



**Women's reservation law amendment should not be used as political tool: Shashi Tharoor**

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**Hansika Motwani Files Defamation Case Against Ex-Sister-In-Law, Seeks Rs 2 Crore**

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## Ladakh gets Aadhaar identity, J&K tag removed

In a significant development, residents of Ladakh can now see their rightful identity reflected in Aadhaar records, with "Ladakh" replacing "Jammu & Kashmir" in the state field, following the intervention of LG Vinai Kumar Saxena.

Despite the formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh in 2019, after being carved out of Jammu & Kashmir, the Aadhaar records of the people of Ladakh continued to re

## DCCC at Kathua GMC to be upgraded: Jitendra



Union Minister Jitendra Singh today announced that the Day Care Cancer Centre (DCCC) at Government Medical College (GMC), Kathua, established under the aegis of

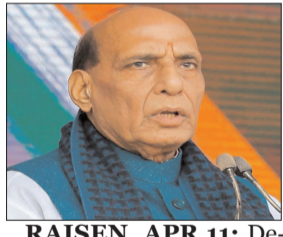
## Govt hikes windfall tax on diesel to Rs 55.5/lt

NEW DELHI, APR 11: The government today hiked export duty, or windfall tax, on diesel to Rs 55.5 per litre and on aviation fuel ATF to Rs 42 a litre.

The duty hikes would be applicable with immediate effect, the finance ministry said in a notification.

The government had, on March 26, imposed an export duty of Rs 21.50 a litre on diesel, and Rs 29.5 per litre on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). The duties were levied to increase domestic availability of the fuel

## Govt promoting millet in armed forces: Rajnath



RAISEN, APR 11: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said the government was acting on the 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' slogan by promoting millet in the armed forces to strengthen farmers economically.

Former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri had coined the iconic slogan in

## Massive 'Drug-Free J&K' campaign launched

# LG terms drug abuse among UT's gravest challenges

**Our neighbour smuggling drugs to undermine our nation's future**

**Passports, driving licences, Aadhaar Nos of drug traffickers to be revoked**

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 11

From the sprawling M A Stadium here, LG Manoj Sinha today launched a massive 100-day 'Drug-Free J&K' campaign, terming drug abuse among the Union Territory's gravest challenges, and resolving to take the message of a drug-free society to each & every home. A 'padyatra' was also taken out, which was joined by officials & citizens and welcomed by business organisations, civil society members & stakeholders.

As thousands gathered at the stadium, Sinha declared to spearhead a decisive battle against the drug menace in the UT, giving a clarion call to free Jammu



& Kashmir from the scourge of drugs. During this three-month campaign, the administration is going to be very tough, with LG asserting that passports, driving licences, Aadhaar Nos & arms licences of drug traffickers would be revoked.

"We have given voice to the resolve that will reach every village, town, city, home, and heartbeat in Union Territory, fulfilling the pledge of a drug-free region," he said while addressing a mammoth gathering at the stadium. "Next three months are pivotal, with campaign advancing in six clear phases-awareness intensive drives, youth focused events, community engagement, strict enforcement, rehabilita-

tion & evaluation. We will move forward with the whole of government approach to rid J&K of drug menace," the LG said.

"The eradication of drug addiction is a collective responsibility that rests upon us all," he added, saying: "We pledge resolutely that the administration will not let any youth, family, or dream fall into the dark abyss of addiction. I firmly believe that drug addiction statistics show mere percentages and case files but behind each lies a vivid story, a family's struggle & agony."

"Drug-free J&K campaign demands not just sympathy but collective action because it is not an individual plight but a collective crisis, not one family's tragedy but a challenge to us all. Together, with unwavering resolve, we will fight and defeat the scourge

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## India not 'dharamshala', infiltrators will be thrown out: Amit Shah

ONDA (WB), APR 11: Stating that 'India is not a dharamshala', Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said that infiltrators would be thrown out of the country 'once BJP comes to power in West Bengal'.

"India is not a 'dharamshala' (free guest house), and infiltrators who pose a threat to the country will be thrown out," he said while addressing a rally at Onda in Bankura district of the state.

Stating that more than 300 BJP workers were killed in Bengal in political violence, Shah assured that everyone responsible for these would be brought to book after a saffron party government was formed in the state.

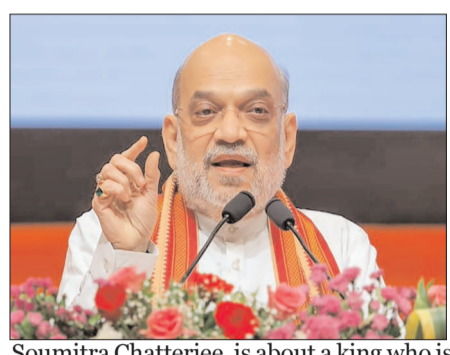
"Infiltrators will be thrown out once the BJP comes to power in Bengal," he asserted.

He also said that BJP would end the 'syndicate raj' of the TMC government after winning the Bengal assembly elections.

Those involved in atrocities against women of the state would also be brought to justice after BJP comes to power, he said. Shah assured potato farmers that their produce will be sent across the country so that they get remunerative prices.

"We will end the 'syndicate raj' of the TMC government after winning the Bengal assembly elections. The time has come to say 'tata bye bye to HIRAK RANI'," he said.

Shah referred to Oscar-winning filmmaker Satyajit Ray's classic 'Hirak Rajar Deshe' (The Kingdom of Diamonds), released in 1980. The movie, starring Utpal Dutt and



Soumitra Chatterjee, is about a king who is an autocrat and tortures dissenters and his people.

Shah alleged that one has to "pay cut money to the ruling party or go through syndicates for everything in the state, from buying cement to sand".

He claimed that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked women not to venture out at night, while a girl in BJP-ruled Assam can move out wearing gold ornaments at even 1 am without fear.

"A BJP government will ensure round-the-clock security for women in Bengal," he said.

Maintaining that the rape-murder of an on-duty doctor in state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital brought shame to Bengal, he claimed that women in the state's Sandeshkhali suffered atrocities for years at the hands of TMC goons.

"All those involved in atrocities against women during Mamata Banerjee's rule will be brought to justice," Shah asserted.

He also assured "potato farmers of Ben

Cont. on P9 >

## Will implement UCC, prevent Bengalis from becoming minority in WB: Modi

JANGIPUR (WB), APR 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code in West Bengal to end what he called the "politics of appeasement", while asserting that the BJP would not let Bengalis become a minority in the state.

Addressing a rally at Jangipur in Muslim-majority Murshidabad district, Modi said the BJP's election manifesto, released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday, is a roadmap to end



TMC's 'Mahajungleraj' in West Bengal.

"The nation's security is of paramount importance to us. The BJP resolves to implement UCC in West Bengal to end the politics of appeasement forever," Modi said.

His remarks came a day after the state BJP, in its

manifesto, promised to implement the UCC within six months if it comes to power.

Attacking the TMC, he said that the people of the state have not forgotten how the "ruling party in the state stood by the culprits of the RG Kar rape and murder incident".

Modi accused the TMC of abandoning its old slogan of 'Maa-Mati-Manush' and instead depending on "support of infiltrators".

"TMC came to power in West Bengal with the slogan of 'Maa-Mati-

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## India, US to deepen nuclear ties

WASHINGTON, APR 11: India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri discussed furthering energy cooperation with the US in nuclear power and new areas such as coal gasification and LPG exports in his meeting with US Energy Secretary Chris Wright.

Misri's discussion with Wright focused on "advancing energy security, deepening bilateral energy trade, and identifying new avenues to strengthen the India-US Energy Partnership", the Indian Embassy here said in a social media post on Friday.

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## Iran-Israel conflict

# US, Iran begin direct talks, seeking end to 6-week war

NEW DELHI, APR 11: A US delegation led by Vice President J D Vance held the highest-level face-to-face negotiations with Iranian officials in Islamabad in half a century as they sought to bring an end to their six-week war. Previous discussions were conducted primarily through mediators.

The talks between Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, and Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Mo-

hammad Baqer Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi lasted for two hours before the delegations broke for a rest, according to a source. Pakistan's army chief was also present.

As the talks began, there were conflicting accounts of what had been agreed.

The ceasefire, however, continues to face significant challenges, with Israel and Hezbollah still exchanging fire along the southern Lebanon border and Iran setting conditions

before formal negotiations can proceed.

"We'll find out what's going on. They're militarily defeated," US president Donald Trump said hours before the meeting.

Iran's red lines in the ongoing negotiations include control over the Strait of Hormuz, payment of war reparations, the release of Iran's blocked assets, and a ceasefire across the region.

Tehran maintains that formal talks can begin only after Washington commits

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## CJI calls for legal overhaul, says system will shape India's \$10 trillion economy

NEW DELHI, APR 11: At a time when India is pushing towards a \$10 trillion economy, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has turned the focus on the legal system, saying economic growth will depend on how reliable and predictable it is.

"The discussion is no longer aspirational but a practical question tied to India's next phase of growth," he said while speaking at the 'Rule of Law Convention 2026', organised by the Bar Association of India. "I am confident that we



will surely rise to the occasion. A \$10 trillion mark will not be built by capital or policy alone. It will be built in no small part by the quality of the legal system that upholds the rule of law and the promises on which all of that depends.

"Our country never lacked the legal talent to

build that system. And what this convention affirms is that it does not lack the will as well," said CJI Surya Kant.

He said the kind of investment India needs now is long-term and depends on trust in institutions.

"This is capital that is patient, long-term and dependent on institutional reliability; whether it is a pension fund investment in infrastructure, a technology company transferring proprietary know-how, or a global manufacturer establishing an integrated sup

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## Goyal holds talks with Saudi minister on stronger supply chains



NEW DELHI, APR 11: Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal today held discussions with Saudi Arabia's Trade Minister Majid bin Abdullah Al Qassabi on ways to strengthen supply chains disrupted due to the West Asia crisis, after holding

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## Ease of understanding law essential for ease of justice: Meghwal

NEW DELHI, APR 11: Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Saturday said "ease of understanding law" is essential for ease of justice, ease of living and ease of doing justice.

Addressing a conference on 'Judicial Process Re-engineering and Digital Transformation' here, the minister also highlighted the need for timely usage of funds allocated for various projects, including the digitisation of the judicial ecosystem.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was also present at the event.



People should be able to understand law, legal documents and court orders to achieve the three principles of ease of living, ease of doing business and ease of justice, Meghwal told the gathering.

Clarity in laws, legal documents and court judgments will lead to their

smoother implementation, he said.

The minister underlined the need for timely usage of funds allocated for various projects, including the digitisation of the judicial ecosystem.

Meghwal said the Indian e-Courts system could be "slow" in making progress, but it should not demotivate stakeholders. It is being fast-tracked, he asserted.

Phase III of the ambitious e-Courts project, which seeks to digitise court documents and up

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# Jammu grappling with crisis of confidence, but it has ways to overcome it

## Sahil Mahajan

There is absolutely no doubt that Jammu is walking tight rope at this critical juncture, primarily because of the self-inflicted crisis of confidence. This needs to be overcome as there is a danger that such a phenomenon will make things more complicated, adding to the difficulties in resolving the issues.

As a first step, Jammu should self-introspect, analyze, look at its assets and advantages on a real-time basis shorn of rhetoric and exaggerations about the things. There are plenty of natural assets visible to all - its water resources, minerals, rich forests and human resources. In short, its geography from plains to high mountains is a high-value treasure that has not

been exploited to its full potential till date. It is pointless to indulge in a blame game as to who all are responsible, because that will cloud the clear thinking and vision.

At the political level, the make up of Jammu region is such that there cannot be one particular discourse all over. Its religious, ethnic and geographical shape has always shaped different political narratives delivering different political and electoral outcomes, though there were occasions when a political party dominated the scene. It used to be Congress in past and now it is BJP since 2014. The political landscape had the chances to accommodate differences and work out a united plan for its cultural, political, social and economic growth. These attempts were sabotaged by the self-invented fights over issues that had no merit to be in

the narrative.

This sort of political clashes, both spoken and in whispers, created fault lines in the region. Over the years, these have expanded and become hurtful. The very people who talk of unity of thought and action for the overall well-being and steady growth of the region have chosen path and narratives that tend to create divisions. That is a self-inflicted wound and that continues to fester.

It will be a mistake to expect uniformity in the political thought and the nature of developmental priorities as that in itself would be blunting the growth and scuttling the democratic spirit. Each sub region and group has a right to assert their identity and articulate their priorities. For example, the mountainous parts of the region in erstwhile Doda district

and border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have their special needs because of their geography. They deserve as much access to education, healthcare and connectivity as the plains in the region. In fact, their needs should be placed on priority as that will fulfil the dream and vision of the overall growth of the people and the land. This needs not only accommodation of ideas but also partnership in the vision. Region is in need of ownership within the region. This will serve as a panacea to all the ills plaguing the region.

This is more important at this juncture than anytime before because of the changing geopolitical scenario. We should not be losing sight of the developments in the surroundings within and outside, that includes across the border. Jammu should always be remembering the

fact that it is essentially a land of borders - international border with Pakistan in the plains from Kathua, Samba to Jammu, and then Line of Control or LoC from the hills of Jammu to Rajouri and Poonch in the Pir Panjal range alongside the Kashmir Valley. These surroundings have influence on the region, and in the past 40 years or so, this is malignant. There were shocking incidents of terrorism shattering peace of the land and changing the psyche of the people from development to security concerns. This undermined the confidence, which was further eroded with the erosion of normal activities, attention and energy was consumed in building safety mechanism, through VDCs or village Defence Committees in villages. These things also led to a new thinking, how to combat terrorism, and

alongside of it the narratives that promoted secessionism. Jammu had to bear extra responsibility of offering its sons and daughters for the nation's duty in Kashmir as well in fight against terrorism. Today, terrorism has assumed a much serious dimension - the influx and consumption of drugs from Punjab and from across the border. Jammu has become both an importer and a route to spread of drug to Kashmir. This fight against drugs has yet again created a situation where the youth afflicted by this menace is losing confidence and society has a whole has become skeptic of its own children. The neighbours are being viewed with suspicion. It calls for building a common ground to regain the confidence to steer the region on a clear path and make it bright again.