

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Won't accept National...

other people will also start commenting and they will not like it when it happens. And I see that happening," Jaishankar said.

"The second part of the truth - In our arguments, you are inviting the people to comment on you. Then more and more people are tempted to comment. We also need to stop giving generous invitations to the world saying there are problems in India, and (urging) America and the world (by saying), why are you standing by doing nothing? So if somebody from here goes and says why are you standing by and saying nothing, then obviously they are going to comment. Part of the problem is them, and part of the problem is us. And I think both need fixing."

### PM lauds ISRO's...

RLV is essentially a space plane with a low lift to drag ratio requiring an approach at high glide angles that necessitates a landing at high velocities of 350 kmph.

### Record number of...

of migratory birds. But this time, we saw that the birds that used to arrive at these wetlands or the Wullar lake 30 to 40 years ago also made a comeback. Even some birds, such as long-tailed ducks and skimmers, were seen after decades," he added.

Asked if the Russia-Ukraine war had any correlation to the rise in the number of avian visitors, Naqash said there was no unusual pattern in the arrival or departure of the birds.

"Regarding the timing of their arrival or departure, it seems quite normal in our wetlands. Any theory on a good number of bird arrivals needs to be supported with solid scientific data," he added.

Sajid Farooq, who is a range officer (lakes), said the department has devised a five-year programme for the rejuvenation of the wetlands.

"In protected wetlands, we have taken different measures for rejuvenation, such as restoration of breaches etc., so that the migratory birds that visit the wetlands during the winter months get a conducive atmosphere," he said.

The work for the field staff starts in March for the maintenance of the wetlands, so that the habitat is ready before the arrival of the migratory birds.

Parooq said the department is taking action against poachers to ensure that the birds have a safe stay in the valley.

"Poaching has been banned since the Wildlife Act of India was enforced. Control rooms are established at every range. For augmentation, the forest protection force is also with us.... Patrolling is carried out 24x7 in all our protected areas. In non-protected areas, our teams are always alert to nab poachers," he added.

Farooq said this year, the department has seized eight to 10 guns and registered an equal number of FIRs.

### Deposit weapons without...

this office that there still are a number of people possessing weapons despite the above mentioned discrepancies in their Arms licenses," it reads.

"Now therefore, through the medium of this notice, last opportunity is given to anybody possessing any weapon wherein he/she does not have a valid Arms license to deposit his/her weapon in the Police Station concerned within a period of ten (10) days, failing which, action as warranted under law shall be initiated against that defaulter," it stated.

### J&K Govt to...

"We are developing this farm under a holistic development plan. We have decided to introduce the Romanov breed. We are preparing for that", Director Sheep husbandry department Jammu, Krishen Lal told PTI.

This Reasi farm was the private farm of the King of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh. "It was set up in 1937. It is the oldest farm in Jammu and Kashmir. It was later taken over by the government in 1949", Deputy Director Reasi Dr R K Mahas said. This Rambouillet breeding centre houses nearly 2500 livestock of the Roumillet breed, which is the elite breed of France. "These are provided in every district to breeders free of cost. The aim is to increase the population of this foreign breed in bid to decrease the import of mutton", Dr Manhas said.

Another Breeding centre at Panthal in Reasi district houses South-African breed Dorper and French breed Rambouillet.

"We provide the sheep breed to the farmers to increase the population. It is a lone farm which has the Dorper breed. The Dorper witnesses growth of 30 kg in six months. We are introducing this breed to other areas in Jammu and Kashmir", Assistant Director Sheep Breeding farm Panthal, Dr Deepak Kitchloo said.

"In view of huge mutton usage in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the Kashmiri cuisine and in order to reduce meat import, the government has approved an ambitious Rs 329 crore project for the next five years to achieve self-reliance in the mutton sector", Dulloo said. Despite the region's competitive advantage and potential to become self-reliant in the mutton sector, there is a shortfall of 41 per cent leading to an import bill of Rs 1,400 crore every year, officials said.

One of the major interventions planned is the import of prolific breeds, which will lead to establishment of 72 breed-based farms to provide high genetic merit to animals. The project aims to conduct 1,00,000 artificial inseminations annually and establish 400 new commercial farms every year.

The project also focuses on clusterization, creation of mandis, abattoirs and common facility centres (CFCs), to support marketing and value addition of the sector; Dulloo said. The existing mutton production is not only of insufficient quantity but also lacks quality and is not FSSAI compliant, putting consumers at risk.

The majority of the livestock population is held by Bakervals who follow traditional methods of farming, resulting in low productivity and profits.

The expected output from the project includes import of 2700 high genetic merit and elite sheep and goats, increased lambing percentage from 80 to 120 and considerable reduction in marketable age for sheep and goats (40-50 kg in 6 months), they

officials said.

### HC grants bail...

petitioner/accused is granted bail. Therefore, petitioner/accused has carved out a strong case for grant of bail in his favour. The bail application succeeds, and is allowed." The Court further recorded that Aseem Sawhney, Counsel while advancing the case of petitioner/accused for grant of bail, has strenuously articulated arguments, that as per the allegations against petitioner/accused, on February 8, 2023 the CBI laid a trap and petitioner/accused along with co-accused were caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs. 2.30 lacs from the complainant and both were arrested on February 8m 2023 and thereafter petitioner/accused along with co-accused are lying in judicial custody in District Jail Amphalla Jammu for the last more than 1 and half months and are not required for any further investigation. It is argued, that petitioner/accused has neither accepted any bribe money nor the same has been recovered from him during the alleged trap, petitioner is an innocent person and has not committed any offence, on the contrary, the complainant is trying to arm twist the petitioner with the connivance of certain CBI officers to settle some personal scores which shall be revealed at the stage of cross-examination and defense in the trial, however, by keeping the petitioner under detention for indefinite period will amount to inflicting of pre-trial punishment to him which is against the mandate of criminal jurisprudence which postulates that the presumption of innocence always lies in favour of accused who is presumed to be innocent till guilt is proved against him. To buttress his arguments, counsel has relied upon several decisions of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts. Finally after discussing the case law on the subject the High Court found it a fit case under the circumstances to grant bail to the accused/ petitioner.

### BSF ASI dies...

the officials said. They said the deceased was on duty at Border Outpost Gurnam in Hiranagar sector when his colleagues found him in an injured condition with a gunshot injury from his own service rifle. He was rushed to a nearby medical facility where he was declared brought dead, the officials said, adding police have started inquest proceedings.

### Kargil war hero...

of Subedar Major Morup.

"Kargil war hero Subedar Major Tsewang Muro, Vir Chakra, lost his life in a road accident last night near Leh," said an Army official.

Commander of the Army's Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps Lt Gen Rashim Bali met Muro's family, including his father Naib Subedar (retd) Chhering Mutup, and conveyed condolences on behalf of the Army. Muro's father is an Ashok Chakra awardee. The exact nature of the accident is not immediately known. "Last night, we lost Sub Maj Tsewang Morup, Vir Chakra, hero of Kargil War and son of Naib Subedar Chhering Mutup, Ashok Chakra, to a tragic accident," the Ladakh Scouts tweeted.

"Condolences to the most decorated family of the country. Rest in peace braveheart, Great loss to Army, Ladakh Scouts and the Nation," it said.

## Indian media strong enough to set narrative across world: Thakur

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGPUR: Union minister Anurag Thakur on Sunday said the Indian media is strong enough and has the capability to set narrative across the world.

He alleged that some foreign media houses carried "false" reports about India during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this agenda of spoiling the country's image was not only being run from outside the country, but many Indian leaders used that opportunity for their self-interests.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister also said that Indian media was independent in the past and will remain so in the future as it is today.

Thakur was speaking at the Lokmat National Media Conclave on the topic 'Is Indian Media Completely Polarised'?

The media conclave was organised to mark the birth centenary of freedom fighter and Lokmat Media Group's founder editor Jawaharlal Darda, fondly known as 'Babuji', as well as the golden jubilee of the Lokmat Nagpur edition.

Addressing a gathering of journalists and intellectuals, the minister said, "On the part of the government, I can assure that Indian media was independent earlier, it is independent today and will remain so in future also."

"It is nobody's intention to nail someone. But a question arises when some political parties use a huge proportion of their budget for their own welfare and self-praise rather than for the development and welfare of people. The effect of all this is sometimes seen in news reports, when eight to nine newspapers carry identical headlines and it happens not once but 50 times," he said.

Thakur attacked some foreign media houses for their coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying that dead bodies flowing in the Ganga river and



lying on its banks were shown in reports.

"These reports were not true, but a large number of media houses without checking facts ran those reports. This does not spoil only one person's image, but spoils the image of the entire country. And this agenda and propaganda is not only being run from outside the country, but many leaders from India also used this opportunity for their self-interests," he said.

The minister further said that during the pandemic, some political leaders raised question marks over Indian anti-coronavirus vaccines.

"I am not questioning their thinking, but questions arise whether they were doing this for political benefits or marketing for some foreign company," he said.

Thakur praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing two Indian anti-coronavirus vaccines and providing 220 crore doses for free in the country.

"Did anyone discuss those news reports which claimed that crores of people will die in the country (during COVID-19) and its economy will suffer?" he asked.

## Clashes in West Bengal's Hooghly during Ram Navami rally, BJP MLA injured

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RISHRA (WB): Clashes broke out between two groups during a Ram Navami procession in West Bengal's Hooghly district on Sunday evening, following which prohibitory orders were imposed and the internet was suspended, police said.

Two Ram Navami processions were organised in the Rishra police station area, and the second one was attacked near Wellington Jute Mill More at GT Road around 6.15 pm, they said.

A few police personnel were injured in the violence, they added.

BJP vice-president Dilip Ghosh, who was in the procession that was attacked, told PTI that people were walking peacefully to the Jagannath temple in Mahesh when stones were hurled at it.

Pursurah BJP MLA Biman Ghosh was injured in the violence, he said.

A senior officer of the Chandannagar Police Commissionerate said, "Medinipur MP Dilip Ghosh and Pursurah MLA Biman Ghosh were present in the

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

procession that was attacked. It was going through the traditional route when a group started throwing stones at it. We took immediate steps to address the situation."

Arrests are yet to be made in connection with the violence, she said.

Quick action was taken by the police and the situation is now under control, she said.

A heavy police deployment has been made in the area to prevent any further flare-up, the officer said.

"Police are doing route march, and prohibitory orders under CrPC section 144 have been imposed in Rishra wards 1-5 and Serampore's ward 24. Internet services will remain suspended in parts of Rishra and Serampore till 10 pm on Monday," she said.

Governor CV Ananda Bose, who is at present in Darjeeling, said those behind the violence will be "booked tonight itself and put behind bars".

"The miscreants, the hooligans, and the thugs will be crushed with an iron hand. They will be made to curse the day they were born. Mobocracy cannot derail

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

democracy. We are determined, the state is determined to put an end to this arson and looting," he said.

"The lawbreakers and their abettors will soon realise they are playing with fire. Reinforcement of forces has already rushed to the spot. The culprits will be booked tonight itself and put behind bars we are determined," he added.

Bose said this kind of hooliganism, which thwarts the democratic processes, will be "coffed".

BJP's Ghosh said there were many women and children in the procession that was attacked.

"Suddenly, stones were hurled at us from one side of the road. Several policemen were also injured in the stone-pelting even though I and some other leaders were rescued and taken out of the area through adjacent lanes," he said.

"Police managed to chase away the trouble-makers after being silent spectators for a while," he alleged.

Condemning the violence, state Industry Minister Shashi Panja alleged the BJP was indulging in the

destruction of peace and tranquility of the state.

"BJP is known for vandalism of public property, and triggering communal riots all over the country," she alleged.

Panja said the rally, which was attacked, was being led by Dilip Ghosh, "who is known for his provocative statements".

The state government will firmly deal with the situation and take necessary action to punish the perpetrators, she said.

TMC spokesperson Joyprakash Majumdar questioned what was the need to organise the procession two days after Ram Navami.

"Why are they so bent on taking out Ram Navami processions during the holy month of Ramzan? Why was the Ram Navami rally taken out two days later? The BJP wants to engineer riots in Bengal to create instability for political gains," he told PTI. The BJP was trying to foment trouble by taking religious processions to certain sensitive pockets, he alleged, claiming that it was creating such a situation to demand President's rule in the state.

## CRIME REPORT

### Notorious thief evading arrest in over 100 cases arrested

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A notorious thief who was involved in 100+ theft cases and 15+ FIRs was arrested on Sunday by Rehari Police.

As per details, information was received through various sources at Police Post Rehari regarding a most wanted thief namely Sukhwinder Singh alias Shivu alias Ashu, son of Balvinder Singh, resident of Amritsar, at present Narwal Channi, who was involved in more than 100 theft cases and against whom multiple FIRs were registered at different police stations of District Jammu and other states. On receiving the input, special team of Police Post Rehari led by SDPO North Sunil Kumar Kesar assisted SHO Paeca Danga Inspr Rakesh Sharma and Incharge Police Rehari PSI Anil Kumar rounded up accused. During questioning, accused confessed his involvement in various cases and disclosed that a theft of Rs 1.50 lakh in Janipur and a theft of Rs 40,000 in Talab Tillo were also committed by him. It is pertinent to mention that thorough questioning of accused is going on and huge recovery of stolen items is expected to be recovered.



### Five narco smugglers nabbed; heroin, cash recovered

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police on Sunday arrested three narco smugglers and recovered 9.50 gm heroin i.e., 5 gm at Naka Point near Tawi Bridge from a scooter (JK02DD 2571) in jurisdiction of Police Station Nagrota and 4.50 gm heroin during Naka duty at Mehmoodpur, Bishnah from a person coming from Kunjwani on vehicle (JK02CP- 2498) in jurisdiction of Police Station Bishnah.

A team of Police Station Nagrota led by SDPO Nagrota Sultan Mirza assisted by SHO Nagrota Insp Vishav Partap Singh and Incharge Police Post Sidhra PSI Arun Kumar while on Naka duty at Tawi Bridge Sidhra rounded up a suspect on a vehicle (JK02DD 2571). During search 5 gm heroin and Rs 3000 cash was recovered from his possession. The accused, identified as Mohd Akram alias Akram Pahalwan, son of Mohd Sadiq, resident of Subash Nagar



Rehari Mohalla, was arrested and a case under relevant sections was registered against him at Police Station Nagrota.

Similarly, a team of Police Station Bishnah led by SDPO

R.S Pura Surinder Singh assisted by SHO Bishnah Insp Vikram Sharma during Naka duty rounded up two suspects. During search, 4.50 gm heroin i.e., 2 gm from an accused namely Vishal Singh Charak alias Vishu, son of Uttam Singh, resident of Langar Pind Bypass Kunjwani, Tehsil Bishnah and 2.50 gm heroin from accused namely Rajan Virdi, son of Parmod Kumar, resident of Langar Pind were recovered. Duo was arrested and FIR No. 77/2023 under sections 8/21/22 of NDPS Act was registered against both at Police Station Bishnah.

Samba Police also arrested 2 persons in jurisdiction of police station Bari Brahmana and recovered heroin (Chitta) worth Rs 10,000 (approximately) from their possession under overall supervision of SSP Samba, Benam Tosh. The arrested persons were identified as Mohd. Shakeel, son of Hakam Din, resident of Tarkassi Tehsil Koteranka district Rajouri and Naseem Ahmed, son of Nissar Hussain, resident of Gujjar Mandi Rajouri. A case under relevant sections of NDPS Act has been registered at police station Bari Brahmana and investigation started. The arrests have been made by SHO police station Bari Brahmana Sunil Sharma and PSI Shakti Singh under the supervision of SDPO Bari Brahmana Rahul Nagar and Additional Superintendent of Police Samba Surinder Choudhary.

### 4 drug peddlers arrested, contraband recovered

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Sunday arrested 4 drug peddlers in Budgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

As per the details, a party of Police Station Budgam at a checkpoint established at Choon Crossing intercepted a vehicle (Maruti Eeco) bearing registration number JK04H-1091 with two persons onboard. During search, 5.36 gm Heroin was recovered from their possession. The accused, identified as Mehraj-ud-Din Mir son of Mohammad Sultan Mir resident of Choon Budgam and Shahbaaz Nisar son of Nisar Ahmad Ahangar resident of Ichgam, were arrested and shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime was also been seized. Accordingly, FIR No. 81/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam and investigation started.

During the course of investigation and on disclosure of arrested persons, 2 more accused namely Javeed Ahmad Lone son of Bashir Ahmad Lone resident of Eidghat Mohalla Humhama & Raqeeb Ahmad Dar son of Nazir Ahmad Dar resident of Gonikhan Srinagar, at present Gogoo Humhama were arrested and 7.72 gm Heroin and Rs 6400 cash was recovered from their possession. They were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Further investigation into the case is going on.

### 4 vehicles seized, 4 arrested for illegal extraction & transportation of minerals

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AWANTIPORA: Acting tough against persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police on Sunday seized 4 vehicles and arrested 4 persons in Awantipora.

As per details, a party led by SHO Awantipora under the supervision of SDPO Awantipora Mumtaz Ali Bhatti arrested four persons and seized four vehicles (tippers) involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals at Hatiwara and Padgampora areas of Awantipora. They were shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law were registered at Police Station Awantipora and further investigation started.

right to dissent.

"Investigating agencies such as CBI and ED are being increasingly deployed in a selective and targeted manner with a view to completely crush political dissent and upend the fundamental premises of a representative democracy," a statement issued on the behalf of a petitioner alleged.

The plea filed through lawyer Shadan Farasat cited some statistics and said they demonstrated a "shocking and unconstitutional state of affairs".

Besides the Congress, the parties that are part of the joint move are the DMK, RJD, BRS, Trinamool Congress, AAP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), JMM, JD(U), CPI(M), CPI, Samajwadi Party and the J&K National Conference, the statement said.

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Wednesday a plea filed by 14 parties, led by the Congress, alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against opposition leaders and seeking guidelines for the future.

According to the list of business uploaded on the apex court website, the plea of opposition parties would be heard on April 5 by a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud.

Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala are also part of the bench.

The joint plea was mentioned for urgent hearing on March 24 by senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi.

"I am asking for the guidelines for the future. This is a remarkable convergence of

14 parties against the misuse of the agencies, both CBI and ED," Singhvi had said, and claimed that 95 per cent cases of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are against the leaders of opposition parties.

The senior lawyer referred to the rise in the number of cases filed by the CBI and ED after the NDA government came to power in 2014. "Second statistics, pre-2014 and post-2014: there is a humongous jump in cases. The rate of conviction is four to five per cent. We are asking for pre-arrest guidelines and post-arrest bail guidelines," Singhvi had said.

The plea alleged there is an alarming rise in the use of coercive criminal processes against opposition political leaders and other citizens exercising their fundamental

