

### Eighteen labourers die, 15 hurt as truck overturns in Maharashtra

MUMBAI, APRIL 10 /-/- At least 18 labourers were killed and 15 others injured when a speeding truck overturned in western Maharashtra's Satara district in the early hours today, a police official said. The condition of three of the injured labourers was reported to be critical, he said. The police suspect that the driver "dozed off" and lost control of the vehicle while managing a difficult turn, leading to the accident. The truck, carrying construction labourers from Bijapur district in Karnataka, was going towards Pune when it met with the accident around 4.30 am on Mumbai-Bengaluru highway passing through the district, around 250 km from here, Satara's superintendent of police Sandeep Patil said. "After crossing the Khambaki ghat section, there is a difficult turning of 'S' shape. It is an accident-prone spot. The truck driver probably dozed off and lost control over the wheels, as a result of which the vehicle hit a barricade and overturned," Patil said. At least 18 labourers died, while 15 others sustained injuries, he said. The labourers, carrying heavy and sharp equipment, were heading to a construction site in Pune, Patil said. "They were carrying some sharp and heavy equipment in the truck. When the vehicle overturned, the equipment fell on the labourers. Many of them died due to head injuries caused by the equipment," the SP said. On being informed, the Khandala police rushed the spot and took all the victims to the Satara Civil Hospital, he said. Three of the injured labourers were reported to be in a critical condition, he said. The bodies were sent for postmortem and the process to identify the deceased was on, the police added.

## SIT formed to probe Unnao rape case, BJP MLA's brother arrested

### NHRC notice to UP govt, Police Chief

LUCKNOW, APRIL 10 /-/- Police today arrested Atul Singh, the brother of a BJP MLA, in connection with the gangrape of an 18-year-old woman in Unnao in Uttar Pradesh and the custodial death of the victim's father, and a special investigation team (SIT) was formed to probe the matters. "The SIT will go into the entire gamut of issues involved in the incident," ADG (law and order) Anand Kumar told a press conference here, after the MLA's brother was arrested in Unnao. The woman has alleged that she was raped by BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and his brothers, and blamed the lawmaker for her father's death. The BJP MLA has rejected the charges as a conspiracy by his opponents. The police officer said that so far clean chit had not been given to anyone

in the matter. Kumar said the SIT would be headed by the Additional Director General (ADG) of Police (Lucknow zone). The superintendent of police (crime branch) will be a member of the SIT, which will look into various aspects of the case and accordingly take action against those found guilty, he said. "The entire gamut of the complaint, will be factored in by the SIT and whatever legal actions can be taken, will be taken," Kumar said. The victim's father died in custody in Unnao on Monday, prompting her to charge that he was killed inside the district jail at the behest of the lawmaker. To a question about the possibility of any role of influential persons close to the MLA in the case, the ADG said: "The SIT will establish all that...As you

know the SHO of the police station and five other policemen have been suspended on grounds of dereliction of duty and mala fide considerations. The entire issue will be reconstructed and whoever is culpable and whosoever has tried to shield any person will be taken to task." Kumar said that the death of the victim's father did not take place in police custody. Meanwhile, the NHRC has sent a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government and the state police chief seeking a detailed report on the death of the father of the alleged gangrape victim in judicial custody, and has asked the authorities to ensure "the aggrieved family is not subjected to further harassment."

"The incident was reported to have happened a day after the alleged rape victim tried to immolate herself near the chief minister's residence accused BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and his aides of gangrape," the NHRC said today. The NHRC observed that the allegations, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim family. It has issued notice to the chief secretary and the director general of police of Uttar Pradesh, seeking a detailed report, including action taken against the "delinquent police officials", who refused to register an FIR. "The NHRC also expects from the DGP, an explanation for not communicating the custodial death of the victim within 24 hours. All the reports, including health screening report of the deceased at the time of his admission in the jail and medical treatment by the jail authorities, are to be sent," the rights panel said in a statement.

### Kathua case

## Separate chargesheet filed against another accused

### another accused

JAMMU, APRIL 10 /-/- The Jammu and Kashmir Police, probing the alleged rape and murder of a minor girl, filed a separate chargesheet against another accused, who was earlier said to be a juvenile, at a court in Kathua district, even as the incident snowballed into a major controversy. While the political parties in the state traded charges over the handling of the case, the issue also acquired communal colours due to association of the accused with a right-wing group. On Sunday, a senior police official had said the crime branch has filed a charge sheet against seven of the eight accused in the case, even as the Kathua bar association claimed the officials were compelled to leave the court premises without filing the charge sheet amid protest by local lawyers. "We have filed a separate challan (charge sheet) against another accused in the court today," a top police officer told news agency PTI. The police have also filed an FIR against lawyers for protesting and attempting to prevent the crime branch officials from their filing chargesheet in the court on Sunday. "The body of the girl, from the Bakherwal community, was recovered from Rassana forest on January 17, a week after she went missing while grazing horses in the forest area. On January 23, the government had handed over the case to the crime branch of the police, which formed a Special Investigation Team and arrested eight people including two Special Police Officers (SPOs) and a head constable, who was charged with destruction of evidence.



A passenger vehicle crossing a water logged road at Regal chook in Srinagar as torrential rains disrupting normal life in Kashmir valley on Tuesday.

### Schoolboy's death:

## Gurgaon court grants time to CBI to file 2nd chargesheet

GURGAON, APRIL 10 /-/- A sessions court today directed the CBI to file supplementary charge sheet, in the murder case of a seven-year-old boy at a private school in Haryana by May 14 after the probe agency sought more time. Additional sessions judge Jasbir Singh Kundu granted time to the CBI after taking note of a fresh plea of the agency stating that investigation in the case was underway and it needed more time to file the supplementary report. The court also directed the officials of the private school, Francis Thomas and Jayesh Thomas, to be present in the court on the next date of hearing on May 14. Meanwhile, the arguments on a plea moved by the accused, a 16-year-old student, challenging the juvenile justice board order, saying it was "bad in law" and was passed without giving him proper opportunity to present his case, was concluded today. The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) had on December 20 last year held that the teenager would be tried as an adult and directed that he be produced before the Gurgaon Sessions Court. The court had earlier directed the CBI to speed up the probe and submit a final report regarding by today. It had also acquitted bus conductor Ashok Kumar in the murder case after the CBI said there was no evidence of his involvement in the crime. Earlier, the court had barred the media from using the name of the 16-year-old juvenile accused in the case and asked it to use fictitious names instead. While the seven-year-old victim was named "Prince" by the court, the juvenile accused was named "Bhola" and the school was referred to as "Vidyalaya". The CBI, in a chargesheet, has alleged that the teenager had murdered the student in September last year in a bid to get the exams postponed and cancel a scheduled parent-teacher meeting. The court, however, said the agency said sufficient oral, documentary and forensic evidence has come on record to substantiate that the 16-year-old accused had committed the murder on September 8 last year.

### JaK Police file FIR against lawyers for protesting against Crime Branch officials

JAMMU, APRIL 10 /-/- The Jammu and Kashmir Police have filed FIR against a group of lawyers for protesting and attempting to prevent the Crime Branch officials from performing their duty of filing charge sheet against eight persons in the alleged rape and murder of a minor girl. The body of the girl, from the Bakherwal community, a nomadic Muslim tribe, was recovered from the Rassana forest on January 17, a week after she went missing while grazing horses in the forest area. The Crime Branch of the police, which formed a Special Investigation Team and arrested eight people including two Special Police Officers (SPOs) and a head constable, who was charged with destruction of evidence. The case has become communally sensitive and serious political parties have jumped into the controversy with allegations and counter-allegations over handling of the case. Today, the Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, probing the alleged rape and murder of the minor girl, filed a separate charge sheet against a juvenile accused in the case at a court in Kathua district. An FIR has been lodged against a group of lawyers who had protested and tried to prevent the Crime Branch officials from performing their duty," a senior police official told news agency PTI. He said that the lawyers have not been identified so far and their identification is part of the investigation. "The accused on Monday, a team of Crime Branch faced stiff resistance from the members of the Kathua Bar Association, who chanted slogans 'go back crime branch' during filing of the charge sheet and held protests. The Kathua Bar Association claimed that the Crime Branch was compelled to leave the premises without filing the chargesheet. On January 23, the government had handed over the case to the Crime Branch of the state police which formed a special investigation team (SIT) and arrested eight persons, including two special police officers (SPOs) and a head constable, who was charged with destruction of evidence. Among the accused, former revenue official and the alleged conspirator, Sanji Ram (60), surrendered before the Crime Branch on March 20 after his son, Vishal, was arrested from Uttar Pradesh. "All the members of the Bar have stood against the presentation of challan (charge sheet) by the Crime Branch in the Rassana case," president of the Kathua Bar Association, Kiry Bhubshan Mahajan, said in a statement.

## Bustragedy: Himachal CM visits children under treatment

DHARAMSHALA, APRIL 10 /-/- Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur today met the children, who were injured in the school bus accident near Nurpur in Kangra district, and wished them speedy recovery. Thirty three people, including 27 children, were killed in the accident which saw a school bus plunged into a deep

gorge near village Gurchal on the Nurpur-Chamba highway on Monday. "I have directed the doctors to provide best treatment to the children, and if needed they should be referred to another hospital. The government would bear all the expenses," Thakur said, who visited both, the Nurpur civil hospital (Kangra) and Amandeep civil hospital

(Punjab), where the injured were undergoing treatment. The chief minister also lauded the bravery of Ranveer, a 10-year-old boy, who allegedly despite being himself injured reached the road site and informed people about the accident. Thakur, who earlier expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family of the accident

victims during the wreath laying ceremony, said the government would soon constitute a committee that would give its suggestions to avoid such incidents in future. The state government has ordered a magisterial probe into the accident and announced an immediate relief of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. (PTI)

### Rajasthan BJP chief dubs Cong's fast against Dalit oppression as 'mockery'

JAIPUR, APRIL 10 /-/- Rajasthan BJP chief Ashok Parmari today dubbed the Congress leaders' day-long fast against Dalit oppression as "mockery". Congress fast is just a mockery. They asked voters to eliminate poverty, but never worked for welfare of poor and Dalits. The party has always inclined towards encourage casteism, mutual hatred, violence and divisive thinking, which hampers brotherhood and harmony in the country. The BJP leader said it was the responsibility of Congress to fight against communal forces to maintain peace and harmony, and save the democratic values and human rights. The fast was observed from 11 am to 5 pm at all divisional headquarters of the state, in which AICC secretary CP Joshi, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Gulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan legislative assembly Ranvijay Dandia and Union Minister in Rajasthan, Utkarshand chief minister Harish Rawat were present. The four were booked under section 325 (punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt to someone) of the IPC and various sections of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Dowry Prohibition Act, SP Shukla said. (PTI)

### State Notes

#### Man trampled to death by herd of elephants

KORBA, APRIL 10 /-/- A 50-year-old man was trampled to death by a herd of wild elephants at a forest in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district, an official said today. The victim, identified as Dasrath, from Bojha village, came face-to-face with the elephants in the forest on Khadgawa. There he was returning from his son in law house in Mayapur village on Monday, sub-divisional officer (Pratapnagar forest circle) Prabhakar Khalko said. While returning home, he stopped at the forest after seeing 'mahua' fruits there and started picking them up. Suddenly, a herd of elephants appeared there and attacked him. The pachyderms smashed the man on the ground with their trunks before trampling him to death, she said. The forest department has given an instant relief amount of Rs 25,000 to the kin of the deceased, she said.

#### Russian national dies after swim in sea

CHENNAI, APRIL 10 /-/- A 55-year-old Russian national, who was here to take part in the DefExpo 2018, died today after he went for a swim in the sea at Mamallapuram, about 55-km from here, police said. Igor Makarov, part of Russian delegation, went for the swim along with two of his colleagues, they said. Makarov was reported missing in the waters and a life-guard brought him ashore, police said. The Russian was then taken to a hospital on the East Coast Road. There he was declared brought dead, a local police official told news agency PTI. On the cause of death, the official said it may be due to drowning but could not be confirmed immediately. The body has been sent for post-mortem, the official said. An official at the Russian Consulate General here confirmed the death of their national.



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur along with Union Health Minister JP Nadda visiting injured school children who met an accident at Civil Hospital, in Kangra on Tuesday.

## Woman's hands broken in JP village for not bearing male child

SHAIJAHANPUR, APRIL 10 /-/- Both hands of a woman were fractured by her husband and in-laws in a village here allegedly for giving birth to three daughters and not bearing a male child in eight years of married life, police said. "The woman has suffered serious injuries and we are waiting for the medical report. Action will be taken against the suspects," superintendent of police (rural)

Subhash Chandra Shakya said today. The incident took place in Babra village and came to light recently after the parents of Rekha Devi (30) dropped by for a visit and found her in an injured condition. They took her to a hospital and filed an FIR against her husband and in-laws, Shakya said. She was held captive and not allowed to talk to her parents after the incident, the

SP said. Rekha was married to Shaailandra Kumar eight years ago. Her husband and in-laws started physically abusing her after she gave birth to a third daughter some months ago, the official said. On March 30, Shaailandra, his brother, Jitendra Kumar, and other members of the family beat her up, fracturing both her hands. She was again assaulted on April 4, police said. A

complaint was lodged against Shaailandra, his brother, Jitendra, his father, Dataram, and mother, Reshma Devi, they added. The four were booked under section 325 (punishment for voluntarily causing grievous hurt to someone) of the IPC and various sections of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Dowry Prohibition Act, SP Shukla said. (PTI)

## Woman kills infant nephew over property dispute in UP

BLJNOR, APRIL 10 /-/- Four people were arrested for killing a 15-month-old baby over a property dispute here, police said today. The infant's aunt Fatchana along with her three accomplice on April 5 had bludgeoned his head. The accused had then packed the body in a cement bag and threw it in a field in Kunjeta village here, the police said. The incident came to light when the body started emitting foul smell. A SP (rural) Vishwa Jost Srivastava said today. All the four accused have been arrested, the ASP said.