

Western Times

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News Brief

Bhullar gang associate held in Punjab; 3 kg heroin seized

Chandigarh, April 12 (IANS) The Punjab Police have arrested an associate of the Jaipal Bhullar gang and seized three kg heroin and two pistols.

"In a major blow to trans-border drug smuggling networks in Punjab, the Jalandhar Commissionerate Police have arrested an associate of the Jaipal Bhullar gang and seized three kg heroin and two pistols," Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav posted on X.

Investigations reveal the racket was sourcing heroin across the border from Pakistan.

A first information report (FIR) under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered and investigations were on to establish backward and forward linkages, he added. Earlier, Jalandhar Police on March 31 averted targeted killings with the arrest of four operatives of the Prema Lahoriya-Vicky Gounder gang after an exchange of fire in Jalandhar.

Bengaluru cafe blast case: NIA arrests bomber, his accomplice from West Bengal

Bengaluru, April 12 (IANS) The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested bomber Mussavir Hussain Shazib and his accomplice Abdul Matheen Taha from a hideout in West Bengal in connection with the Bengaluru cafe blast case.

After gathering inputs about their movements in Assam and West Bengal, the NIA arrested the accused, carrying Rs 10 lakh cash award.

Mussavir Hussain Shazib a.k.a. Shazeb, 30, is a resident of Thirahalli town in Karnataka's Shivamogga district.

His other accomplices are Mohammand Junai Hussain and Mohammed Juned Sayed.

The NIA took over the case on March 3 and identified the main accused, Mussavir, who had carried out the blast.

Hema Malini joins women harvesting wheat in Mathura

Mathura, April 12 (IANS) BJP MP and candidate of Mathura constituency, Hema Malini, has posted pictures of herself working in a field in her constituency Mathura.

Hema Malini is seen smiling while posing with bunches of wheat and a sickle in hand.

"Today I went into the farms to interact with the farmers who I have been meeting regularly these 10 years. They loved having me in their midst and insisted I pose with them which I did," she wrote on X.

Hema Malini has been fielded by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the third consecutive term from the Mathura Lok Sabha seat. In 2014, the BJP fielded Hema Malini who won. In the 2019 elections, Hema's husband, actor Dharmendra, also campaigned for her and gathered a huge crowd in her favour. Due to the public welfare schemes of the double-engine government, Hema Malini won her second term in 2019.

Only PM Modi can keep the country united: Shah

Moradabad (UP), Apr 12 (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday attacked the opposition parties and said only Prime Minister Narendra Modi can keep the country united because if Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress will come to power then they will divide Uttar Pradesh into castes again and split the state into pieces.

Addressing a public rally in support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates from Moradabad, Kunwar Sarvesh Kumar and Sambhal Prameshwar Lal Saini, the Home Minister said, "Though I know that there is a faint possibility if SP comes to power again the SP and Congress people say that they will bring back 'triple talaq'.

They say Article 370 will be brought back. Do you want to bring back 'triple talaq'? Does Article 370 need to be brought back?"

He said, "They will once again divide Uttar Pradesh into castes and split the state. Prime Minister Modi is the only person who can keep the country united. Modi ji has divided the entire country into four castes - 'Mahila', 'Yuva', 'Kisan' and 'Garreeb'. By dividing the country into four castes he has done the work of 'Sabka Vikas'."

Shah said that Uttar Pradesh was the biggest reason behind Narendra Modi becoming the Prime Minister in 2014 and 2019. "Uttar Pradesh gave 73 seats in 2012 and 65 in 2019 and due to this Modi ji became the Prime Minister with absolute majority. This time we have to make him Prime Minister for the third time therefore neither 73 nor 65 will work. This time give all the 80 seats to Narendra Modi," he said.

He said that the people elected Modi ji twice and he has fulfilled all his promises. "There was a time when Rahul Gandhi used to mock us that 'Mandir wahin banayenge, tithi nahi batayenge (We will construct the temple at the same site, but won't tell the date). I have tolerated this a lot between 2014 to 2019," he said.

Shah said, "When you made Modi Prime Minister in 2019, within five years the judgment of the court came, Bhoomi puja was performed in Ayodhya, and on January 22 Ram Lalla was consecrated.

After 500 years Ram Lalla is going to celebrate his birthday in his grand temple instead of a tent. On this Ram Navami, the birthday of Ram Lalla will be celebrated in the grand temple in Ayodhya"

He said that SP, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and Congress kept on opposing the temple, but Modi built the temple and even a consecration ceremony was performed. "I want to tell you that an invitation for January 22 was sent to them, but they didn't attend the consecration ceremony because they are concerned about their vote bank. I want to tell you that those who did not let the temple be constructed for years do not have the moral strength to attend the consecration event," he said.

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UDHAMPUR, PM Narendra Modi addresses a public rally ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha election, in Udhampur on Friday. UNI

Waiting for LS ticket, Shiv Sena MP says BJP must take care of allies

Mumbai, April 12 (IANS) A sitting MP from Mumbai North West and veteran Shiv Sena leader Gajanan Kirtikar on Friday said the BJP should fulfil its slogan of 400 plus seats, but at the same time, it must also take care of its allies.

Kirtikar, who is unclear about his renomination from the same constituency, also said that the BJP should respect the opposition too. "Now the slogan of '400 par' is being given. We will also take the initiative to make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister. But some BJP leader's attitude can create trouble

for him," said Kirtikar.

Kirtikar said, "I have completed 57 years in Shiv Sena. But I have never been deceitful. I announced I would campaign against Amol Kirtikar (his son, who is the Shiv Sena UBT nominee in Mumbai North West)."

Referring to the inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate against Amol Kirtikar in connection with the alleged Khichdi scam, Gajanan Kirtikar defended his son and claimed that nothing would come out of the ongoing investigation.

"Amol is accused of the Khichdi scam. But that company was founded by

Sanjay Mashelkar. These people were doing social work during Corona. After the concept of a jumbo hospital came up, Mashelkar's company did the work of providing materials for it. Amol and Suraj Chavan, who is from Shiv Sena UBT and is currently under judicial custody in connection with the scam, are not involved in it. They helped with the supply chain. There is no scam in this. Amol got his remuneration. Income tax was also levied on it," said Gajanan Kirtikar.

Mumbai North West constituency will go to polls on May 20.

Isudan Gadhvi champions Chaitar Vasava amid entry ban controversy in Dediapada

Dediapada, April 12 (IANS) The AAP's Gujarat President, Isudan Gadhvi, took to the campaign trail in Dediapada to support Chaitar Vasava, the AAP candidate for the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat.

Gadhvi highlighted the significant unrest in the tribal community due to an entry ban imposed on Vasava in the area by local community leaders, saying that the party candidate or AAP cadres will not be allowed in the area.

Gadhvi accused the BJP of introducing Independent and other party candidates to dilute Vasava's voter base, a strategy that has sparked widespread anger and fear among local residents.

The tribal community is distraught as Chaitar Vasava was jailed by the BJP, but his enduring dedication to tribal rights has only bolstered their support for him," Gadhvi stated.

Gadhvi also criticised the region's lack of development, particularly the absence of quality government schools over the past three decades, which he argued has hindered the progress of local tribal youth. He also highlighted the uneven allocation of

government grants in the villages, indicating a neglect that has resonated poorly with the constituencies. "Every elected MP receives a substantial grant, but the representation and advocacy for Bharuch in Delhi remain inadequate," Gadhvi noted. Earlier, on March 23 Mansukh Vasava, the BJP Lok Sabha MP from Bharuch and the party's candidate for the forthcoming general elections, accused AAP workers of extorting money from offices in Dediapada.

In a Facebook post, Mansukh Vasava claimed, "Under the pretext of Hari

celebrations in Dediapada, AAP leaders are intimidating officials and contractors to extort money. Recently, a taluka officer was reportedly coerced into paying Rs 2.5 lakh in the name of the MLA. "This type of extortion affects various departments within the taluka, where political leaders frequently pressure officials and contractors for financial contributions, potentially hindering development projects. "I urge taluka and district officials to avoid succumbing to such corrupt practices and to maintain the integrity of their work."



SLIDELL, A truck is seen covered by trees and debris in Slidell, Louisiana, the United States, April 11, 2024. One person was killed and more than 10 others were injured after severe storms battered the U.S. South stretching from Texas to Florida on Wednesday, authorities said. UNI

Over 20K CAPF, state force to oversee LS poll security in Tripura

Agartala, April 12 (IANS) A record number of over 20,000 security personnel comprising Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and state force personnel have been deployed in Tripura for the elections to two Lok Sabha constituencies and the by-poll in one Assembly seat in the state, officials said here on Friday.

A top police officer said that with the direction of the Election Commission (EC), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has already sent 84 companies (around 8,000 personnel) of CAPF comprising the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which have already been deployed in all the eight districts of the state.

He said that besides the CAPF over 10,000 Tripura State Rifles (TSR) and a few thousand state police personnel are also being deployed for the elections scheduled on April 19 and April 26.

"The security forces are conducting area domination, confidence building measures patrolling to ensure normal law and order situation so that free, fair and violence free elec-

tions can be held," an official told IANS.

Tripura Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Puneet Agarwal said that earlier this week a "Mission Violence Free Election 2024" was launched in Tripura to ensure a 100 per cent violence-free election.

Agarwal said that ahead of the elections to the state's two Lok Sabha seats, 2,500 flag marches and area domination patrolling were conducted by the CAPF and the state forces since last month.

He said that various law enforcement agencies have seized various contraband items including drugs worth Rs 9 crore during the last month.

The CEO said that in the previous 17th Lok Sabha elections, 83 per cent voting was recorded and in the 18th Lok Sabha polls, the target is to exceed the 2019 turnout.

He said that under the 'Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)' various socio-cultural events including drawing 'Alpanas', (a decorative design) are being organised to sensitise both new and old voters to cast their votes in large numbers. Agarwal said that on the direction

of the Election Commission, the concerned authorities have suspended six government employees including teachers and security personnel, who were directly involved with political activities.

The police as part of preventive arrests have also detained 12,000 persons across Tripura.

Polling for the Tripura West Parliamentary seat will be held on April 19 in the first of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections, while the Tripura East (ST) constituency will go to the polls in the second phase on April 26. The by-election to the Ramnagar Assembly seat will also be held on April 19. The seat fell vacant after the demise of sitting BJP MLA Surajit Datta on December 28 last year.

In the 18 candidates, including two women, are contesting on the two Lok Sabha seats while two candidates, one each of BJP and CPI-M, are trying their electoral fortunes in the Ramnagar Assembly by-poll. In the Lok Sabha poll in two seats, the main contest is expected to be between the BJP and the INDIA bloc, comprising the Congress, CPI-M and six other parties.

In absence of rules, no show-cause notice can be given to retired employees

Prayagraj, April 12 (IANS) The Allahabad High Court has held that in the absence of any rule or regulation in Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Society Employees Service Regulation, 1975 and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Sahkari Bhumi Vikas Bank Employees Service Rules, 1976, neither a show cause notice can be issued nor departmental proceedings can be initiated against an employee after his retirement.

While quashing the proceedings against the retired employee, Justice Neeraj Tiwari held that "in lack of provisions in rules and regulations, after retirement, no show cause notice or departmental proceeding can be initiated against any employee."

The Court further held that once the show cause notice has been issued and no action has been taken by the authorities for a long-time, a fresh show cause notice for the same cause of action cannot be issued at very belated stage.

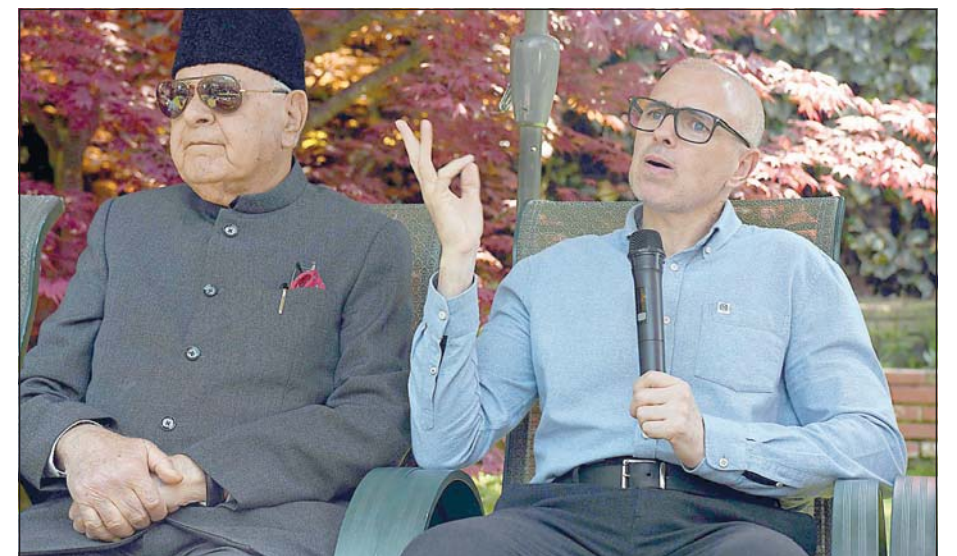
The petitioner was working as an Assistant Field Officer in Uttar Pradesh Sahkari Gram

Vikas Bank Ltd. at Bhogana Branch, Mainpuri till his superannuation in 2013.

A show cause notice was issued to the petitioner in 2014 regarding recovery of Rs. 2,74,380/- from him. In his reply, the petitioner stated that there was no provision under the 1976 Rules to issue a show cause notice after his retirement. No order was passed on his reply.

Omar to fight LS polls from Baramulla, Ruhullah Mehdi from Srinagar

Srinagar, April 12 (IANS) Former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) President Feroq Abdullah on Friday announced that Omar Abdullah will fight Lok Sabha elections from north Kashmir Baramulla constituency. The NC President said that Omar Abdullah will be the party candidate from the Baramulla constituency while Syed Ruhullah Mehdi will fight the Lok Sabha elections for the NC from the Srinagar seat. This sets at rest earlier speculations that Omar Abdullah would be the NC candidate for the Srinagar seat. The party has already announced senior Gujjar/Bakarwal leader, Mian Altaf Ahmad as its candidate for the Anantnag-Rajouri seat. NC has made an electoral alliance agreement with the Congress and as per the terms of the agreement, the NC will support the Congress candidates in the Jammu division while the Congress will support the NC candidates in the Valley.



SRINAGAR, National Conference President Feroq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah addressing the press conference, in Srinagar on Friday. UNI

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