



'SHOW ONE MP, EXCEPT PM, WHO INVESTED HALF AS ME IN SPORTS'
RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE, UNION MINISTER

Padma awards: ISRO chief in 24 who didn't make the cut

RAHUL TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 17

A SEARCH committee, which included members from various ministries and departments, had recommended 26 names for the Padma awards this year. Only two — musician Shankar Mahadevan and Professor Subhash Kak — made the cut. Among those who didn't make it to the final list were ISRO Chairman K Sivan, former IIT-Bombay Director Devang Khakhar and filmmaker

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

TO FIGHT DIGVIJAYA SINGH IN BHOPAL

Accused in Malegaon terror blast case, Sadhvi Pragya Thakur is BJP's candidate

MILINDGHATWAI
BHOPAL, APRIL 17

PLACING HINDUTVA on the front burner for the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP Wednesday announced the candidature of Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, a key accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, from Bhopal against Congress veteran Digvijaya Singh.

Facing trial for her alleged role in the blast that left six dead and 101 injured, Thakur is currently out on bail. She has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for conspiring and abetting a terror act, and also faces charges ranging from murder to criminal conspiracy.

A Hindu hardliner, she has been fielded against Singh who the BJP calls a Hindu-baiter. This sets the stage for a highly polarising battle in Bhopal.

In first remarks as the party candidate, Thakur called the contest a "dharma yudh" and accused her Congress rival of equating saffron with terror. "Mei bhagwa ko samman dila ke rahungi (I will ensure saffron's dignity is restored)," she said,



Pragya Thakur at BJP office in Bhopal Wednesday. ANI

adding "all conspiracies against me have failed".

She had staked claim to the Bhopal seat the day Singh's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Before the court: Her bike used for blast that killed six, her chats with co-accused

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, APRIL 17

HER MOTORCYCLE with an IED, her phone conversations with would-be bombers, her presence at a conspiracy meeting in Bhopal, her inquiries on why the bomb didn't kill more.

These are some of the allegations against Pragya Singh

EXPLAINED

SIMPLY PUT
THE CASE AGAINST SADHVI PRAGYA
PAGE 11

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WHOCARES ABOUT DUE PROCESS?

BJP signals rule of law doesn't matter PAGE 12

Thakur, described by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) as one of the "principal conspirators" of the Malegaon blast which left six dead and 101 injured on September 29, 2008.

The first to be arrested in the case in October 2008, Thakur currently faces charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and also stands accused of murder, attempt to murder,

criminal conspiracy, and of promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion etc — the court observed that the accused planned the conspiracy with the aim to spread terror and cause communal rift.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 9

Exit Ayodhya architects, enter new-age Hindutva

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 17

THE EXIT of BJP's original Hindutva championing leaders L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and Vinay Katiyar from the electoral politics in 2019 Lok Sabha elections now

coincides with the entry of the new-age Hindutva warriors like Sadhvi Pragya Thakur.

The BJP Wednesday sprung a surprise by inducting Thakur, who is facing trial under UAPA charges in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, into the party and also announcing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

LENDERS REFUSE BAILOUT

16,500 jobs up in the air, Jet grounded

Consortium of banks led by SBI rejects emergency funding of Rs 983 crore



The deserted Jet Airways counter at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj airport in Mumbai Wednesday. Pradip Das

GEORGE MATHEW & PRANAV MUKUL
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, APRIL 17

JET AIRWAYS, once India's largest private airline, Wednesday decided to temporarily suspend operations as a consortium of lenders refused to consider extending emergency funding of Rs 983 crore to keep the airline flying.

The airline, which started operations nearly 25 years ago, said it would hence not be able to pay for fuel or other critical services to keep the operations going. "Consequently, with immediate effect, Jet Airways is compelled to cancel all its international and domestic flights.

ECONOMY

AIRLINES BEGIN RACE TO FILL GAP LEFT BY JET

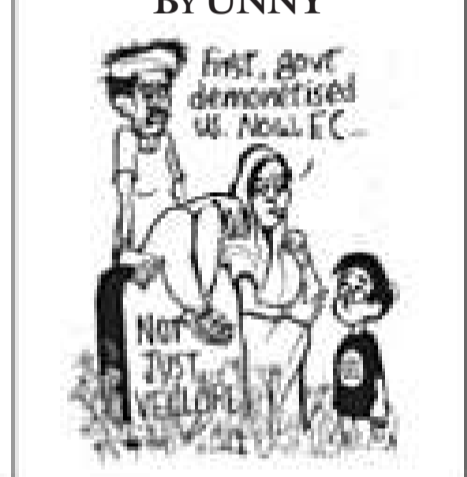
AFTER SAFETY AUDIT, DGCA ISSUES NOTICE TO INDIGO
PAGE 15

The last flight will operate today (Wednesday)," it said in a stock exchange filing Wednesday.

The closure of the airline's operations has rendered around 16,500-plus employees including hundreds of pilots, who were not being paid salaries for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



Cong spokesperson on her own party: goons are back

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, APRIL 17

LASHING OUT at her own party, Congress national spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi Wednesday said that the Uttar Pradesh party unit had reinstated eight party workers who were suspended last year for



Priyanka Chaturvedi

allegedly misbehaving with her at a meeting in Mathura.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Mehbooba's election pitch from J&K Ground Zero: I need to speak for you in Parliament

NAVEED IQBAL
ANANTNAG, APRIL 17

AS HER motorcade drives into Brimer, around 80 km south of Srinagar, the slogans get louder. She waves at the rows of workers who have waited hours to see her amid the incessant rains. Former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti calls it a



FULL COVERAGE
PAGES 6, 7, 8

"homecoming" and the locals welcome her with applause and

cups of *nun-chai*.

And in this remote village, deep in south Kashmir, the heart of militancy in J&K, she takes the microphone and addresses the crowds that rarely sees VIP visits, election season or not.

"We had worked to bring peace to you. We wanted to talk to Pakistan and Hurriyat. Unfortunately, now there are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Actual Image

Park View Sanskruti
Sector 92, Gurugram

Ready and waiting...

www.bestechgroup.com

Ready to Move-in,
Premium 3 & 4 Bedroom Residences

Actual Image

Starting INR 1.13 Cr.
(all inclusive)

Sizes from
1920 - 2475 sq. ft.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Exclusive Club
- Swimming pools
- Steam & Sauna rooms
- Over 10,000 sq.mt. of lush green area
- Operational Playschool within Premises
- Next to Upcoming Retail & Multiplex by Bestech Group

BESTECH
BUILDING MORE THAN TRUST

+91 9871191927

The project is constructed on the total land of 1.2789 acres with a license No. 19 of 2009 dated 21.06.2009 and a license No. 44 of 2011 dated 12.08.2011. Zoning plan approved from GZMP via DRD, No. DRZ/CP/2019 dated 02.09.2019. Revised building plan approved vide Memo No. EP-071-VOL-1030/881/2017/17358 dated 29.07.2017. Name of developer: Park View Sanskruti, Sector-92, Gurgaon, being developed by Bestech India Private Limited. 1 Sq.Mt = 10.766 Sq.Ft.