



Bhagwat Bats For Greater Promotion Of Sanskrit In India

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Rupali Ganguly Beams With Pride As Aditya Dhar Praises Vijay Ganguly's Choreography In Dhurandhar 2

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Major tragedy hits Ramnagar

21 killed as bus veers off hilly road, falls on another road 100 mt below

BHARAT BHUSHAN JAMMU, APR 20

The mountain-locked Ramnagar in Udhampur district was today shaken by a devastating tragedy which took place when a packed bus, after veering off a hilly road at Kagort, crashed through trees & rocks before finally landing upside down on another road 100 mt below, resulting in the death of at least 21 persons, including a couple and an infant, and critical injuries to 59 others.

The incident sent into mourning not only Udhampur but the whole UT, with LG Manoj Sinha & chief minister Omar Abdullah responding with compassion while expressing deep sorrow over the tragedy.

The ill-fated bus, which was broken badly, hit an



auto-rickshaw when it fell on the lower road. According to officials, its driver and those (all said to be school teachers) travelling in it sustained injuries but all of them survived.

Officials said the bus left Ramnagar town for Udhampur in the morning. However, when it reached Kagort at about 10 am, its

driver failed to negotiate a blind curve as a result of which it fell off the treacherous hilly road.

When the bus plunged off the road, an Army convoy was passing through the same road stretch. Officials said the jawans, who were part of this convoy, were the first to respond & start the rescue operation. They

were later joined by locals.

As most part of the bus had been reduced to a mangled lot, troops faced difficulties in taking those injured and the dead out of it. Officials said 15 persons had died on the spot while six others succumbed to their injuries either on way to hospital or during treatment in the hospital, taking

the toll to 21. At least 50 passengers, including women & students, were said to be on board, largely daily commuters travelling to Udhampur.

The dead included Tilo Ram, Prem Nath, Kartar Chand, Som Raj, Ram Chand, Gita Devi, Romal Singh, Sharda Devi, Sunny, Vishali Devi, Pushap Raj, Ramolo Ram, Gulabo Devi, Jalam Singh, Kesar Singh, Kanta Devi and Anita Devi. All of them hailed from Ramnagar.

The rescuers evacuated the injured to roadside from where they were taken to GMCH, Udhampur, in vehicles. The occupants of the auto-rickshaw were also removed to hospital.

LG Sinha expressed his deep anguish and grief over the loss of lives in the incident.

"Tragic road accident at

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Prez, PM, HM express grief; ex-gratia announced

NEW DELHI, APR 20: President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah today expressed grief over the loss of lives in Ramnagar bus accident. The PM also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the kin of the deceased.

"I am deeply saddened to learn about the deaths of several people in the bus accident that occurred in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. I express my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this tragedy. I pray for the swift recovery of the injured," Murmu said in a post on X in Hindi.

The PM too expressed pain over the loss of lives in the incident and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of those killed and Rs 50,000 for those injured.

"Pained to hear about the loss of lives due to a bus accident in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir. I extend my heartfelt condolences to those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of each of those who lost their lives in the tragic mishap. The injured will be given Rs 50,000," Modi said in a

post on X. Shah too conveyed his condolences to the families of those killed in the bus accident.

"The road accident in Udhampur is extremely tragic," he said in a post on X.

"I express my deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this incident. The local administration is fully engaged with utmost promptness in relief and rescue operations. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," the home minister added.

A passenger bus rolled down a hillside in Jammu's Udhampur district on Monday, leaving 21 people dead and several others injured, officials said. The bus crushed an auto-rickshaw before landing upside down on the road below.

An Army convoy passing along the hilly stretch led the rescue operation after the bus driver lost control while negotiating a blind curve near the hilltop Kagort village in Ramnagar area.

The rescue operation proved extremely challenging as the vehicle had been reduced to a mangled heap of iron, with its top portion almost completely torn off.

Protest outside G Ngr college over student's death

A protest was held outside Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, here today, over the death of a college student in a recent incident.

The protestors were demanding action against those responsible for the student's death. A large number of college students gathered outside the college premises in the morning, raising slogans and expressing anger over what they described as negligence leading to the incident.

Anjali Choudhary, a 4th

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India, S Korea share common outlook on Indo-Pacific region: Modi

NEW DELHI, APR 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday held extensive bilateral talks in New Delhi, committing to elevate their longstanding partnership into a "futuristic partnership" driven by collaboration in technology, trade and shared strategic priorities in the Indo-Pacific.

Speaking at a joint press conference, Modi termed President Lee's visit - after a gap of eight years - "extremely significant", highlighting the strong align-



ment between the two nations.

"Democratic values, a market economy, and respect for the rule of law are part of the DNA of both our countries," he said,

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adding that India and South Korea share a "common outlook" on the Indo-Pacific region.

Outlining a forward-looking agenda, Modi said

China calls Strait of Hormuz int'l waterway

BEIJING, APR 20: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday described the Strait of Hormuz as an 'international waterway' and called for its opening for normal passage of ships.

This comes amid assertions by Iran that it has an inalienable right over it.

"The Strait of Hormuz should maintain normal passage, as this serves the common interests of the regional countries and the international community," Xi told Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during a phone call.

This is the first statement

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Tehran shuns peace talks after US seizes Iranian ship

RIYADH, APR 20: Iran today insisted it had no plan to attend a new round of peace talks with the US after the latter attacked and seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship it said had tried to evade its naval blockade near the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. Iran's joint military command vowed to respond, throwing a fragile ceasefire into question days before it expires.

It was the first interception since the US blockade of Iranian ports began last week. Iran's joint military command called the armed

boarding an act of piracy and a ceasefire violation, the state broadcaster said.

With the US-Iran standoff over the strait sharpening and the ceasefire expiring by Wednesday, it was not clear where President Donald Trump's earlier announcement on new talks with Iran now stood. He had said U.S. negotiators would head to Pakistan on Monday.

The uncertainty sent oil prices rising again. One of the worst global energy crises in decades threatened to deepen.

Trump on social media

said a U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer in the Gulf of Oman warned the Iranian-flagged ship, the Toussa, to stop and then "stopped them right in their tracks by blowing a hole in the engineroom." U.S. Marines had custody of the U.S.-sanctioned vessel and were "seeing what's on board!"

It was not clear whether anyone was hurt. The U.S. Central Command, which didn't answer questions, said the destroyer had issued "repeated warnings over a six-hour period."

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VP concludes Sri Lanka visit



NEW DELHI, APR 20: After holding talks with Sri Lanka's top leaders and signing a number of agreements aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan concluded his two-day visit to Sri Lanka on Monday.

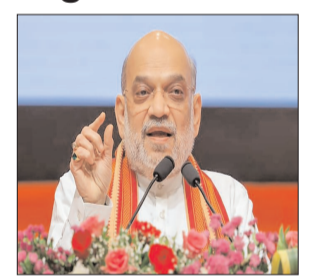
Radhakrishnan, the first vice president to visit Sri Lanka, arrived in Colombo

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Govt demolishing drug cartels, securing convictions against offenders: Shah

NEW DELHI, APR 20: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ruthlessly demolishing drug cartels and praised the NCB for securing convictions against 73 offenders in the first quarter of 2026.

Among the important convictions is one linked to a case involving the seizure of 2.75 kg of heroin at the Ahmedabad airport in 2021 and 4.23 kg of heroin at Fazilka (Punjab) along the India-Pakistan border in



2022.

In these cases, two foreign traffickers were sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment, a home ministry statement said.

Shah took to X to say: "To protect our youth from the scourge of drugs, the Modi govt is ruthlessly demolish-

ing drug cartels and is also ensuring their conviction." "Under this mission, the NCB has made a breakthrough of getting 73 drug offenders convicted in the first three months of 2026, with harshest punishments. We are determined to shut every breathing space of drug rackets with entire might. Congratulations to NCB for this achievement," the home minister said.

According to official data, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) secured convic

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CJI flags rise in 'digital arrest' scams



NEW DELHI, APR 20: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday voiced concern over the persistence of so-called "digital arrest" frauds, noting with dismay that even highly educated individuals are being duped by scammers posing as police officials or mem

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SC asks states, UTs to provide details of terror, drugs cases

NEW DELHI, APR 20: The Supreme Court today asked all states and union territories to provide details of terror and narcotics cases being probed by Central and state agencies, including the NIA and the NCB, as a step towards setting up special exclusive courts for early disposal of the cases.

The top court asked the Centre to consider providing funds of Rs 1 crore each for setting up the courts in all states and UTs to prosecute cases lodged under the UAPA (the Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act)

and the NDPS Act (the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act).

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalye Bagchi also asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to consider releasing Rs 1 crore annually for ensuring smooth functioning of the special courts.

The suo motu case was fixed for further hearing on May 8.

On March 24, the apex court directed the establishment of special courts

for cases investigated by the National Investigation Agency and those falling under the UAPA. Expanding the ambit, the CJI on Monday asked advocate generals of 17 states to furnish the details of cases lodged under the UAPA and the NDPS Act, irrespective of whether they are prosecuted by the NIA or the state police and by Narcotics Control Bureau or by state agencies.

The bench highlighted that early disposal would balance the rights of the accused and victims both.

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Pilots killed as pvt plane crashes in Chhattisgarh

JASHPUR (CHHATTISGARH), APR 20: Two pilots were killed after a chartered aircraft crashed after colliding with a hill in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur district after on Monday, officials said.

The incident took place near Ara Hill in the Narayanpur police station area.

According to preliminary inputs, the aircraft was flying at a low altitude, around 30 feet above the ground, when it collided with a tree and went down.

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West Asia crisis India strengthens Gulf strategy as NSA engages Saudi leadership

RIYADH, APR 20: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visited Saudi Arabia and held high-level meetings with the kingdom's top leadership to discuss bilateral ties, regional developments, energy cooperation and issues of mutual interest, as India steps up outreach to key partners amid tensions in West Asia.

Doval, who reached Riyadh on Sunday, was received at the airport by India's Ambassador Suhel Khan and Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister for Politi-



cal Affairs Saud Al-Sati.

He held meetings with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan, Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman and National Security

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Rising temperatures linked to health risks: Jitendra



NEW DELHI, APR 20: Rising temperatures are not only an environmental concern but also directly linked to increasing health risks, including communicable and non-communicable diseases, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Monday.

Singh said that heat stress is impacting conditions

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Issue was not women's reservation but Modi preservation: Cong

NEW DELHI, APR 20: The Congress today said the striking down of the Modi government's delimitation push in the garb of women's quota was a defeat of "bulldozer politics" and that the Centre's agenda was not women's reservation but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "preservation".

The Opposition party also demanded that the Centre immediately implement the women's quota on the existing Lok Sabha strength by bringing a Bill in Parliament's Monsoon Session or May-end.

The Congress asserted that women would not be fooled by the "BJP propaganda" on the women's quota issue as they know that the ruling party wants to push its political agenda in their name.

The Congress' assertion came days after the government's Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill to implement women's quota and increase the number of Lok Sabha seats to 816 was defeated in the Lower House on Friday.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh told

PTI that the defeat of the government's "nefarious" designs to push delimitation in the garb of women's reservation was a victory of the Constitution and democracy.

"It was the defeat of the politics of bulldozer and a rushed delimitation. The Bill was not about women's reservation but one of pushing delimitation through deceit," Ramesh said.

He said the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam was passed unanimously in September 2023, but it was

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