



## The Perfect Beat

On his birth centenary, remembering the maestro who lifted the tabla from the margins to the spotlight

### SUNDAY STORY PAGE 9

## Rising sun and setting stars

In TN which votes on April 18, the DMK-led Oppn alliance's narrative centres on a key question: 'Don't you want to keep out Modi?'

### BIG PICTURE PAGES 10-11

## In the Valley, election without a campaign



# A groom in panic, schoolchildren without buses, traders anxious as J&K lockdown begins today

**BASHAARAT MASOOD & ADIL AKHZER**  
 SRINAGAR, ANANTNAG, BARAMULLA, APRIL 6

FOR THREE days, Danish Ali Bhat kept frantically trying for a security pass that would allow him and his family to travel on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway on his wedding day, Sunday. On Saturday morning, the family finally got a travel pass, but by then Bhat and his wedding procession had already left for his bride's village in Doda.

The permission, signed by the Additional District Magistrate, Anantnag, said Bhat be allowed to move with 12 persons in four vehicles on Sunday, to return the next day. It specified the numberplates of the vehicles, said "the permission is valid for 02 days only", "subject



Heavy security on National Highway on Saturday. Shuaib Masoodi

to the Srinagar-Jammu NHW road clearance", and "after frisking/security check".

Bhat's brother Zameer Ali said the wedding party left a day earlier as "we didn't want to take any chance".

All along the highway, on the

## 5 days to polls, jawan shot outside his home

**ADIL AKHZER**  
 SRINAGAR, APRIL 6

FIVE DAYS before Baramulla in North Kashmir votes in the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls amidst an unprecedented security cover, an Army jawan was shot dead by suspected militants outside his home in Warpora area of the constituency's Sopore town on Saturday.

Police officials said the jawan, Mohammed Rafi Yattoo of the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, was home on leave. SSP Sopore Javid Iqbal said further investigation was on.

An Army official based in

Srinagar said Yattoo, who was attacked around 5.30 pm on Saturday, was posted in Baramulla district and had come home on a month's leave.

Residents of Warpora said Yattoo married last year and had come home only a few days ago.

Last month, Warpora village had witnessed an encounter between militants and security forces at the end of which two militants affiliated with the Jaish-e-Mohammed were killed.

Last month, militants had shot dead a man in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. The man had been declared a deserter by the Army after he left his training midway last year.

## ANTI-SATELLITE TEST Debris to clear in 45 days, no risk to space station, says DRDO

Explains timing scientifically driven, says test could not have been secret

**RAHUL TRIPATHI**  
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

THE DEFENCE Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Saturday held a detailed briefing on India's Anti-Satellite Test (A-SAT), defending both its timing and the government revealing it to the world.

Asked whether the DRDO had the permission of the Election Commission (EC) for the briefing, officials said they had the "necessary clearance".

Amidst the Opposition going to the EC over the test, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself announcing it to the nation, DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy gave a detailed representation on 'Mission Shakti', with graphics. Addressing a packed auditorium here, he said the timing of the test was "technologically and scientifically driven" and said tests of this nature couldn't be kept a secret. He also ruled out any future A-SAT missile tests in the lower Earth orbit by India, saying these were not needed any more.

Reddy said India had chosen an orbit of less than 300 km for Mission Shakti for "capability demonstration" and to avoid threat of debris to global space



DRDO chief G Satish Reddy (left) at the briefing. PTI

assets. "The chosen orbit was nearly 120 km below the International Space Station (ISS) orbit. There was no possibility of hitting the ISS with A-SAT debris. Even NASA spoke about a 10-day risk period that is over today," Reddy said, adding that their radars had spotted the debris after the test and these would dissolve within 45 days.

On Tuesday, the US space agency had termed India shooting down a satellite, one of its own, a "terrible thing" saying the

## Rajnath's missile flexing: Can ward off big superpowers

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
 JAMMU, APRIL 6

CALLING INDIA a "space power" after the success of Mission Shakti, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh claimed here Saturday that India's anti-missile system is so effective that it can ward off any attack, even those by powerful nations. "Even if the anti-satellite techniques of Russia, America or China try and break our satellites, our anti-satellite system can break them in our orbit itself."

Speaking at a rally in Jammu in support of BJP candidate Chirag Paswan, Singh also accused former prime minister Manmohan Singh of delaying the launch of the anti-missile system. "Though our scientists had developed the anti-missile system in 2007, our then PM Manmohan Singh did not give it his nod because he feared that America, Russia and China would take it down. But when our scientists asked PM Narendra Modi about launching the anti-missile system, he promptly said 'yes,'" Singh said.

Singh hit out at the Opposition for raising questions on the Balakot airstrikes. "They often ask about the number of casualties in the airstrike. *Jo yudhvir hote hain wo laashen nahin gina karte hain, jo giddhvir hote hain woh ginte hain. Bahadur laashen nahin ginte* (the brave do not count the dead; only valuers do). What I can say as Union home minister is that the airstrike was conducted after credible intelligence inputs," he said.

## Dutch officials allege money laundering linked to Reliance promoter group

Strongly deny any suggestion of impropriety, full compliance of rules: RTGIL, now East West Pipeline

**KHUSHBOO NARAYAN**  
 MUMBAI, APRIL 6

DUTCH INVESTIGATORS have alleged that an estimated \$1.1 billion in profits earned by Dutch pipeline firm A Hak NL, through over-invoicing services and works rendered to Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd, were "creamed off" to Singapore-based Biometrix Marketing Ltd, a company they claim is allegedly linked to Reliance.

Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd (RGITL) is now called East West Pipeline Ltd (EWPL). It is a privately owned entity.

The Fiscal Intelligence and Investigation Service & Economic Investigation Service (FIOD-ECD) of the Dutch government, which has been investigating the case, arrested three former employees of A Hak, NL, and produced them in court Friday.

Both Reliance Industries Limited and EWPL issued statements "emphatically" denying any wrongdoing.

The arrests in The Netherlands were made in connection with alleged over-invoicing of materials and services supplied by A Hak International Contractors Asia FZE (a firm set up by A Hak, NL, in the UAE) for building a gas pipeline with RGITL in India between 2006 and 2008.

A statement by the Dutch Prosecutor's Office said the arrested former executives of A Hak allegedly received payments up to \$10 million for their alleged involvement.

According to case details accessed by *The Indian Express*, profits of about \$1.2 billion were "creamed off" by A Hak International Contractors Asia through "four insurance companies" allegedly using false insurance contracts.

Of this, up to \$1.1 billion were invested in two companies allegedly related to RTGIL (EWPL now) through "bearer documents", the Dutch investigators alleged.

A bearer instrument is a document that entitles the holder of the document rights of ownership or title to the underlying property, such as shares or bonds.

When contacted by *The Indian Express*, EWPL said the pipeline project was built by a privately owned entity, in which promoters' private funds were invested.

A Hak was one of the contractors, it said, but denied any wrongdoing.

"No public funds were invested and all borrowings from banks, financial institutions and others have been fully repaid by the promoters. We strongly deny any suggestion of any money having been laundered at any stage during the implementation of the project. Suggestion of such impropriety lacks logic and economic rationale and is emphatically denied," EWPL said in a statement.

"East West Pipeline project was implemented in full compliance with all rules, regulations and applicable laws. All applicable taxes and duties have been duly paid," it added. And that EWPL had no branches or subsidiaries outside India including Singapore.

The case details accessed by *The Indian Express* said bearer documents were later transferred to Biometrix Marketing Ltd through a web of transactions involving about 15 companies based in Dubai, the Caribbean and Switzerland among others.

The investigators have allegedly found that the ultimate beneficial owner of some of these entities, which are said to have routed the money to

## Biopic waits, playing in west UP: Chowkidar guarding 'Bharatpur' against 'Khanpur'

**APURVA MUZAFFARNAGAR, APRIL 6**

THE FICTIONAL village of 'Bharatpur' is in turmoil. Thefts and robberies have increased, women feel unsafe, corrupt politicians rule and the neighbouring village of 'Khanpur' has residents worried.

Bharatpur's chief, an Armyman, suggests the village hire a new 'chowkidar' from 'Gurjarpur' to set things right and rid the village of politicians who either disconnect electric wires or steal fodder or appease Khanpur or steal stones to build statues in parks.

This is the plot of a film shot in Uttar Pradesh titled *Mein*



'Armyman', 'Chowkidar' in a still from the YouTube film *Main Hoon Chowkidar*

*Hoon Chowkidar* and released only on YouTube. Released on February 12, almost two months before the biopic PM Narendra

## DECISION 2019

**GATHBANDHAN RALLY TODAY, FOCUS ON GETTING THE PITCH RIGHT**

**ON FOUNDATION DAY, MODI SAYS BJP HAS DEMOCRATIC ETHOS**

**THOSE REJECTING DIVERSITY ARE NOW PATRIOTS: SONIA**

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**Shubham Gupta**  
**AIR-6 (2018)**

I owe my success to the whole Nirvana IAS Academy team for guiding me throughout my journey. My success today is because of the proficiency and expertise of the teachers at Nirvana and their immense faith in their students. When I first decided to pursue civil services, I was very skeptical about the process, full of doubts with numerous questions in my mind. Then one of my seniors from graduation days (who himself is an IAS Officer) told me about Nirvana. After the mandatory and insightful counselling session with Karam Sir, I had a very positive feeling and surprisingly I found the process relatively "not rocket science".

Nirvana played a very crucial role in my success, especially with regards to my GS preparation. The explicit focus on current affairs has prepared us to keep us in line with the changing pattern of the civil services exam at all stages. Karam Sir's classroom discussions have been a guiding tool in making sure that we don't just pass the exam but also understand the world around us. He makes sure that the journey at Nirvana makes us all better citizens and be of service to the society. Ruby Ma'am also gave us great tips for the CSAT paper and made sure that the paper is more of a fun exercise than an uphill task. She was instrumental in helping me choose Law as my optional subject. Wadhwa Sir's history classes were also interesting with deep understanding of events and their consequences in today's world.

"Only those succeed, who don't get bogged down by the complexities and challenges of life and instead use them as the stepping stones to glory." These words stand true to Karam Sir's approach towards the preparation process as well as general attitude towards life. I am very grateful to him and hope that this association and friendship remains for life. The dedication and commitment of the teachers at Nirvana and their ability to make the classes so interesting is a superlative effort which is unmatched. The underlying key to the success of Nirvana is the ability of the teachers to relate to the students and identify their strengths and weaknesses which are ultimately helpful to provide personal guidance to all of them as per their need. I deeply acknowledge Nirvana IAS Academy for giving me knowledge which has helped me shape my dreams and in making me capable of achieving them.

**Munish Sharma**  
**Rank-2, 2013**

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