

Poetry section

The morning dew

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I smell as I rose; the misty smell
I breathe freezy, as I walk
I doubt not; the slimy glittering cold
I step, step by step; as I peep
I wonder enough; ravishing
I make no way; as I discover
I am enchanting; this dazzling view
I am keen; not to erase away percipient
Slowly and slowly; I open up
Sheet after sheet; clear-sighted
I shrewd wisely; and speak not a word
I discriminate: the far seeing white
So polite and so canny snowy white

I smell as I rose; the misty smell
I breathe freezy, as I walk
This meadow all green; on the south
This field all decorative; intelligently
With the deep-rooted wild; greenery
Softer as I approach; with malice
I dare to step on; inch by inch
I screw and I am cheating to touch twigs
Oh! Holy beauty; white layer
I control not; fleece
This touchy velvet; cold and inviting
I smiles politely, as I breathe her
Into this magical heaven; I hail unbound

I smell as I rose; the misty smell
I breathe freezy, as I walk
I doubt not; the slimy glittering cold
I step, step by step; as I peep
Up above this hazy: woolly coat
So bright so softer; into this wetly wet
I pray not to elude; this foggy breeze
I am haunting; hunting by this crazy roof sheet
All white and all murky; mysterious white plate
I am afraid, afraid of dawn break
I wonder endlessly; into this secrets
Oh! You almighty
With your magic wand; waves a shadowy spell

I smell as I rose; the misty smell
I breathe freezy, as I walk
I doubt not; the slimy glittering cold
I lost and I found back; murky
Into this bleak; all raw
All green; all cold
All freezing; all piercing
All bitter and all wintry
Spreading open -arm; embracing
I fear not; a tiny drop would stand
Still, I courage all whispering
Just for an arid while.

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National and International News

CBI to get new online system to deal with black money cases

PTI New Delhi, April 16: The CBI will get a new online system to assist it in probing cases of illegal wealth or black money. It will help officials collect and collate data from various agencies including banks, Income Tax (I-T) department and Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) among others. The move comes after a multi-disciplinary committee formed by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)— which exercises superintendence over the CBI in

investigation of corruption cases, suggested changes in the existing system. The CVC observed that the present system for calculation of disproportionate assets was formulated several years ago when access to information was limited and the extent of disproportion had to be arrived at using cumbersome procedures and that too manually. "A need was felt to improve the system for computation of disproportionate assets, including development of a software to capture all the events related to

income and expenditure during the check period," according to an official document. It was also observed by the CVC that in the present system, data availability with banks, FIU, taxation departments, etc are not being mandatorily obtained and utilised for computation of disproportionate assets. Following which a committee comprising officers from the CVC, the CBI, the FIU and the Department of Personnel and Training — the nodal department for anti-corruption measures, was formed.

The panel has submitted its report which is now with the CBI for its further input before it is eventually accepted, a senior CVC official said. "The new system will be more scientific and help investigators get information of all hidden income using modern tools," he said. The cases of disproportionate assets or illegal wealth are booked under Prevention of Corruption Act. A total of 673 corruption cases were registered by the CBI last year involving over 1,300 public servants.

High alert at Mumbai, H'bad, Chennai airports after hijack threat

PTI New Delhi, April 16: Security at three major international airports in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai has been stepped up after agencies were informed about a possible hijack attempt of an aircraft from these facilities. Officials said an high alert has been issued to the three facilities after Mumbai Police received an e-mail last night from a woman living there. The e-mail mentions that the

woman overheard six boys talking about a possible aircraft hijack attempt at these facilities, they said. The Mumbai Police shared the e-mail with all security and intelligence agencies. A meeting of all stakeholders at these airports was subsequently convened and the input was declared specific and actionable, they said. CISF Director General O P Singh confirmed to PTI that the security

apparatus at these airports has been put on "an enhanced alert and protocols have been stepped up". Special anti-sabotage sweeps are being undertaken at these airports since morning and security agencies, including the Central Industrial Security Force, have enhanced frisking of passengers, baggage scanning, pre-embarkation checks and patrols in the vicinity of the airports, they said. The CISF has called in its sniffer

dog squads and quick reaction teams for undertaking sanitisation drills at the airports, they said, adding airlines have been asked to remain extra vigilant. "However, there is no reason to panic and all the operations at these airports will be normal and without any hassle to passengers," a senior officer who is part of airports security team said. The police are probing the contents of the e-mail and trying to get in touch with the sender.

Muslim quota Bill in Telangana: 5 BJP MLAs suspended from Assembly

PTI Hyderabad, April 16: Five BJP MLAs were today suspended from Telangana Assembly after they created ruckus over a bill aimed to increase the separate quota for Muslims in government jobs. The BJP MLAs had come to the well of the House and protested despite repeated requests by the Assembly Speaker. Earlier, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao tabled the Telangana Reservation Bill in the Assembly. Special session of Telangana Assembly was convened today to consider the bill to provide 12 per cent reservation for Muslim in educational institutions and government jobs. The bill seeks to increase the reservation to Scheduled Tribes

and backward sections among Muslims. The state cabinet gave its nod to the bill yesterday. The ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) had promised to provide 12 per cent reservation for backward Muslims and Scheduled Tribes. **KCR GOES BACK TO TRS MANIFESTO** Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has said that as the matter requires approval from the Centre, the state would urge Modi government to take up the issue. The Telangana Reservation Bill takes the percentage of reservation beyond the 50 per cent cap. The Centre would have to give its assent as 69 per cent quota is already under implementation in Tamil Nadu, K Chandrashekar

Rao argued. As the TRS government is exactly following the Tamil Nadu model, the increased reservations should be incorporated in the 9th Schedule of Constitution so that it cannot be questioned in court, he said. **BJP CALLS IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL** On the other hand, the BJP gave a call to 'Chalo Assembly' against the TRS' move, which it termed as 'unconstitutional'. The BJP has alleged that the Muslim quota Bill is against the spirit of Constitution as it is "communal". Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu had on Friday said the implementation of reservations on the basis of religion may result in social unrest in the country and

"lead to creation of another Pakistan". "We are not opposing (reservation on religion basis) because KCR (Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao) wants to implement it," he said, adding, "The BJP opposed such a move even when Rajasekhara Reddy (late CM of united Andhra Pradesh) and Chandrababu Naidu (present CM) also tried to do that." "We will oppose any such move because it will lead to creation of another Pakistan. It is an all India policy of the BJP. It is not the policy of Telangana unit of the BJP," he had said. The special session of Telangana Assembly will also take up the State GST Bill and the Telangana Heritage Bill today.

Buddhist University on Assam's old monk's agenda

PTI Ledo, April 16: Nonagenarian U Gunawantha Mahathera or Bhante Baba to his followers stands like the witness of time, spreading Lord Buddha's message ever since he came to this remote town from Myanmar over 50 years ago and bringing solace to the lives of those tormented and troubled. And now Assam's old monk has one goal: to set up a Buddhist monastery which will cater to students from not only India but also from countries like Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. Bhante Baba and his aide Bhante

Nyanaloka have begun preliminary discussions with local authorities. "We would require around 80-100 bighas of land near the Margherita new colony for the university. We are in talks with authorities regarding this project," says Bhante Baba, who set up the Mounglang Khanti Buddhist Monastery and International Meditation Centre in this coal township and Northeast's last railway destination. He is in constant touch with the Maha Bodhi Society of Bengaluru in this regard. "Besides education, we also plan

to set up a nun training centre. Currently nearly 30 nuns are undergoing training in Arunachal Pradesh's Bordumsa," he told PTI. Born as Mong Chie Yen on November 14, 1923, he decided to lead an ascetic life at the age of 18. And then at the age of 30, he left for India with an aim to propagate the preaching of Lord Buddha. After Calcutta, he finally reached this town and settled in the Khanti village. Bhante Baba also bats for reopening of the Stillwell road saying it will help the cause of the university in a great way. The 1,726-km Stilwell Road, built

by the Allied Army under supervision of General Joseph Stilwell of the US Army during World War II, connects Ledo to Kunming in China through Myanmar but is now lying closed. The Mounglang monastery also has a pagoda and accommodation and food facilities for visitors to the meditation centre. Bhante Baba's visitors' list is pretty long with ministers and politicians from not only the state but also from outside often coming for advice. His advice to all is simple: "Control the mind and yourself for your overall wellbeing."

The songs for the dead by 'rudaalis' of Assam

PTI Guwahati, April 16: Since ages, the Charhepis of Karbi Anglong in Assam have been singing songs of lament for the deceased and virtually guiding their last journey. According to Karbi legend, without the wails of the Charhepis and their heart-rending songs, the souls of the dead cannot gain access to the "village of ancestors" or the "land of the dead". The songs called Kecharhealun are lengthy narratives of the journey of the souls. The Charhepi is the central figure in a death ritual and "performs the vital role of guiding the soul like a shaman, through pre-destined resting places to the land of the

ancestors", writes Dharam Singh Teron in his article "Charhepi's song: Guiding the souls back to the land of the ancestors". "In the Charhepi's lengthy song, called Kecharhealun, the geography of the return journey of the soul is described in elaborate details. The Charhepi narrates the entire sequence of the rituals performed after an occurrence of death till the cremation," he says. This unique ritual finds mention in 'Loksanskrit', the first volume of an annual bilingual journal of folklore. The publishers say that the journal is an attempt to revitalise the indigenous cultural expressions of the diverse communities of the Northeast.

Normal life hit due to separatists' strike in Kashmir

PTI Srinagar, April 16: Normal life was today affected in the Kashmir Valley due to a strike called by separatists to protest the killing of a 22-year-old man allegedly in firing by BSF jawans in Batamalo area of the city. Shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut. Public transport was off the roads, but private cars, cabs and auto-rickshaws were seen plying in many areas. Business at the weekly flea market was also hit as vendors chose not to put up their stalls. Similar reports of strike being observed in other district headquarters were coming in, the officials said. The separatists,

including the chairmen of both factions of Hurriyat Conference — Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq — and JKLF chief Yasin Malik had called for a shutdown to protest the killing of Chandoosa area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Ahmad was killed when Border Security Force jawans opened fire on a group of people hurling stones at them at Reka chowk in Batamalo area. A police spokesman said while there were no restrictions in place anywhere in Srinagar, security forces were deployed in strength in Batamalo and other sensitive areas of the city to maintain law and order.