



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Raman Singh, on his arrival, at Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh—PIB

Goa cops ignored terror alert, govt should be dismissed, says Cong

PANAJI, APRIL 14 /-/- Alleging that the Goa Police had ignored an alert issued by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) about a possible terror attack on the western coast, the Congress today sought dismissal of the BJP-led state government.

The Opposition party said as Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who holds the Home portfolio, is in the US for a medical treatment, there is nobody to head the department. "The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) had issued terror alert last week, which was circulated to all the agencies.

Although all the states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala took all the precautions to avoid terror attacks, Goa remained completely lethargic letting our coast porous," AICC

secretary Girish Chodankar told newsmen here. "Goa Police downplayed the alert claiming it to be 'Sagar Kavach', a mock drill exercise... This is a serious national issue. Governor Mrinalu Sinha should dismiss the state government, which has played with the national security," he added. The Congress leader alleged that the state Home department was inaction in the absence of the minister heading it. "During the last two months, we kept quiet considering that the ICG is out of state due to his health issues. But the situation is turning grave now with the terror alerts being ignored by the state police," he said. Chodankar also demanded that the National

Investigation Agency (NIA) should issue a notice to the state police asking clarification on why they took the alert lightly and instead misled people by calling it as 'Sagar Kavach' exercise.

Sagar Kavach is a multi agency mock anti-terror exercise to check the preparedness of the state towards any such incident. The ICG alert had expressed the possibility of terrorists boarding a fishing trawler as they were entering the country via coastline. After the alert was issued, Goa's Captain of Ports department had asked all the vessels including water sports operators to increase the alert. Despite repeated attempts, Goa Director General of Police (DGP) Muktesh Chander could not be contacted.

UP govt refers UPCOC Bill to Prez

LUCKNOW, APRIL 14 /-/- Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik today referred the UPCOC Bill, which seeks to curb organised crime and deal strictly with those trying to foment terror, to the President for his assent.

"The Governor has referred the Bill to the President as it was required as per the provisions of Article 254 of the Constitution," the Governor has referred the Bill on request of the state government, "a Raj Bhasan release read. The Uttar Pradesh Control of Organised Crime Bill, on the lines of Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, seeks to curb organised crime and deal strictly with those trying to foment terror or dislodge the government forcibly or through violent means. The UPCOC Bill, 2017 also seeks to act sternly against those using explosives or firearms or any other violent means or damaging life and property or involved in anti-national or destructive activities.

Dalit members 'cleanse' Ambedkar statue in Gujarat after tributes by Maneka, BJP leaders

VADODARA, APRIL 14 /-/- Members of Dalit community today 'cleansed' BR Ambedkar's statue here soon after Union minister Maneka Gandhi and some BJP leaders paid floral tributes on his 127th birth anniversary, a Dalit leader said, claiming that their presence had "polluted" the atmosphere.

Thakor Solanki, general secretary of SC/ST the Employees Union of Maharashtra Sayajirao University of Baroda, claimed that they had gathered at the statue to pay floral tributes before the BJP leaders. The members of the Dalit community raised slogans at the GEB Circle area on the occasion of Ambedkar's 127th birth anniversary. They were led by Solanki, along with BJP MP Ranjan Bhatt, city mayor Bharat Dangar, BJP MLA Yogesh Patel and others. The members of the Dalit community, led by Solanki, started raising slogans against them. An argument broke out between them and the police personnel, but no untoward incident took place, they said. Solanki and other leaders garlanded the statue around 9 am and left the venue, the members of the community who were protesting, said. They said the BJP leaders' presence had "polluted" the atmosphere. "We told the police that since we had gathered there much before the BJP leaders came, it was our right to pay tributes first. However, police prevented us from

Chandrababu announces fast against Centre's 'policy' towards Andhra on April 20, his birthday

AMARAVATI, APRIL 14 /-/- Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu today said he will observe a day-long fast here on April 20, his birthday, in protest against the Centre's 'policy' towards the state.

Chandrababu made the announcement at a public meeting organised in connection with the 127th birth anniversary celebration of Dr B R Ambedkar at Inavolu village here. "April 20 is my birthday. On that day, I will observe a fast from morning to evening on the state's

problems and the Centre's policy. I will register my protest against the Centre on this," he said. The Andhra Pradesh chief minister also said the Telugu Desam Party would once again emerge as the "king-maker" and decide who formed the next government at the Centre and who became the Prime Minister.

"In the past, our writ ran large over New Delhi. In future, too, our writ will run and we will dictate terms to New Delhi. TDP will be the only party that could dictate

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ensure the TDP won all 25 Lok Sabha seats in the state. "We joined hands with the BJP only to safeguard the state's interests but it has betrayed us," he said. The chief minister maintained that he would continue to fight (with the Centre) for the state's rights without any compromise.

"We will secure whatever we can from the Centre. If not, we will get things done (after 2019) when we will be dictating terms to the Central government," the TDP chief added. The Andhra chief

minister unveiled the design of the proposed Ambedkar Smriti Vanam (memorial garden) that would be up on a 6-acre site at a cost of Rs 100 crore in Amaravati.

Besides an amphitheatre, library and a convention centre, the Smriti Vanam will have a 125-ft tall statue of the architect of the Indian Constitution. "I am directing the authorities to complete the statue erection by the end of this year and the Smriti Vanam within 18 months," he said.

People, not 'nizaam', should decide what to eat, drink: Delhi by CM

NEW DELHI, APRIL 14 /-/- It is the people, not the rulers, who should decide what to eat or drink, Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia has said, charging that the 'nizaam' (the ruler) never wanted to restrict even people's thoughts.

Sisodia, also the art, culture and languages minister, made the remarks last night in his speech at the 20th edition of the annual Jashn-e-Bahar 'mushaira' here. "We are very brave people to be talking about 'jashn' (celebration) and 'bahar' (spring) at a time when those in power are imposing a lot of restrictions even on what people think," he said, stressing "there has never been a greater need for communal harmony than now".

It is not only about a poetic symposium, but about ideology. What the

people should be eating or drinking, what is kept in my refrigerator, or being cooked in someone's kitchen. The 'nizaam' (the ruler) should not be deciding this, the country and its people should decide this," he said. According to Sisodia, such gatherings are significant for the country "at this hour" where people may find poets expressing the thoughts that they had been wanting to express.

The minister, who described Urdu as the language of love and amity, said his government was working on a lot of initiatives for the language. Padma Vibhushan-awardee Kathak exponent Birju Maharaj and former Union minister Feroze Khan Noon were also present at the poetic soiree, attended by former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar and former Union minister Feroze Khan Noon.

among others. Kathak and Urdu, both are expressions of our composite culture. Mushaira-Jashn-e-Bahar has championed these synthetic values for the past 20 years even as it strives to shape minds by providing easy exposure to the literature," Birju Maharaj said.

Former Chief Election Commissioner S Y Qureshi, who presided the event, reflected on the country's "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb" and said being united despite the diversity that India has, is a virtue in itself. Qureshi lamented that after the Partition, Urdu, which played a significant role in the freedom movement, was portrayed as associated only with a certain religion, dogma and sectarianism, he said.

"Slogans like 'Inquilab Zindabad' and 'Sairashki khatamann' had found an echo in every household. But after

Independence, some people started ignoring Urdu and associated it with certain class and religion. This was unfortunate. The three most popular symposiums in Delhi are organised by non-Muslims and after all this, Urdu belongs only to Muslims and mushaira is the cultural activity only for Muslims, I think it would be an injustice to Urdu language," he said.

The 20th edition of the Jashn-e-Bahar mushaira, held last night at the Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, witnessed participation of Urdu poets from India and abroad, including Abdullah Abdullah and Farhat Ishtiaq from the US, So Yamane from Japan, Omar Salem al Airdros from Saudi Arabia, Waseem Barweli and Popular Meeruthi.

State Note
JNU professor booked on molestation charge
NEW DELHI, APRIL 14 /-/- A professor of Jawahar Education University has been booked after a student of the varsity's Social Sciences department alleged that he molested her. The police said today. Last month, another JNU professor was arrested on charges of sexually harassing nine women students. He was later granted bail by a court. The police said that they received a complaint from the Social Sciences Department student on Friday, following which a case was registered. The FIR was lodged on charges of assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty, criminal intimidation, and wrong gesture of act intended to insult the modesty of a woman, they said.

Kerala Cong MP denies praising PM as good administrator

KOCHI, APRIL 14 /-/- Senior Kerala Congress MP K V Thomas today said he had not praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a good administrator.

"He (Modi) is not a good administrator," Thomas said in a statement today after he reportedly mentioned at a function here that he was comfortable with the Prime Minister, an able administrator who could convince others about his decisions. "What I said was many of his (Modi's) administrative decisions, like demonetisation, GST have gone wrong, but he was able to manage (the situation) with his management skills," the former Union minister said. Thomas, the former chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, alleged that Modi, using his management skills, was able to manage the media and even the judiciary. "That is a bad situation," he said. Addressing the National Management

convention here, Thomas had reportedly said that regardless of whether his decisions were right or wrong, the Prime Minister was able to do it. Talking to newsmen here, the Congress MP slammed the BJP-led central government for the disruption of the Budget Session, calling it a "government-sponsored stalling".

In the second half of the Budget Session, it was the government that persuaded and managed the stalling of the House, using its allies on different issues like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu," he alleged. Thomas also described the Prime Minister's day-long fast on Thursday against parliament disruptions as a "drama".

The government did not want any discussion on the burning issues facing the country, including farmers' suicide and atrocities against women, he alleged.

Two doctors arrested for negligence in Gurgaon

GURGAON, APRIL 14 /-/- Gurgaon Police on Friday under Murthy's supervision of Fortis Memorial and Research Institute (FMR) here on charges of negligence during treatment of a woman who had suffered a fatal cardiac arrest, two officials said.

The cardiologist consultant S Murthy and medical superintendent were arrested by the Special Investigation Team of the police and produced before a civil court, which granted them bail but asked them to remain present during the next hearing in the case, the official said. According to the charges sheet filed in the case, Murthy had not given medicines to Seema Gai, who was admitted to the hospital after suffering a cardiac arrest on May 12, 2017. As per the documents given by Gai's kin to the SIT, the patient was admitted to the hospital well in time. But the

medical staff present in the cardiology department under Murthy's supervision did not give the required medication to Gai and she died of excessive chest pain, the official said. "It appears during investigation that doctors have not started the treatment of Gai in time leading to her death," the official mentioned in a fact-finding report. The complaint in the matter was filed by Gai's family against the doctors at Sushant Lok police station in May 2017 but the health department had formed a committee of three doctors to probe the case and they found the doctors to be negligent in performing their duty. "The SIT arrested the two doctors on the basis of the medical committee report," the official added. An FMR spokesperson said: "The matter is sub-judice. We are providing complete support to the authorities concerned." (PTI)

US national held at IGI for entering on fake ticket

NEW DELHI, APRIL 14 /-/- A US national was apprehended at the Delhi airport here for allegedly using a fake ticket to enter the terminal area, officials said today. Gurgaon police said today that the individual intercepted him while he was leaving the terminal-III building of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, they said. He was stopped and questioned as exiting the terminal area is not normally permitted, the sources said. Gurgaon told the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel that he used a "cancelled" ticket to enter the terminal area to see off his sister, who was travelling to Jeddah, they said. Entering an airport terminal without a valid ticket is illegal under the aviation rules.

Retired teachers from MP to hold sit-in protest in Delhi

BHOPAL, APRIL 14 /-/- An association of retired teachers here today said that they would hold a five-day sit-in protest from April 16 in Delhi to press for their demands. C M Dubey of the All India Kendra Vidyalaya Sangathan Retired Teachers Welfare Society (AIKVSRTWS) listed a hike in pension and retirement benefits in accordance with the 7th Pay Commission's recommendations as one of their primary demands. "We are going to burn the effigy of Kendra Vidyalaya Sangathan Commissioner on April 16 in protest of not implementing the 7th Pay Commission's recommendations," he added. Dubey said that more than 2,000 retired employees and teachers are going to take part in the protest.

Jammu Bar Association seeks compensation for Kathua victim's family

JAMMU, APRIL 14 /-/- The Jammu Bar Association today sought compensation and security for the Kathua rape and murder victim's family. The association made the announcement through a press release. Association president B. S. Sathia also called for a candlelight vigil here to press for justice and demand exemplary punishment to the perpetrators of the heinous crime. Earlier, lawyers of the Jammu and Kathua Bar Associations tried preventing a woman lawyer from appearing for the victim's family. On Friday, the Supreme Court directed the Association to ensure that access of justice was not denied to the family and that no obstruction was caused to them.

The apex court also issued notices to the Bar Council of India, Jammu and Kashmir Bar Council, Jammu Bar Association and Kathua District Bar Association seeking response as it was brought to its notice that lawyers did not file the chargesheet. In January, the eight-year-old victim went missing while grazing horses in Rassana forest in Kathua district. Her body was recovered a week later. Investigations revealed she was held captive inside a temple, and was sedated before being repeatedly raped and murdered.

Punjab singer Parmish shot at in Mohali

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 14 /-/- Famous Punjabi singer Parmish Verma was shot at by some unidentified assailants in Mohali, police said today. The singer, who shot into fame with his song "Gaal Nahin Kadhma", was admitted to a private hospital in Mohali. "Some unidentified persons fired shots at Parmish last night at Sector 9 in Mohali when he was returning home. A bullet hit his leg," Mohali senior superintendent of police Kuldeep Chahal said. The officer said that the singer was out of danger. A case has been registered in this regard, police said, adding that investigation was underway.

Scolded for not doing household work, girl commits suicide

PUNE, APRIL 14 /-/- A 14-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at her home here, apparently after being scolded by her mother for not doing household work, police said today. The girl, a Class 8 student, hanged herself from a ceiling fan at her residence in Kalewadi area on Friday evening when no family member was at home, they said. Her father works as a driver while the mother is employed with the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, they said, adding the family originally hails from Chennai. The incident occurred at around 6 pm when a neighbour spotted her body through a window, the police said. Assistant police inspector Abhijeet Jadhav of the Wakad police station said. "The girl's mother, in her statement, has said the family was planning to go to their native place in Chennai. Before going there, she wanted her daughter to help her in doing some household work." However, when the woman found her daughter had not done any of the assigned work, she scolded her. She said she suspected the girl was upset by the scolding she got from her mother and she took the decision of ending her life in a fit of anger. "We are still investigating to know the reason behind the suicide," Jadhav said.



garlanding the statue stating that as per the protocol, it was the mayor's right. This angered our members, Solanki said. The statue and the atmosphere in the GEB Circle area was polluted after the arrival of Gandhi and other BJP leaders. Therefore, we cleansed Ambedkar's statue with milk



and water after it was garlanded by the BJP leaders," he added. Before Gandhi's arrival, Jivraj Chauhan, general secretary of SC/ST cell of BJP's state unit, was also garlanded by the Dalit members, who shouted slogans against him, forcing him to leave the venue.