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### Sinha greets people on Easter

LG Manoj Sinha today extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the occasion of Easter, which would be celebrated tomorrow. In a message, he said: "On the auspicious occasion of Easter, I extend my hearty greetings and best wishes to all. May the Easter Sunday usher in peace, prosperity, and happiness in everyone's life."

### SPO disengaged from service

Authorities today disengaged a special police officer (SPO) for allegedly aiding a bovine smuggler in Udhampur district of Jammu. A senior police officer ordered immediate disengagement of SPO Shabir Khan after an inquiry found him sharing sensitive information with an accused in a bovine smuggling case, officials said. According to officials,

### 'Jammu Divn of Northern Rly now fully functional'

Divisional Railway Manager Vivek Kumar today said that the newly created Jammu division of Northern Railway was now functioning as a full-fledged division, with most of its operational and financial systems fully shifted, and it will focus on enhancing passenger amenities, ensuring safety, and increasing freight logistics in the upcoming year. "Our four key priorities for the coming year will be enhancement of passenger amenities, ensuring safety and security in train operations, expansion of freight services, and

### Police HC held in graft case

ACB today trapped and arrested a head constable of Thanamandi police station in Rajouri district for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000. He was identified as Head Constable Muhammad Ilyas. The action was taken following a complaint filed by Abdul Hamid of Reasi, who alleged that the police official was demanding money for releasing his vehicle in

### Al-Falah group chairman sent to judicial custody

NEW DELHI, APR 04: A Delhi court on Saturday remanded Al-Falah group chairman Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui in 14 days of judicial custody, in connection with a money laundering case linked to the "fraudulent" acquisition of a Rs 45 cr worth land in Delhi. Siddiqui was produced before Additional Sessions Judge Sheetal Chaudhary Pradhan on the conclusion of his 10-day ED custody granted on March 25. He has now been sent to judicial custody till April 17. On March 24, the ED

## From Kerala Story to Dhurandhar, Cong, Left pros at lying: Modi

THIRUVALLA (KERALA), APR 04: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today tore into the Congress and the Left, saying that while they dismiss everything - from Kerala Story to Dhurandhar - as lies, it is they who have "become pros at lying." He also said that the Opposition's provocative remarks were aimed at straining ties with Gulf nations. "The LDF and UDF have become pros at lying. They said Kerala Story is a lie, they said Kashmir Files is a lie, they said Dhurandhar is a lie," he said while addressing a rally here. Further sharpening his attack on the Opposition, Modi said the Congress and the Left had become a "factory of lies" and accused them of spreading panic over recent amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). "These days, they are



spreading lies about the FCRA and UCC. Goa has had a UCC for decades, but they are spreading lies about it. They also did the same with the CAA. They are in the business of spreading lies," he added. Modi accused Congress of making "provocative" statements aimed at straining India's relations with West Asian nations for political gain. He said such remarks were being made to target him politically, while asserting that the safety of Indians abroad remains his government's priority. "I want to say this clearly, elections will come and go, but the safety of Indians, especially those from Kerala in the Middle East, is my top priority, and I will ensure it," the PM said. He noted that apart from lakhs of Keralites working in Gulf countries, fishermen from Goa, Tamil Nadu and other states were also stranded in Iran and parts of the Middle East due to the ongoing conflict.

"We are trying to bring them back safely. But, the Congress does not care about this. Congress is making statements that risk straining India's relations with West Asian countries, creating unnecessary panic. This is being done only for political attacks on me. "The only thing they care about is politics and power. The Congress does not care about the people of India. The Congress has betrayed the trust of the people of Kerala. They should apologise to them and the nation," Modi said. He said the West Asia conflict had "exposed the mindset of Congress and its allies" and reiterated that he had cautioned opposition leaders against making "careless statements" at a time when the safety of Indians in the region was at stake. "Lakhs of Kerala residents work in the region, yet irresponsible statements by Congress leaders put their safety at risk. I

## In significant development, LA passes J&K Pvt Universities Bill

Omar lauds move as milestone moment for J&K youth. Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 04. In a significant development that would open the doors for private players to set up premier institutes of higher learning in J&K, the legislative assembly today passed the Jammu & Kashmir Private Universities Bill on establishment and incorporation of private universities in the Union Territory. Once established, these institutions were expected to be central to skill development and academic advancement in J&K. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described the passage of the bill as a milestone moment for the youth of J&K. The bill, moved by Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, read, "A Bill to provide for the establishment and incorporation of Private Universities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and to regulate their functioning, management, and academic standards for ensuring quality education and protecting the interests of students". In her address, she said the government had taken into consideration all the issues and concerns regarding higher education sector in Jammu and Kashmir before the formulation of this bill. "The bill will pave way for establishing private universities and boost the higher education sector here," she said and added



that numerous students of Jammu and Kashmir would be benefited by this as they used to go outside J&K for achieving higher education. MLAs - Mir Saifullah, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and Tanvir Sadiq - had moved amendments on the bill but all of them withdrew their amendments, following assurances by the education minister. Legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia had also moved an amendment, which was rejected through voice vote. Later, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather put the bill to voice vote, and subsequently it was passed. Congratulating Sakeena Itoo and all stakeholders, the chief minister described

## CDS stresses for multi-domain war readiness to counter threats

Reviews LoC situation. Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 04. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan today conducted a comprehensive review of security and operational preparedness along the Line of Control in Kashmir, stressing the need for multi-domain war readiness, seamless jointness across services, and technological integration to effectively counter emerging threats and maintain strategic superiority. During the visit, he reviewed the security landscape and operational posture along the LoC in Kashmir and commended the formation's exemplary operational preparedness, doctrinal coherence and resolute professionalism. At Baramulla, he was briefed on Future Force



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## Speaker adjourns LA sine die

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 04. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, who today presented details of the legislative assembly business, adjourned the House sine die. He informed that during the total 22 sittings during the Budget Session, 110

## MoD issues EoI for indigenous development of 1000-kg aerial bomb

NEW DELHI, APR 04: The defence ministry has initiated the process for the indigenous design and development of a 1000-kg aerial bomb akin to Mk-84 for the IAF, aiming to boost India's 'Aatmanirbharta' in the sector. "The project is structured in two phases. The first involves design and development of six prototypes (live and inert), including associated tail units and equipment," officials said. The second is the procurement phase, which will commence with the issuance of a commercial Request for Proposal (RFP) to the qualifying development agencies. The system is intended to be "compatible with both Russian and Western origin aircraft" currently operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF), a senior official said. The Ministry of Defence has "issued an Expression of Interest (EoI) for design, development and procurement of 1,000-kg aerial bombs (akin to Mk-84) along with tail units and associated equipment under the provisions of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020", the official said. The project will be executed under the 'Make-II' (industry-funded) subcategory, followed by procurement under the 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)' category. IDDM stands for Indigenous Designed, Developed and Manufactured. A total of "600 aerial bombs are planned to be procured" under the 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)' category in accordance with the DAP 2020 provisions, the officials said. At present, Mk-84 class general-purpose bombs

## India has come through solidly from recent global shocks: Jaishankar

RAIPUR, APR 04: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said India had come through solidly from global shocks that recently tested its resilience, an apparent reference to the ongoing military conflict in West Asia. Speaking at the convocation ceremony of IIM Raipur, he emphasised that India had managed both domestic and external challenges fairly successfully. He observed that the impact of conflicts on even distant societies has been profound, which is a testi-



mony to the extent of globalisation. "No one can dispute that multiple global shocks have recently tested our resilience and that India has come through them solidly," Jaishankar added. The crisis in West Asia, which began in February

## Jan Vishwas 2nd (Amendment of Provisions) Bill passed

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 04. The legislative assembly today passed the Jammu & Kashmir Jan Vishwas 2nd (Amendment of Provisions) Bill. The bill was moved for consideration and passing by agriculture minister Javid Ahmed Dar on behalf of chief minister Omar Abdullah. Moving the motion, the minister said, "A Bill to amend certain enactments, decriminalising and ratio

## 48 hrs left before all hell breaks loose on Iran, warns Trump

NEW DELHI, APR 04: Firing a fresh salvo amid the ongoing conflict, US President Donald Trump today said that 'time is running out and only 48 hours are left before all hell breaks loose on Iran'. He reminded Iran of the April 6 deadline, which he set to make a deal or open the Strait of Hormuz, or face dire consequences. "Remember when I gave Iran ten days to MAKE A DEAL or OPEN UP THE HORMUZ STRAIT. Time is running out - 48 hours before all Hell will rain down on them. Glory be to GOD!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social. Earlier, the US president had extended the deadline to reopen the critical energy chokepoint by 10 days, pushing it to April 6 after expressing optimism about ongoing talks with Iran.



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## LA witnesses uproar over Ganderbal 'encounter'

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 04. The legislative assembly witnessed uproar on the final day of the Budget Session today, with members of NC, Congress and PDP demanding a judicial probe into the recent Ganderbal 'encounter'. In an 'encounter' in Arhama woods of Ganderbal, security forces had killed 'terrorist' Rashid Ahmad Mughal whose family alleged that he had no terrorist links and termed the encounter 'fake', while demanding the return of his body for proper burial. As the House assembled, legislators from both treasury and opposition benches - barring BJP - condemned the killing and demanded a statement from Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on the issue. LG Manoj Sinha had yesterday ordered a magisterial probe into the encounter and sought a report within seven days. Raising the issue, NC MLA Mubarak Gul called for a strong message from the House against the killing of an "innocent" and stressed fixing accountability. His party colleague and ex-judge Hasnain Masoodi underlined that the right to a decent burial was fundamental and constitutionally recognised, and must be respected to uphold justice and transparency. "Any restriction on this right undermines the principles of justice and democratic values," he said, backing the family's demand to return the body. Mughal was buried by police in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, in line

## LeT handler sent to 7-day judicial custody

NEW DELHI, APR 04: A Delhi court on Saturday sent Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) handler Shabir Ahmed Lone to seven days of judicial custody, allowing a city police plea. On March 30, Lone was sent to five days of police custody. A team from the New Delhi range of the Special Cell arrested Lone on March 29 from the Ghazipur area here in connection with an LeT module unearthed in February after pro-Pakistan and pro-terror posters were found at various locations, including Janpath metro

## Statehood Day celebration reflects essence of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat': Kavinder

SHIMLA, APR 04: Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today said that "the celebration of a Statehood Day reflects the essence of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat". "India's strength lies in its unity in diversity," he said while addressing a function organised to celebrate the statehood days of Rajasthan, Odisha and Bihar at Lok Bhavan here. The event, a celebration of national unity & cultural diversity, was organised under the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat - the flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at fostering cultural integration and emotional unity among states. On the occasion, Gupta warmly felicitated the gathering. In a heartfelt gesture reflecting the age-old tradi-



tion of Himachali hospitality, he presented traditional Himachali caps and shawls to the distinguished guests, symbolising the bonds of brotherhood that unite every corner of India. The celebration was