



HM Shah meets victims of Pahalgam terror attack, visits ground zero

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the terror attack site in Pahalgam's Baisaran valley on Wednesday, where the terrorists unleashed mayhem a day ago, gunning down several tourists and injuring many others. The Home Minister arrived at ground zero in an Army helicopter and took first-hand account information from the security officials, about the ghastly attacks that claimed over a dozen innocent lives. The tourists were targeted, segregated on basis of religion and then brutally murdered by the terrorists in South Kashmir's 'mini Switzerland' on Tuesday. Before going to Baisaran, HM Shah went to the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in Anantnag where he met the injured tourists and enquired about the medical facilities there to aid in their speedy recovery. As a mark of



support and solidarity, the J&K Government had announced an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh each for the families of the deceased, ₹2 lakh for those seriously injured, and ₹1 lakh for those with minor injuries. At Baisaran HM Shah also spent some time in prayer for the departed souls. He interacted with Army, police and paramilitary officials about the

operation to hunt down those responsible for the cowardly act. The Home Minister's visit to the terror attack site sends out a big message about the government's priorities in cracking down on the terror network behind the massacre. Moreover, the first-hand account information gathered by the Home Minister will be crucial, when he

briefs the fellow members during the Cabinet Committee meet on Security Affairs (CCS) scheduled this evening. Prior to this, Amit Shah also met Pahalgam terror attack survivors and also many families, who lost their loved ones in the dastardly terror attack. He heard them out, sought to console them over their loss, shared their pain and expressed solidarity with the grieving families. As the videos surfaced, the survivors were seen crying and weeping and sharing their grief with the Home Minister. They demanded strictest action against the perpetrators. Earlier in the day, the Home Minister along with J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and LG Manoj Sinha paid tributes to the tourists killed in the Pahalgam terror attack. They visited the Srinagar police control room on Wednesday morn-

ing, where bodies of the slain tourists were kept. The Home Minister, CM and LG offered floral tributes by laying wreaths at the coffins of the deceased tourists. Meanwhile, arrangements are being made to facilitate the return of the deceased tourists to their native towns. The Civil Aviation Ministry has arranged four additional flights from Srinagar today, two each to Mumbai and Delhi and also instructed the airlines against skyrocketing of air fares. A total protest shutdown called by traders, industrialists, political, social and religious organisations paralysed normal life across the Valley today. Public transport, commercial establishments and educational institutions remained closed as very few vehicular movement was witnessed on roads and highways.

Pawan Kalyan condemns Pahalgam terror attack, announces mourning period



The Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and President of the Jana Sena Party, Pawan Kalyan, has expressed his profound disturbance following the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam. He extended his condolences to the families affected by the tragedy and announced that the Jana Sena Party will observe three days of mourning across the two Telugu states. Hyderabad nightlife In a statement, Pawan Kalyan said, "The brutal attack in Pahalgam is deeply disturbing. I express my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased. In their honour, the Jana Sena Party will observe three days of mourning in the Telugu states. Let us keep our party flag strong. Terrorism has not broken our Indian unity. Justice will always prevail. We must ensure that such atrocities do not happen again. I have full faith in our armed forces. Let us overcome this together. Let us stand together." In a show of solidarity, the party flag was lowered at the Jana Sena office in Mangalagiri as a mark of respect for the victims of the attack.

AP SSC Exam Results Released: Girls Excel Again

In a much-anticipated announcement, the results of the 10th class public examinations were revealed on Wednesday, April 23, by IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh at 10 am. Students across the state, eager to assess their performance, can access the results on the official website, as well as the TV9 Telugu website. Results can also be obtained by using the Manamitra WhatsApp service or the Leap app. To receive results via WhatsApp, students should send a message saying 'Hi' to the number 9552300009 and select the educational services option to view the 10th class exam results. Entering the hall ticket number will provide instant access to results in a PDF format. As has been the trend in previous years, girls have once again demonstrated remarkable performance, achieving the highest pass rates across nearly all districts. For the academic year 2024-25, a total of 619,275 regular students took part in the public examinations, with 564,064 opting for English

AP SSC Exam Results 2025 Released



medium and 51,069 for Telugu medium. The examinations were conducted from March 17 to April 1, with the evaluation of answer sheets occurring swiftly between April 3 and April 9. Remarkably, the entire evaluation process was completed within just seven days, allowing for the prompt announcement of results. Additionally, Minister Nara Lokesh also announced the results for Open School 10th and Intermediate students on the same day. These results can similarly be accessed on the official website and the TV9 Telugu website, with 30,334 general students participating in the Open School exams.

Two Telugu tourists killed in Pahalgam terror attack



Hyderabad: Two Telugu-speaking individuals lost their lives in a terror attack that took place in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The victims have been identified as Madhusudhan from Kavali and Chandramouli from Visakhapatnam. Madhusudhan, who had settled in Bengaluru with his family, was visiting Kashmir on a holiday when he fell victim to the militants' gunfire. He was reportedly shot dead during the attack, which has left the Telugu community in shock. Chandramouli, a native of Visakhapatnam, was also brutally killed by the terrorists. Reports indicate that he and his wife had travelled to Jammu and Kashmir on 18 April. The militants opened fire on him in Pahalgam, and even though he attempted to flee, they pursued and shot him down. Witnesses claim he pleaded for his life, but the attackers showed no mercy. The incident has sparked widespread condemnation, with calls for stronger security measures to protect civilians in the region. The bodies of the victims are expected to be brought back to their respective hometowns soon for final rites.

Revanth Reddy's team returns from Japan, investment deals worth Rs. 12,062 crore secured

Hyderabad: The delegation led by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has departed from Japan and is scheduled to arrive in Hyderabad at 8:10 PM tonight. The visit marks a significant milestone as the team has secured investment agreements with Japanese companies amounting to ₹12,062 crore. These investments are expected to generate employment opportunities for around 30,500 people. Hyderabad real estate This comes as part of a series of international tours undertaken by the Chief Minister, including visits to the United States, Singapore, and South

Korea. These visits have collectively attracted investments worth ₹14,900 crore for Telangana. In addition, the state bagged investment commitments of ₹1.78 lakh crore during the Davos summit. During the 2024 edition of the same summit, Telangana managed to attract another ₹40,000 crore in investments. So far, the cumulative investments brought into Telangana during Revanth Reddy's tenure stand at an impressive ₹2,44,962 crore, underlining the state's growing prominence as an investment destination on the global stage.



I will always in the support of Survey No. 62 victims... Srilatha Badru Nayak

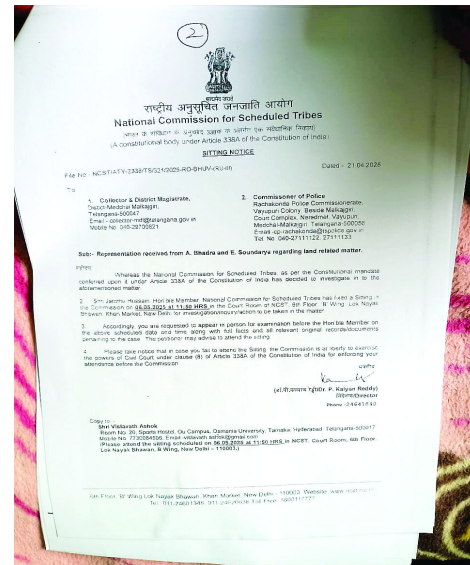
Medipally April:23 (Metro udayam)

Peerzadiguda Congress women's president Srilatha Badru Nayak said that the unlawful tribesmen would fight the injustice in Survey No. 62 and fight for justice. To this extent, she visited Bapuji Nagar on Wednesday and met with the victims. Speaking at a press conference afterwards, she said that the previous BRS government had issued government pattas to the poor before the Assembly elections in the survey number 62/1 of the Peerzadiguda Corporation. Forcibly, they took the pattas, throw their luggage outside. Some Bapujinagar victims have been fighting together for the past year! She has met with Local Medipally MRO, RDO and Medchal district collector, and requested to take action together with the land mafia and the politicians who support



them. We have repeatedly complained that the forcefully taken pattas should be returned to the innocent poor tribes. But up to now there is no response and the threats of land mafia politicians have been increasing day by day, she had complained at the local Medipally police station also but there is no justice to the victims. There is no proper

response from the Police Department. She has approached the National ST Commission in Delhi, explained the issue of the victims. Even after repeatedly complaining to MRO, RDO, Medipally district collector, that the land grabbers have forcefully taken our pattas which were issued by the government, there was no response



from them. As the victims express their suffering before the ST commission, they responded positively and issued notices to the Medchal district collector, the Rachakonda Commissioner and the National ST Commission on March 2025. The Commission

has issued notices to them as to why they have not responded to innocent tribal victims to the complaint, but have issued a summons on May 21, after the Medchal district collector and the Rachakonda Police Commissioner had issued an inquiry into a month. To give himself an explanation, Srilatha said that the summons have been asked that there will be legal action. On this occasion, Srilatha Badru Nayak said that she was ready to fight on the side of the innocent tribal poor people, who had to face the land mafia, the land mafia, and the land of the politicians behind them. Said at the meeting. Family members of the victims of Badri, Soundarya, Padma, Vasantha and Pattibhai victims of local Banjara leaders Googulothu Srinivas Nayak, Ravi Nayak, Surender Nayak, Suman and Narender participated in the event.

Indefinite strike continues for fifth day at JNTUH Kondagattu for job security

Contract faculty members participate in Chalo OU program



Kodimial, April 23 (Metro udayam):

The indefinite strike launched by the contract faculty members at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTUH) Kondagattu demanding job security has entered its fifth day. The faculty members are continuing their protest, demanding job security from the government. In Wednesday's program, a Chalo OU program was taken up against the recent arrests of faculty members at Osmania University. In line with this program, many contract faculty members from Kondagattu moved to Hyderabad in large numbers. At the same time, the remaining faculty members expressed their protest by raising slogans at the Diksha Shibir. Similarly, on the fifth day, the contract Assistant professors reached the Kondagattu Sri Anjaneyaswamy temple in a motorcycle rally and submitted a petition to the Lord requesting the government to show a positive attitude towards them. Dr. Rajesh, Srinivasa Rao, Yamini, Sujatha, Madhukar, Raju, others participated in this program.



Dr. Sangeetha Conferred with the William Shakespeare Excellency Award 2025

Hyderabad, April 23, Metro udayam

Professor A. Karunakar, former Head of the English Department at Osmania University, stated that William Shakespeare's works are still read and analyzed worldwide. He spoke as the chief guest at an event organized by the Vikas Bharathi Charitable Trust at the St. Joseph's Degree and PG College Auditorium in King Koti on Wednesday, commemorating World English Language Day and William Shakespeare's birth anniversary. He said that Shakespeare was an English playwright, poet, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. Sri K. Ram Gopal Reddy, Managing Trustee of Vikas Bharathi Charitable Trust, explained the activities of the trust in continuously providing free services for public welfare and development for the past 25 years. On this occasion, the William Shakespeare Excellency



Award 2025 was presented to Dr. M. Sangeetha, a renowned academician who has served as the Head of the English Department in colleges and as a literary figure in the English language for the past 25 years. The chief guest felicitated her with a shawl, memento, garland, and citation, and presented her with the award. Dr. Raj Narayana

Mudiraj, State President of the Telangana Intellectuals Forum, College Principal Reverend Father Anthony Sagaya Raja, G. Naveen Kumar, Dr. Anaga Join, Smt. Sri Parla Das, Dr. Sindhu Worku, Father Mareti, and others participated in the event, spoke, and conveyed their best wishes to Dr. Sangeetha.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Junior College Secures 6 State Ranks in Intermediate Exams 2025.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Junior College, Baghlimpally, Hyderabad, proudly announces that its students have secured 5 prestigious State Ranks in the Intermediate Public Examinations 2025, marking a significant academic milestone for the institution. Top State Rankers: Banderi Laxmi Deepa (MPC) - 467/470, State 2nd Rank, Jaba Kedarnath (MPC) - 465/470 State 4th Rank, Pooja Sharma (MEC) - 489/500 State Rank, Malthumkar Amulya (MPC) 464/470 State 5th Rank, Rafath Unnisa Begum (MPC) - 463/470 - State 6th Rank, Bykani Nandu (MPC) 463/470 - State 6th Rank. These remarkable results reflect the college's continued focus on academic rigor, personal mentoring, and holistic development. Strong performance across MPC, MEC, CEC, and BiPC streams. Cheguri Srujana (CEC) and Chakraman Varsha (CEC) both scored above 470/500. Consistently high scores from students like



Maithumkar Amulya, Nirudu Sneha, Kudikala Jeevani, and others. The college management congratulated students, parents, and staff for their dedication and teamwork. Our students' exceptional performance across disciplines is a source of

pride and a reflection of the focused efforts by our teaching staff. Said the Chairman of the institution. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Junior College continues to uphold its legacy as a leading academic institution nurturing tomorrow's leaders.

APRIL 23RD- WORLD BOOK DAY

THE EVERGREEN
SHAKESPEARE.

William Shakespeare, the Elizabethan playwright and poet, died in 1616, leaving behind 38 enthralling plays and about 154 great poems. He was born on 23rd April in 1564 and incidentally he died on his Birth Day in 1616. To observe the Death Anniversary of Shakespeare, and some other prominent authors like Cervantes and etal, the UNESCO in 1995 declared April 23rd as World Book Day to encourage the reading habit among youngsters.

Even after 410 years of his death, nobody has dethroned this uncrowned king of the literary world from his first slot. Nor has Time blunt out our interest in his life and works. Perhaps Age can't wither it nor custom stale the infinite variety of his people. This is how Shakespeare described the beauty of Cleopatra].

What is the secret behind the greatness, freshness, modernity, and forever green appeal and relevance of this Bard of Avon?

First of all we often encounter his characters in our quotidian life.

Kings, queens, warriors, lovers, clowns, fathers, sons, daughters, villains that people his plays have a pulling appeal and relevance to us, due to their words and deeds. He has a perennial relevance to all of us because his themes are the forces or elements that colour our lives.

Things like greed, power, ambition, love, jealousy, old age, and racism are some of them. When his characters too are found in the grip of these forces, we readily identify ourselves with them. This is the thing that sustains our interest in the Bard and his works.

Again his language is tough to understand initially, but the musicality of his words and phrases mesmerises us. More than often they showcase his scholarship and profound understanding of human psychology and nature. This is another aspect that

retains our interest in the plays.

Here are a few samples-

Time is the nurse and breeder of all good
(Two Gentlemen of Verona)

And many strokes, though with a Little axe,
Hew down and fell the hardest - timbered oak
(Henry-VI part three)

Talkers are not good doers
(Richard The third)

Whats in a name?
That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet
(Romeo and Juliet)

The Devil can cite Scripture for his purpose
(The Merchant of Venice)

Every one can master a grief but he that has it
(Much Ado About Nothing)

Revealing an important fact about Shakespeares Sonnets in his long introduction to the book The Sonnets Anthony Hecht says That they (Sonnets) regularly outsell everything else he (the Bard) wrote

Among their readership, according to Hecht, the largest group is made up of young lovers. But Love is only one of the many states the Sonnets deal with and offer more than one single definition to it. Though the first 126 Sonnets are said to be very personal, the following few Love lines from the Sonnets 116, 130, and 147 protect love as an invincible, and immortal force—

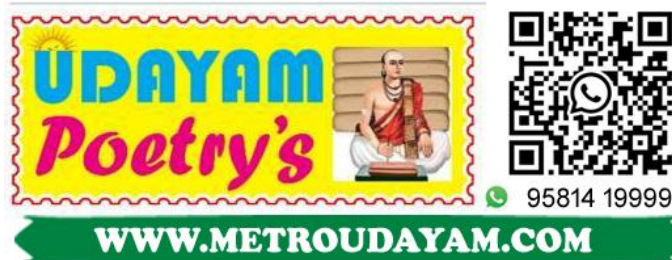
love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds (116)

I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false compare (130)

My love is as a fever, longing still
For that which longer nurses the diseases (147)

Loves fire heats water, water cools
not love (154)

Another vital factor for the World s



sustained interest in and administration for Shakespeare is the scholarly pronouncements of Critic Samuel Johnson. His Preface to Shakespeare has attracted both brickbats and bouquets for his assessment of Shakespeares scholarship and sweeping generalisations.

Another great poet and critic, Matthew Arnold paid encomiums to the Bard in the form of a sonnet. There Arnold calls Shakespeare Self - schooled, self-scanned, self-honoured, self-secure and sums up his greatness in the following lines-

All pains the immortal spirit must Endure
All weakness which impairs, all griefs which Bow
Find their sole speech in that victorious Brow

His contemporary playwright Ben Jonson has beautifully summed up the greatness of Shakespeare in one beautiful sentence;
He was not of an age, but for all time

That is why Shakespeare remains to be an evergreen BARD and an all time great playwright and poet.

M.SOMASEKHAR PRASAD
HOD DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH RETD
GANDHINAGAR
HYDERABAD 500020
9866936345.



On the brutal terrorist attack in Kashmir

IMA Telangana continent
Hyderabad, April: 23,
Metrodayam

Indian Medical Association President Dr. Duvvuru Dwarkanadha Reddy said that the Indian Medical Association was strongly condemned at the Baaran Ground near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. It is tragic that 28 innocent people died in the attack. He appealed to the government to consider such in human attack, peace, humanity and national unity on weapons. The IMA Telangana State Department is standing in support of the families of the victims. He said that the central and state governments should take strict action against the attackers and provide justice to the victims and ensure that such incidents do not happen again.

Telangana Secretary Dr. V. Ashok and Action Committee Chairman Dr. K. Ashok Reddy and Finance Secretary T. There are Dayal Singh. The IMA said that the central government and the Telangana government should take immediate action and strict action in the future and to ensure that such incidents in the future.



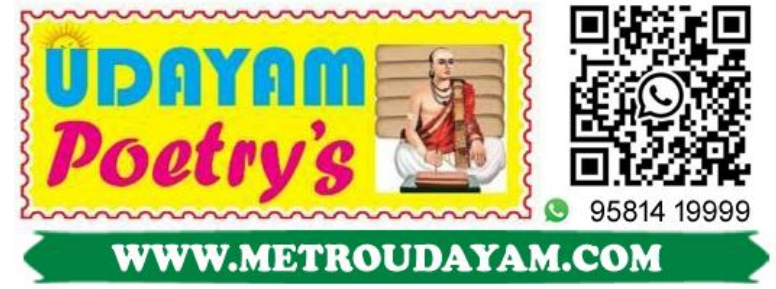
Congress party leader threatening to the journalist

Members of Medipally Press Club complained in Medipally P.S



Medipally April:23 (Metro udayam)

Members of the Medipally Press Club have lodged a complaint in Madipally PS seeking legal action against the Congress leader who was threatened Journalist on the phone. To this extent, Medipally Mandal Print Media Press Club, along with the victim journalist, has been accompanied by Medipally CI Govind Reddy complained in writing. Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh, the journalist, said that he was taking photos of the governments land as part of the duty, and the landlord Congress leader Danagalla Yadagiri, a Boduppal ex Corporation, had been abused him. He gave the police the audio records he spoke on the phone. Speaking on the occasion, the president and secretaries of Medipally Mandal Print Media Kalkuri Elliah and Chira Sridhar Reddy said that the journalists should be taken to the forefront. Journalists participated in the event.



कर्मों से और उन
कर्मों के प्रतिफल से
कोई बच नहीं
सकता। जो कोई
ईश्वर में आस्था
रखते हुए भलाई के
कर्म करता है वह
यकीनन फलाह
(मुक्ति) का हकदार
होगा इसमें कोई
शक नहीं करना
चाहिए। ... (शकील
उवाचा - 339)



आदमी कभी कर्मों से पलायन नहीं करना चाहिए। मानव को ईश्वर ने अपने भक्ती और अच्छे कर्म के माध्यम से परखता है। पवित्र कुरान अध्याय क्रमांक 18, सुराह अल कहफ के आयत क्रमांक 07 में कहा गया है के, जो कुछ धरती में है उसे उस मौजूद हर एक चीज बेशक उसी पालनहार परमात्मा की है उसने उसे हमारे लिए लिए शोभायमान बनाया है, ताकि हम उसकी इबादत (भक्ती) कर सकें, साथ ही साथ अच्छे कर्मों का आचरण कर सकें। इस जगत में कर्मों के न्यायपूर्ण प्रतिफल से कोई बचन वाला नहीं है। क्यों के वही सर्वशक्तिमान परमेश्वर खुद हमारे अपने हर एक बड़े - छोटे और हर एक अच्छे और बुरे कर्मों का प्रतिफल देनेवाला है।

यह आकाश और धरती और उसमें मौजूद हर एक चीज बेशक उसी पालनहार परमात्मा की है उसने उसे हमारे लिए लिए शोभायमान बनाया है, ताकि हम उसकी इबादत (भक्ती) कर सकें, साथ ही साथ अच्छे कर्मों का आचरण कर सकें। इस जगत में कर्मों के न्यायपूर्ण प्रतिफल से कोई बचन वाला नहीं है। क्यों के वही सर्वशक्तिमान परमेश्वर खुद हमारे अपने हर एक बड़े - छोटे और हर एक अच्छे और बुरे कर्मों का प्रतिफल देनेवाला है।

पवित्र कुरान में आया है के, "और जो कुछ आसमानों में है और जो कुछ जमीन में है (सब कुछ) खुदा (ईश्वर) ही का है। (उसी परमात्मा ने न्याय व्यवस्था बनाया है) ताकि जिन लोगों ने बुराई की है उनको उनकी कारिस्तानियों (षडयंत्रों) की सजा (शिक्षा) दे और जिन लोगों ने नेकी (भलाई) की है उनको नेकी की जजा (अच्छा प्रतिफल) दे।" (पवित्र कुरान, अध्याय क्रमांक 53, सुराह अन नज्म, आयत क्रमांक 31)।

RESPECT THE HONOUR!

Many sleepless nights!
So many foodless days!
Lot of financial troubles!
Various hurdles to cross!
Inspite, reached your goal,
and achieved life target
IAS, IPS!

Very painful to mention now!
Something has gone wrong!
Why some of so well educated disciplined cadre is out of track?
Why some section of them save corrupted?
Why can not they remand culprit and control atrocity?

May be attracted by bribes!
May be accustomed to out way earnings!
May it be surrendered to political power!
One wrong step ruins entire carrier good will!
Not my intention to blame all, still there so many sincere staff, Hats off



to them!

Dear gentlemen kindly here me!
You are hope of common man!
Never forget your past days and previous swear in ceremony days!
May be not so easy nowadays to be pious and pure!
But it is not at all impossible!

Your early life days are best example!
Once rewind past and impliment in present!
No doubt your future carrier will be brightful!
Hope to see the entire cadre will shine bright like Sun in the sky!??

Composed by:
B. Satyanarayana Rao,
(Ba. Sa Raa)
Vijayawada.

SRH-MI players, umpires to wear black armbands for paying homage to Pahalgam terror attack victims

Players and umpires will be wearing black armbands during the IPL 2025 clash between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians as a mark of paying homage to victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. Sources have told IANS that apart from the black armbands, a one-minute silence will also be observed before the game begins at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Wednesday evening. Hyderabad restaurants. In addition, it is also understood that cheerleaders will not be present in the stadium for the match, and the usual fireworks show after an IPL game is over, will be omitted as well from the MI-SRH clash. On Tuesday afternoon, at least 16 people, including tourists and locals, were killed while around 17 others were injured when terrorists began firing at them in the scenic Baisaran Valley, located approximately six kilometres away from Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. A widespread condemnation of the heinous terror attack, the deadliest act of violence since the 2019 Pulwama tragedy, and condolences for the victims, and their anguished families came from international leaders, as well as by notable figures in the cricketing world and prominent people from other industries. Coming to the match, a win for Hardik Pandya-led MI, who are currently at sixth place in the points table, will help them level with Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) at ten points and pave their way back to the upper half of the tally. If the Pat Cummins-led SRH manage to win at home, they are expected to jump past Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the points table. The last time these two teams met in the competition, MI outclassed SRH by four wickets at the Wankhede Stadium on April 17.



Alia Bhatt on Pahalgam attack: Innocent lives lost, now there's only grief

Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt has expressed her sadness over the loss of 28 innocent lives were lost after a deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam and said that families were just seeking peace and now there's only grief. Around 28 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down in a terror attack in Pahalgam on Tuesday. Alia took to her Instagram, where she shared a statement on the incident. She wrote "The news from Pahalgam is heartbreaking. Innocent lives lost. Tourists, families, people who were just...living. Seeking beauty. Seeking peace. And now there's only grief. And the unbearable weight of it." "Everytime something like this happens, it chips away at our shared humanity. May those souls rest in peace. And may those left behind find strength somehow - though I don't know how we even begin to ask that of them," she added. Several Bollywood personalities including Anushka Sharma and Janhvi Kapoor expressed their anger. Anushka took to Instagram, where she shared that she is "heartbroken" to hear about the attack on "innocent people." "Heartbroken to hear about the cold-blooded terror attack on innocent people in Pahalgam, Kashmir. Heartfelt prayers and condolences to their families, This is a heinous attack that will never be forgotten," she wrote. Actress Janhvi Kapoor said that she was at a loss of words, shocked and heartbroken for the innocent lives lost in the terrorist attack. She added: "Cowardly, trigger happy, soullessly conditioned monsters on a mission to carry out barbaric acts of injustice in the misinformed guise of duty. I pray for justice but I fear this time nothing will be enough to quell this seething anger caused by such repeated acts of terror and evil, Praying for the souls we lost and their families. "Your people are with you. We mourn with you. May gods strength see you through this unimaginable pain."



Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles unveils expanded Industry Days and new initiative for South Asian storytellers

The Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA) has revealed exciting developments for its upcoming edition, including an expanded Industry Days programme and the introduction of IFFLA Connect, a brand-new initiative aimed at linking emerging South Asian film projects with top-tier industry professionals. Taking place on 8 and 9 May at the Landmark Theatres Sunset, IFFLA Industry Days will bring together rising talents and key figures from leading organisations such as Netflix, Neon, Orion Pictures, Film Independent, Temple Hill Entertainment, and more. The two-day programme is designed to foster meaningful industry engagement for South Asian filmmakers and content creators. A major highlight this year is IFFLA Connect, presented in collaboration with Cinévestre. This curated platform will feature ten South Asian-led film projects, including works from India, Nepal and Bangladesh, alongside a selection from North America. Among the anticipated titles are Radhika Apte's directorial



debut Koyta, Nuhash Humayun's Moving Bangladesh, Deepak Rauniyar's Taste of My Dreams, and Ravi Kapoor's Patel. The initiative aims to support filmmakers with crucial industry access in financing, casting, and production. Festival producer Noopur Sinha commented, "IFFLA Connect is about opening doors – ensuring these remarkable stories get the attention and support they deserve from Hollywood and beyond." The returning Launchpad: Pitch Competition will give five finalists the chance to present their developing projects to a panel of industry experts and a live

audience. One winner will receive a \$10,000 development grant. Selected finalists will receive instant feedback on their pitches, allowing for valuable real-time insight from influential decision-makers. This year's Industry Days also feature two timely panel discussions: The Human Loop: Storytelling and Responsibility in the Age of AI and Global Vision: Specialty Studios and the Future of International Storytelling. These conversations will delve into the ethical implications of AI in the creative process, and explore how studios are embracing global narratives to shape the future of cinema. IFFLA will also

celebrate the acclaimed stage production Life of Pi, now on its first U.S. tour, with a special panel focusing on its journey from page to stage and its broader cultural resonance. Additionally, a masterclass titled From Dhaka to Hollywood: The Genre-Bending World of Nuhash Humayun will offer an in-depth look at the Bangladeshi filmmaker's unique approach to storytelling, and how his work blends local narratives with global genre elements. Access passes for IFFLA Industry Days are currently on sale. A full Industry All-Access Pass, priced at \$220, includes entry to all festival screenings and events, while an \$80 Industry Days Pass offers access to panels, the masterclass, pitch competition final, and relevant screenings. IFFLA has also revealed its 2025 juries. The Feature Jury includes Indian actress Rajshri Deshpande, writer-director Priyanka Mattoo, and respected film critic Carla Renata. The Short Film Jury features filmmaker Maureen Bharoocha, actress-writer Kausar Mohammed, and Sundance programmer Sudeep Sharma.

Noted actor-singer of Assam Phwilao Basumatary passes away at 54



Assam's entertainment world is in mourning following the death of popular actor and singer Phwilao Basumatary, who passed away in the wee hours of Wednesday at a private hospital in Guwahati at the age of 54. Phwilao Basumatary was best known for his beloved role as a police constable in the hit television series Beharbari Outpost, a performance that won the hearts of audiences across the state. Basumatary had become a household name in Assamese and Bodo entertainment circles alike. His natural comic timing and warm on-screen presence earned him widespread admiration, making him one of the most cherished figures in regional television. In a career spanning years, he managed to carve a unique niche for himself, not just as an actor, but also as a singer who carried the essence of local culture with pride. The news of his untimely demise has sent shockwaves through Assam's cultural landscape. Tributes have been pouring in from every corner -- from industry colleagues and co-stars to cultural organisations and devoted fans. Many have taken to social media to express their grief, recalling fond memories of Basumatary's performances that brought laughter and light into their homes. "Phwilao was more than just a performer -- he was a symbol of joy, talent, and cultural pride," a Bodo cultural organisation fan wrote on X. Others have echoed similar sentiments, praising him not only for his acting chops but also for his deep connection to the people and traditions of Assam and the Bodo community. Beyond his accomplishments in front of the camera, Basumatary was widely celebrated as a key figure in representing Bodo culture within mainstream media. His work significantly contributed to the growing recognition and appreciation of regional talent and identity in wider entertainment circles. As Assam bids farewell to one of its brightest stars, the legacy of Phwilao Basumatary will continue to live on -- through his performances, his music, and the cultural bridge he built between communities.

Neha Shetty glows in golden glamour

Though it's been a year since Gangs of Godavari didn't make waves at the box office, actress Neha Shetty continues to shine, proving that true stars don't need a spotlight to dazzle. Despite the lack of recent film offers, Neha's presence remains magnetic. In a striking new photo, the actress steals the show in a golden lehenga paired with a chic sleeveless blouse. The look is bold yet graceful, capturing her natural flair for effortless fashion. Seated casually on a wooden chair and basking in the sunlight, Neha accessorises minimally with a white chain earring that adds a soft, understated elegance to her radiant look. With the sun casting a warm glow on her, she transforms into a vision of poise and quiet power -- a golden dream that needs no script to captivate. While the cameras may not have rolled in her favour recently, Neha's sun-kissed charm suggests a silent but strong comeback. Her confidence, style, and undiminished aura are a reminder that sometimes, moments off-screen are where true stardom brews. Whether the next big role is days or months away, one thing's certain: Neha Shetty is still very much in the game, waiting for the perfect script to match her shining spirit.

