



SIR row: CM Banerjee urges SC to save democracy; alleges WB targeted, its people bulldozed

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Rhea Chakraborty 'Didn't Find The World To Be A Safe Place' Before Clean Chit: 'If A Man Came Running...'

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Security stepped up ahead of Shah's visit

Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's 3-day visit which begins from tomorrow, security was stepped up across the UT.

According to officials, additional police deployments were made across Jammu and a tight vigil was being maintained to avoid any untoward incident.

Security forces also carried out a surprise cordon and search operation in the Ab Guzar area of Srinagar ahead of Shah's visit.

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Jawan killed in car accident

An Army jawan lost his life after a Tata Tiago car he was travelling in met with an accident near Dalwas in Ramban district today.

The dead was identified as Sohan Singh, son of Bihari Lal of Madda in Udhampur's Chenani area.

According to officials, the car was on its way towards Sawni village when it skidded off a mountainous road and fell onto the national highway below.

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No proposal for financial assistance to young advocates: Govt

The government today said that it had no proposal under consideration to provide monthly financial assistance to young advocates with more than three years of legal practice.

The information was shared by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in response to a question raised by MLA Shamim Firdous in the legislative assembly.

Replying to the question on whether the government intends to extend financial assistance

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SC notice against NEET PG cut-off percentile reduction

New Delhi, Feb 04

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea challenging the decision of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) to drastically reduce the qualifying cut-off percentiles for NEET-PG 2025-26.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe issued notices to the Union of India, the NBEMS, the National Medical Commission and others. The matter is listed for next hearing on February 6.

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Civil services exam rules part of evolving framework: Jitendra



NEW DELHI, FEB 04: Union minister Jitendra Singh today told the Lok Sabha that 'the civil services examination rules are part of an evolving framework and the government continuously undertakes reforms, besides remedial measures to ensure a level playing field.

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Kashmir migrant relief assistance

Fresh cases for registration not justified amid improved situation: Omar

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 04

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that fresh cases for registration under Kashmir migrant relief assistance were not being entertained at present in view of the improved law and order situation in the valley.

"The Prime Minister's Return & Rehabilitation Package for Kashmiri migrants is aimed at facilitating their voluntary, safe and dignified return to the valley while ensuring socio-economic security through housing, employment and other support measures," he said in his reply to a question by NC MLA Mubarak Gul in the assembly.

"Fresh cases for registration under Kashmir migrant relief assistance are not being entertained at present. The issue was examined in a meeting



chaired by the chief secretary on July 12, 2023, where it was observed that the improved law and order situation in the valley does not justify fresh registration at this stage," the chief minister added.

"The proposal for enhancement of the existing migrant relief assistance, considering inflation and the rising cost of living, has been examined at the Union Territory level and

taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is the competent authority to take a final decision on the matter," he said.

The chief minister said the comprehensive Prime Minister's Return & Rehabilitation Package for Kashmiri migrants was announced in 2009 with a financial outlay of Rs 1,618.40 cr. "The scheme provides a holistic framework to restore livelihood,

housing, education and financial security of the migrant community," he added.

Detailing the components of the scheme, he said, "It includes provision of residential support for migrant families, construction of transit accommodation for employees appointed under the package, continuation of monthly cash relief to the registered

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BJP MLAs accuse Speaker of bias, walk out of assembly

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 04

All BJP members staged a walkout from the Jammu and Kashmir assembly on Wednesday, accusing Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather of bias while granting time to members of the ruling party for speaking in the house.

They walked out of the House despite Rather saying that he was not differentiating between the members.

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Assembly adjourned for 15 minutes

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 04

LA Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather today adjourned the House for 15 minutes, following an uproar over reported remarks of Leader of Opposition (LoP) that Pir Panjal region does not exist.

The ruckus started shortly at the end of the Question Hour with Congress legislator Iftikhar Ahmad demanding an apology from BJP leader Sunil Sharma over the remarks

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'No end to encounters even in 2026'

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 04

In a veiled jibe at BJP over its claim that terrorism would end after the abrogation of Article 370 that happened in 2019, chief minister Omar Abdullah today said that encounters were taking place even in 2026.

Three Pakistani terrorists were killed in encounters with security forces in the higher reaches of Ramnagar in Udhampur and Chatroo in Kishtwar districts on Wednesday, taking the death toll in nine

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3 top JeM terrorists killed in Udhampur, Ktwr encounters

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 04

Finally, achieving success in tracking down the terrorists who were on the run for the past few days, security forces today neutralised three top JeM terrorists in the thickly forested mountains of Udhampur and Kishtwar in Jammu region.

While two of them were gunned down in the higher reaches of Ramnagar-Basantgarh, one was killed in Chatroo woods, officials said.

During intensified operations in Ramnagar-Basantgarh woods, a joint team of Army, police and CRPF spotted two terrorists inside a natural cave on Tuesday evening and engaged them in a gunfight, officials said.

After the intermittent exchange of fire that lasted about 20 hours, the forces today killed both the terrorists, the officials added, saying that while the body of one was lying on the mouth of the cave, that of the other was found lying deep inside it.

Both the terrorists were eliminated after the forces stormed the cave around noon. The raid was preceded by several blasts, officials said.

The slain terrorists were Pakistanis, officials said and identified one of them as Rubani alias Abu Mavia, a top terrorist of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit who was active in the area for the last several years.

Army named the operation as "Kiya" and said though it was over, the area still remained under surveillance.

"Based on specific intelligence input provided by police, troops of Counter-Intelligence Force Delta, White Knight Corps planned and executed a focused joint counter-terror operation in the general area of Jophar Forest, Basantgarh, in coordination with police and CRPF reinforcing the cordon, ensuring effective area domination to prevent escape of terrorists," Army's White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

"Contact with terrorists was established yesterday and since then, terrorists were prevented from breaking the cordon. Following a calibrated and coordinated response, two terrorists have been successfully neutralised. The operation highlighted seamless inter-agency coordination, tactical precision and high standards of professionalism," Army added.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including an M4 carbine and an AK rifle, were recovered from the slain terrorists, officials said.

Officials said intense gunfight and deafening explosions initially rocked the Jaffer, Gujra and Chigla Balotha forests for over an hour, resulting in injuries to one of the terrorists who along with his associate managed to retreat into the cave.

Heavy gunfire and explosions were reported for a brief period around 7.30 pm

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BJP's Khemchand sworn in as Manipur Chief Minister

IMPHAL, FEB 04: BJP MLA Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday became the 13th Chief Minister of Manipur, nearly a year after the resignation of BJP leader N Biren Singh following months of ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities in the state, leading to the imposition of President's Rule.

The 62-year-old leader was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at a ceremony held at the Lok Bhavan, hours after the President's rule was revoked in the vio-



lence-hit Manipur.

BJP MLA Nemcha Kipgen, who belongs to the Kuki community, and Naga People's Front legislator L Dikho took oath as

the deputy chief ministers of Manipur.

The formation of the new government comes at a time when the strife-torn

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Ukraine, Russia, US negotiators gather in Abu Dhabi for war talks

ABU DHABI, FEB 04: Negotiators from Ukraine, Russia and the United States were set to gather in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday, seeking to advance fraught talks on how to end the four-year war.

The Russian delegation has already touched down in Abu Dhabi, according to Russian state media, though it was unclear if US and Ukrainian delegates had arrived.

Several rounds of diplomacy between the sides have failed to strike a deal on ending Europe's dead-

liest conflict since World War II, which began when Russia invaded in February 2022.

A massive Russian drone and missile barrage in the run-up to the talks, pounding Ukraine's energy grid and knocking out power and heating in temperatures far below freezing, threatened to overshadow any chances of progress in the Emirati capital.

"Each such Russian strike confirms that attitudes in Moscow have not changed: they continue to bet on war and the de-

struction of Ukraine, and they do not take diplomacy seriously," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday.

"The work of our negotiating team will be adjusted accordingly," he said, without elaborating. The main sticking point is the long-term fate of territory in eastern Ukraine.

Moscow is demanding that Kyiv pull its troops out of swathes of the Donbas, including heavily fortified cities atop vast natural resources, as a

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National tours reflect spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat: Kavinder

Himalayan Mail News
LEH, FEB 04

Lauding role of Army in strengthening people-to-people connect in remote & border areas, Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today said 'national tours reflect spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

A 20-member group from Durbuk-Lalok, comprising 11 women & 9 men, met the LG here after completing the national excursion tour organised by Army.

The tour aimed at providing first-hand exposure to India's cultural heritage, na-



tional institutions and development initiatives, while strengthening national integration.

During the interaction, the participants shared their

experiences from the tour, describing it as informative and inspiring.

They expressed gratitude to Army for the opportunity

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