.0 per cent in 2024, up slightly from 2.9 per cent in 2023. Armed conflicts and climate impacts pose significant challenges in several countries. Meanwhile, the continent's largest economies – Nigeria, Egypt and

South Africa – are underperforming, affecting overall prospects.

Growth in the Oceania region, particularly in Australia, is expected to remain subdued, with the low-growth period extending into 2024. The report also observes that in 2023, global merchandise trade fell by about 1 per cent in real terms, marking a significant divergence from overall economic growth. The contraction was partly due to trade tensions among some large economies and subdued global demand. Over the last six months, disruptions in key shipping routes, such as the severe drought affecting the Panama Canal and attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, have strained merchandise trade further and significantly increased shipping costs, the report points out.



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KOZHIKODE, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing party supporters during his Janasam-parkam programme ahead of the Lok Sabha election in Kozhikode on Tuesday.UNI

Trinamool again conspired to thwart Ram Navami celebrations in Bengal: PM Modi

Kolkata, April 15 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday accused the Trinamool Congress-led West Bengal government of making all attempts to prevent Ram Navami celebrations in the state.

Addressing an election rally at Balurghat in West Bengal's South Dinajpur district on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said, "The entire country will celebrate Ram Navami on Wednesday. But this time also, the Trinamool Congress tried to create hurdles for the celebrations in Bengal. However, the court has removed all the obstacles and now Ram Navami will be celebrated in Bengal with lots of enthusiasm."

To recall, violence broke out between two groups when a Ram Navami procession was taken out in Howrah district on March 30 last year, in which vehicles were torched and shops were ransacked, leading to multiple arrests.

On Monday, the Calcutta High Court granted permission to the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) to take out Ram Navami processions in Howrah under certain conditions after the local police had denied permission for the same. The Prime Minister also accused the Trinamool of depriving the tribal and backward classes in the state.

"Today, a tribal woman has become the President

of India. But what is the Trinamool doing? At Balurghat, three tribal women joined the BJP. But the ruling party workers forced them to sit on their knees and apologise. This time, the Trinamool will realise that people from backward classes or tribal backgrounds are not their slaves," PM Modi said.

He also accused the state government of trying to shield those accused of sexually harassing women at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district.

"The Trinamool has given the state to illegal immigrants and anti-social elements on lease. That is why the ruling party is protecting the illegal immigrants but opposing our attempt to grant citizen-

ship to genuine refugees. But the people of Bengal will no longer be misled by the falsehood being spread by the Trinamool," the Prime Minister said.

He also alleged that the Trinamool did not allow central funds to reach the genuine beneficiaries in West Bengal.

"The leaders of the ruling party distributed the central funds among themselves. Crores of rupees have been seized from the residences of the Trinamool leaders. But when the central agency officials try to perform their duties, they are attacked. Time has come for the people to give a fitting reply to the Trinamool," the Prime Minister said.

—IANS

Veteran Carnatic musician Jayan passes away

Kochi, April 16 (IANS) Acclaimed Carnatic musician K.G. Jayan (89), the father of front-line Malayalam actor Manoj K. Jayan, passed away due to age-related ailments, here on Tuesday. The veteran musician was known for his compositions in the devotional genre and his musical collaborations with his twin brother K.G. Vijayan, which began in the late sixties. Jayan went into a shell following the sudden demise of Vijayan in the eighties, before returning to the music industry after a break to churn out more and more devotional songs. His works dedicated to Lord Ayyappa and the composition for the famed Sree Krishna temple at Guruvayoor made him an icon in his field.

BJP announces candidates for two LS seats, 4 Assembly bypolls in UP

Lucknow, April 16 (IANS) The BJP on Tuesday announced two candidates for Lok Sabha and four for Vidhan Sabha by-elections.

The party has named Vishwadeep Singh for Firozabad and Shashank Mani Tripathi from Deoria for the Lok Sabha polls.

For the four by-elections in Vidhan Sabha, the party has named O.P. Srivastava from the Lucknow east seat. This seat fell vacant following the demise of former Minister Ashutosh Tandon Gopal ji.

The Assembly seat of Dadraul fell vacant following the death of BJP MLA Manvendra Singh on January 5.

The party has named Shailendra Singh Shailu for the Gainsari seat which was declared vacant after the demise of Samajwadi Party MLA Shiv Pratap Yadav on January 26.

Shravan Gond is the BJP candidate for the Duddhi Assembly seat which fell vacant following the disqualification of the BJP's Ramdular Gond from the House after being convicted in a rape case. Gond was sentenced to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a girl nine years ago.

Bypoll to four Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh will be held in four phases simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections.



GAYA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi with LJP Rastriya Chief Pasupati Paras at a public meeting ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Gaya on Tuesday.UNI

Firing at Salman Khan's home: Mumbai Police nab 2 shooters from Gujarat's Bhuj

Mumbai, April 16 (IANS) In a major breakthrough, the Mumbai Police have arrested two persons allegedly involved in the firing incident outside the residence of Bollywood actor Salman Khan from Gujarat, early on Tuesday, official sources said.

The duo – tracked and caught within 48 hours – is being brought to Mumbai later today and shall be produced before a court for remand.

They were traced to a location in Bhuj, Gujarat, where they had fled after firing at least four bullets at Salman Khan's home in Galaxy Apartments in Bandra West around 5 a.m. on April 14.

Earlier on Monday, the Navi Mumbai Police had detained two persons connected with the motorbike bearing a Raigad registration number used by the shooters.

The motorcycle, with a Raigad registration number plate as seen in the CCTV footage, is being probed to ascertain whether it was sold by someone,



missing or stolen. The police, which had formed 15 probe teams, are also checking if there could be any threats to the shootout in Raigad, where the Khan family has a sprawling farmhouse in Panvel.

Hours after the Sunday shooting, Anmol Bishnoi – the brother of the notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi – had claimed responsibility for the attack in a chilling social media post. He termed the firing incident as the 'first and last warning' for Salman Khan and ominously decreed that the next time "the bullets won't be fired at walls or an empty home", indicating the actor would be directly targeted for a hit. "Salman Khan, this is just to show you a trailer, to make you understand our power and not to test our patience further... This is the first and final warning to you," said the rattling post. For the past several years, Salman Khan and his family have been facing death threats from certain Punjab-based mafia groups like the Bishnoi gang after the 1998 black-buck poaching incident in Rajasthan. During the past two years, the actor and his father Salim Khan have been issued death threats in different ways, including dropping a letter to the family.

Misleading ads by Patanjali: Baba Ramdev, Acharya tender oral apology before SC

New Delhi, April 16 (IANS) Baba Ramdev and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd Managing Director Acharya Balkrishna on Tuesday orally tendered their "unqualified and unconditional apology" before the Supreme Court.

"Jo bhi humse bhul hui, uske liye unconditional or unqualified apology accept kijiye (We tender an unconditional and unqualified apology for whatever mistake we made)," submitted Baba Ramdev before a bench presided over by Justice Hima Kohli.

"Will you say that other forms of medicine are not 'up to the mark' and 'should be discarded'? Why would you say that?" asked the Bench, also comprising Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah.

In response, Baba Ramdev submitted that Patanjali made efforts to make Ayurveda an evidence-based medicine system and he is not criticising anyone.

Interjecting, the apex court said, "Hum aapke ravaiye ki baat kar rahe

hain. Agar apne (research) kiya hai, toh interdisciplinary union committee hai, jo Union government ne banai hai, usme aap prove kareng... aapke waqif ne statement diya ki apne ayurveda ko badhane ke liye, dusri medicines or unke treatment ko 'shoot down' nahi kareng. (We are talking about your attitude. If you have done it (research, etc.), then you will prove it before the interdisciplinary committee formed by the Union government... Your lawyer had stated that in order to promote your Ayurveda, you will not 'shoot down' other medicines or their treatments."

With folded hands, Baba Ramdev said that he should have not made such public statements and would be more careful in future. "Aesa humse uthah me ho gaya, aage se hum nahi kareng. (We did this out of excitement, we won't do it again)," he added. On similar lines, Acharya Balkrishna submitted, "Yeh galti agyanta mein hui hain. Aage se

bahut dhyani rakhe. Us galti par hum kshama prarthana karte hain (This mistake happened unknowingly. We will be very careful in future. We apologise for our mistakes)."

Further, the top court questioned Ramdev and Balkrishna over the continued publication of misleading advertisements and holding a press conference immediately after Patanjali's lawyer furnished an undertaking in November last year. The ayurvedic company had earlier assured the Supreme Court that it would not make any casual statements claiming the medicinal efficacy of its products or advertise or brand them in violation of law and would not release any statement against any system of medicine to the media in any form.

Baba Ramdev said that he had no intention to breach the undertaking furnished before the Supreme Court. "Kisi bhi prakar se manniya nyayaiya ka anadar karna hamari mansa na thi, na

hein or na kabhi ho sakti hai (It was never our intention to disrespect the Hon'ble Court in any way, neither is it nor can ever be)," he said.

After interacting with the duo, the apex court said that it would consider the unconditional apology tendered by the proposed contemnors, clarifying that it has not condoned the conduct of Ramdev and Balkrishna. Senior advocate Mukul Rohtagi, appearing for the proposed contemnors, said that Patanjali would take voluntary steps to demonstrate its bonafide and requested that the matter be listed after one week. The Indian Medical Association has sought action against Patanjali for violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 – which prohibits the advertisement of certain products for the treatment of specified diseases and disorders, including diabetes, heart diseases, high or low blood pressure and obesity.



BIJAPUR, Election officials with polling materials living for their designated polling stations in Naxal-hit areas in Bijapur by a IAF helicopter for the first phase of Lok Sabha Elections on April 19, in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday.UNI

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