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Rahul Gandhi gets EC notice for speech in M.P.



Assange sentenced to 50 weeks in British jail for skipping bail



Jet Airways pilots press PM for an investigation into airline's collapse

Dhoni, Raina and spinners take Super Kings to the top again



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NEARBY

SC reserves verdict on changes to SC/ST law

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved for judgment a batch of petitions challenging the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act of 2018 which nullified a controversial March 20 Supreme Court judgment diluting the stringent provisions of the Dalit protection law

NATION ▶ PAGE 10

Curbs on civilian traffic in J&K lifted

Under immense pressure from various quarters, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday announced complete withdrawal of restrictions on civilian traffic movement between Srinagar and Baramulla

NATION ▶ PAGE 6

Woman doctor found dead in Delhi home

A 25-year-old woman doctor was found dead with her throat slit in her rented accommodation in the Ranjit Nagar area of Central Delhi, police said on Wednesday.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

UN Security Council designates Masood Azhar as global terrorist

Reasons for the decision however do not mention the Pulwama attack

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN/ SUHASINI HAIDAR WASHINGTON/NEW DELH

Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar was listed as a designated terrorist by the UN Security Council 1267 Committee on Wednesday. Significantly, the reasons for listing did not mention the Pulwama attack of February 14, for which the JeM had claimed responsibility, and which found mention in the latest (February 27) listing request for Azhar.

Nevertheless, the listing is a victory for India in a decade-old diplomatic battle waged primarily by it and supported by its friends at the UNSC, as it would mean a travel ban, arms embargo and asset freeze on Azhar.

The P-3 or group of three permanent UNSC members, the U.S., the U.K. and France, had co-sponsored a

Terror listed

The terror list prepared by the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the United Nations, includes 262 individuals and 83 entities

Sidi Mohamed Arhali:

Othman al-Ghamdi:

Ibrahim Hassan Tali Asiri:

Chief bomb-maker for al-Qaeda

Ghalib Abdallah al-Zaydi:

Ali Musa al-Shawagh:

Hamza bin Laden:

linked to al-Oaeda

Ayman Al-Zawahari: al-Qaeda leader

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi:

Aamir Ali Chaudary: Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) explosives expert

mittee on February 27,

weeks after the Pulwama at-

tack that killed over 40 se-

curity personnel. That re-

quest, which *The Hindu* has

Maulana Fazlullah: TTP leader (died last year) Abdul Rehman al-Sindhi:

al-Qaeda operative listing request at the Com-

access to, reads, "...JeM claimed responsibility for a

bin Laden

suicide attack in Pulwama". However, China placed a hold on the request – which normally lasts for three

months - on March 13. This was the fourth such attempt to designate Azhar, over a decade, that had gone awry.

At the end of March, the U.S. circulated a draft resolution (to sanction Azhar) among the UNSC members, i.e., outside the 1267 Committee, presumably to pressure China into either supporting the listing or having to take a stand in open proceedings and risk being seen as supporting terror.

Earlier this week, China had said "some progress" had been made and indicated it was willing to change its decade-long position.

Welcoming the decision, India called it a "step in the right direction."

AZHAR LISTING NOT A VICTORY **FOR INDIA: PAKISTAN ▶** PAGE 10 LIFTED 'HOLD' BASED ON REVISED **REQUEST: CHINA** ▶ PAGE 10

15 jawans killed as Maoists trigger IED in Gadchiroli

They were on their way to provide security at police station

SHARAD VYAS MUMBAI

In one of the worst attacks on the anti-naxal security forces in the last 15 years, Maoist insurgents blew up an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) killing 15 jawans and a civilian in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district on Wednesday afternoon.

A unit of the Quick Response Team (QRT) of the Gadchiroli police was on its way to provide reinforcements to the police station in the Kurkheda taluk, nearly 60 km north of

Gadchiroli, when the blast was triggered near Lendali Nullah, in Jamburkheda village, six kilometres from the police station.

taluk following an attack the

meant to assist road con-The police said security had been intensified in the to be in retaliation for the

vehicle blasted by militants. • PTI cadre of the rebels, Manku previous Norate and Manu Dasru, by naxals

The mangled remains of the police

struction work in Dadpur The latest ambush seems

which

had torched 36 vehicles

'GOVT. LEARNT NO LESSONS FROM PULWAMA' ▶ PAGE 7 killing of two senior women

the anti-naxal forces in an encounter in the forests of Etapalli taluk, South Gadchiroli, on April 27.

PROTOCOL IGNORED ▶ PAGE 7

Chief Justice

Bobde panel

appears before

Record GST revenue collections in April

Amount touched ₹1,13,865 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Revenue collections from the Goods and Services Tax hit a record ₹1.13 lakh crore in April 2019, according to official data released on Wednesday. The government had collected ₹1.06 lakh crore in March.

"The total gross GST revenue collected in the month of April 2019 is ₹1,13,865

crore of which CGST is ₹21,163 crore, SGST ₹28,801 crore, IGST ₹54,733 crore and cess is ₹ 9,168 crore," the government said.

"The revenue in April 2018 was ₹1,03,459 crore and the revenue during April 2019 is a growth of 10.05%," it added.

TAX BASE INCREASING ▶ PAGE 10

EC places bar on Pragya's campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Wednesday put a 72hour bar on the campaigning by BJP candidate for Bhopal Pragya Singh Thakur for her comments against late IPS officer Hemant Karkare and on her role in the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

It cautioned her against such misconduct in future.

Odisha, A.P. brace for 'Fani' landfall

8 lakh people being evacuated as storm heads towards coast

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR/VIJAYAWADA/ HYDERABAD

Defence forces are on high alert, educational institutions ordered shut and over 8 lakh people in coastal districts are being evacuated as Odisha braces for cyclone 'Fani'. the extremely severe cyclonic storm likely to make landfall near Puri on Friday, officials said.

It is expected to cross the holy town of Puri in the afternoon of May 3, packing



signalling the approaching Fani at Jalaripeta in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

winds up to 175 kmph before landfall. The storm over the Bay of Bengal that lav

centred about 610 km south south west of Puri was ominously rolling towards the Odisha coast at a speed of 6 kmph, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a bulletin.

'Fani' has also kept Andhra Pradesh officials on edge as it is expected to move close to Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts (With inputs from PTI)

FISHERMEN WARNED ▶ PAGE 5

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has appeared be-

FULL REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 7

Sacked BSF jawan's papers rejected

SP nominated Tej Bahadur in Varanasi

OMAR RASHID

Sacked BSF constable Tej Bahadur Yadav's nomination as a Samajwadi Party candidate in Varanasi, where he would have faced PM Narendra Modi, was on Wednesday rejected on grounds that he did not submit proper documents explaining his dismissal.

Varanasi District Magistrate Surendra Singh said Mr. Yadav had failed to submit the necessary certificate issued by the Election Commission that he had not been dismissed for corruption or disloyalty to the state. Mr. Yadav was given "a chance" till 11 a.m. on May 1 but he did not submit the certificate within the stipulated time, Mr. Singh said.

The DM, also the Returning Officer of the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency, said Mr. Yadav's nomination was rejected as it failed to meet Section 9 and 33(3) of the Representation of the People

Mr. Yadav's nomination from Varanasi was deferred after a discrepancy over his dismissal was found in the two nominations he filed, first as an Independent and then as the SP candidate. A notice was then issued to him to submit the EC certificate by 11 a.m. on May 1.

Conspiracy, says Yadav In his reply to the notice, Mr.

Yadav said he had not been dismissed for disloyalty or corruption and that Sections 9 and 33(3) did not apply to him. His lawyer Rajesh Gupta said they would approach the Supreme Court.

White walker



A vehicle stuck on a road due to heavy snowfall at Rohtang Pass in Kullu district on Wednesday. • ANI

BJP offered ₹10 crore each to 7 MLAs to quit party: AAP

Sisodia claims party offering money to more AAP legislators, but won't be successful

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday alleged that seven of its MLAs were approached with an offer of ₹10 crore each by the BJP to leave the party before the Lok Sabha election.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia claimed that the BJP was talking to more AAP MLAs, but insisted that its mission would not be successful. "People from the BJP contacted seven AAP MLAs and said that if they leave the party before the [Lok Sabha] election, they will give them ₹10 crore each. They are talking to more, but the seven

have told us," he said. "I want to tell the BIP,

[party president] Amit Shah and [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi ji, don't try to buy AAP MLAs and fight election; if you have courage, fight election on issues. You will try to buy them and they will tell us [about it]. You can't buy AAP MLAs," he asserted. Mr. Sisodia said Mr. Modi

should be "ashamed", referring to the latter's earlier comment that 40 Trinamool Congress MLAs in West Bengal were in touch with him.

"Is it right for the Prime Minister to say that? He is saying it openly that to weaken democracy he is going to



buy 40 MLAs. He should be ashamed. There [West Bengal] he wants to buy TMC MLAs, in Delhi, the BJP wants to buy AAP MLAs," the AAP leader said.

He said the BJP has no issues to fight the election in Delhi. "They were able to get one of our MLAs from Bawana before the MCD elections.

but people taught the BJP a lesson. If you have any agenda to change the country, then fight the election on it," Mr. Sisodia said. "Modi ji, if you have done anything for the people in the last five years, then fight the election on it," he added.

AAP leader Gopal Rai said the alleged attempt to buy legislators showed that the BJP's seven candidates in Delhi are going to lose. "The BJP's actions show that it does not believe in democracy. Delhiites will reply like they did in Bawana [bypoll which AAP won by a huge

Delhi BJP president Manoj

margin]," he said. Chief Minister Arvind Kej-

election roadshow in Delhi on Wednesday, said, "In the last three days seven of our MLAs have said that BJP people have contacted them and offered ₹10 crore to break them. This is not becoming of a Prime Minister." When asked whether AAP had any proof, Mr. Kejriwal said, Will give all proof on time."

riwal, who took out his first

Tiwari dismissed AAP's claim as a "joke". "Are they the same seven [AAP MLAs] who beat up Kejriwal a week ago," he said, denying any such attempt by the BIP to poach seven AAP legislators. SEE ASLO ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

speech too

DEVESH K. PANDEY

on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at Latur in Maharashtra on April 9, in which he had appealed to the first-time electors to dedicate their vote to Pulwama martyrs and to the soldiers who carried out the Balakot air strike, did not violate the Model Code of Conduct. The Commission had earlier received multiple complaints seeking action against Mr. Modi for allegedly violating the code. **DETAILS ON ▶** PAGE 10

Clean chit to Modi on Latur

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission Runaway hit The programme evoked im-

mense response on the social media platforms from the locals. The DD had stopped producing Kashmiri language serials or songs nearly for a decade now.

fore the Justice S.A. Bobde in-house inquiry panel examining sexual harassment charges made against him by a former court em-A letter of request was

issued to the Chief Justice.

Local KBC version a fillip for DD Kashir

Highlights unsung heroes, says official

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Cash-strapped DD Kashir, a J&K-specific television channel of Prasar Bharati launched by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2000, has received a shot in the arm with the launch of the local language version of the 'Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)' to win the "hearts and minds" in the conflict-ridden State.

The inaugural episode of 'Kus Bani Koshur Crorepati', a vernacular name of the show produced by Sony Entertainment Television, was aired on Monday evening at the local Doordarshan centre in Srinagar. In a major revamp in over a decade, Prasar Bharati has allocated ₹40 crore for DD Kashir, a quantum leap from ₹1 to ₹1.5 crore annually. "Of the amount allocated, ₹20 crore will be spent on the local KBC," said an official on the condition of anonymity.

"The show gives us the opportunity to highlight the local unsung heroes and bring their untold stories to the rest of the country," said Director General, Doordarshan, Supriya Sahu.

The show is hosted by Kashmiri actor Rayees Mohiuddin. "A diverse set of contestants have been drawn from all corners of the State. It is about the people of Kashmir and its identity. It will bring out tear-jerking people's stories," said Mr. Mohi-



A screen grab from the show on DD Kashir.

It would be the first such entertainment programme on DD Kashir, where fund allocation was slashed in 2012 following the CBI raids on local producers in an alleged embezzlement case. In its wake, Prasar Bharati

changed rules, "which made it difficult for local private producers to compete for producing any entertainment programme in J&K", a producer told The Hindu. Studio Next, a production

house of Sony Pictures Networks which holds the licence of the format, has produced more than 1,800 episodes of the show in eight languages so far. 'We are extremely happy

to bring the show to the people of J&K. We have maintained the same ethos of the show as in other languages, followed strict and transparent process for contestant selection. The show will celebrate our society via knowledge," said Indranil Chakraborty, head of Studio Next.

DD Kashir has been the only official station in J&K to promote local languages through serials, short movies and documentaries. The platform was also used to wean away the alienated population by focusing on a counter narrative.