

Will repeal NRC, CAA if INDIA bloc voted to power: Mamata

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Janhvi Kapoor set to portray powerful avatar in patriotic thriller filled with 'betrayals'

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Rains, snow likely over next 2 days

With below normal temperatures continuing in Jammu and Kashmir, the Meteorological Department today predicted another spell of rains and snow over the next two days.

The Met office said that light to moderate rain, light snow over higher reaches was expected at most places with thunder and lightning on Thursday and Friday.

The weather was likely to remain dry and partially cloudy on Wednesday, it said.

It was likely to be generally dry from April 21 to April 25, it added.

Amarnath Yatra: 20 DSPs deputed to SASB

The government has deputed 20 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) to Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) for their deployment as deputy camp directors at various camps en route the holy cave shrine of Baba Amarnath in South Kashmir Himalayas.

A home department issued in this regard says: "Sanction is hereby accorded to the deputation of 20 DSPs to SASB, on short term basis, for being deputed as deputy camp directors at various camps en route the Shri Amarnathji Yatra."

The annual Amarnathji

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Woman drug peddler's house attached

Police today attached the property of a notorious woman drug peddler at Stadium Colony, Batapora, in the valley's Shopian area.

According to officials, the action was taken under section 68-E read with section 68-F (1) of NDPS Act of 1985. "The property (a double storey residential house worth Rs 25 lakh) belongs to a notorious woman drug peddler," officials said.

The accused was identified

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Ram Lalla honoured with 'Surya Tilak' on Ram Navmi

AYODHYA, APR 17: The 'Surya tilak' of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya was done at noon on Wednesday on the occasion of Ram Navami using an elaborate mechanism involving mirrors and lenses by which sunbeams were directed on the forehead of Ram idol.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi saw the 'Surya tilak' during his election campaign. In a post on X, the prime minister wrote, "After my Nalbari (Assam) rally, I watched the Surya Tilak on Ram Lalla. Like crores of Indians, this is a

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Development journey to continue despite Oppn propaganda: Jitendra



Himalayan Mail News KATHUA, APR 17

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who is BJP candidate from Kathua-Udhampur Lok Sabha seat, here today said that the development journey of the constituency would continue despite Opposition

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Came with hope in 2014, trust in 2019, guarantee in 2024: Modi

NALBARI (ASSAM), APR 17: Stating that BJP had turned problems - created by Congress in the northeast - into possibilities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asserted that he had gone to people with hope in 2014 & trust in 2019, while in 2024, he 'has come to the countrymen with a guarantee'.

Addressing an election rally at Borkura ground here, he said there was Modi's guarantee across the country and he was giving the guarantee of fulfilling all these guarantees.

"The North East is a witness to Modi's guarantee as the Congress had only given problems to the region but the BJP has made it a source of possibilities," the Prime Minister said.

"Congress fuelled insurgency but Modi embraced people and brought peace in the region. What could not be achieved in 60 years of Congress rule, Modi achieved it in ten years", he added.



He said that birth celebrations of Almighty Ram were being held in Ayodhya after 500 years with a 'Surya Tilak' ceremony.

"We cannot join the celebrations in Ayodhya, but let us participate in the event by switching on our mobile flashlights and sending light and prayers to Bhagwan Ram", he said.

"A new atmosphere is prevailing in the entire country as we celebrate the birth celebrations of Bhagwan Ram in his own temple after 500 years and this is a

culmination of centuries of devotion and generations of sacrifice," he added.

The Prime Minister said free ration would continue to be provided to all without discrimination for the next five years.

Free treatment of up to Rs five lakh under Ayushman Bharat for people aged 70 and above will be also given so that it doesn't become a burden for the family but "this son of yours (Modi) will take care of your medical costs".

During the next five

years, three crore new houses will also be constructed for the poor, he said.

"The NDA government believes in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and ensures that each citizen gets the benefits they are entitled to without any discrimination", he added.

Referring to the abolition of 'triple talaq', Modi said this has freed the Muslim women. "We made a law against it which benefitted not only the Muslim sisters, but their entire family as triple talaq had destroyed the lives of many women and their families," he added.

He said Muslim women in Assam have also benefited from the law.

"Assam has also witnessed unprecedented development during the last ten years and when the intentions are right, the results are also good", he said.

"Congress for its own benefit had deliberately ne

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Bihar resident shot dead by terrorists

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 17

Ahead of Lok Sabha polls, a resident of Bihar was this evening shot dead by terrorists in Bijbehara area of Kashmir's Anantnag district.

According to officials, terrorists shot at and critically injured Raju Shah of Bihar in Jablipora area of Bijbehara and then fled the spot.

"Terrorists fired upon & critically injured Raju Shah of Bihar at Jablipora. He was evacuated to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries," officials said.

"Terrorists fired at him from a very close range as a

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Azad not to contest from Rajouri-Anantnag constituency

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 17

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad will not contest the Lok Sabha elections from Anantnag-Rajouri seat in Jammu and Kashmir.

DPAP's provincial president, Kashmir, Mohammad Amin Bhat said the party had now decided to field its leader Mohammad Saleem Parray from the seat.

PDP president

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NC, Cong will cut into DPAP votes; won't damage BJP: Azad

Slams Rahul, Omar for supporting Kathua rapists' sympathiser'



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 17

Asserting that NC & Congress would cut into DPAP votes and won't cause any damage to BJP, DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad today slammed Rahul Gandhi & Omar Abdullah for supporting the Kathua rapists' sympathiser' in Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing election rallies in Sangaldhan and

Ukhral areas of Banihal, he strongly criticised Congress's Rahul Gandhi & NC's Omar Abdullah for endorsing a candidate who had supported the rapists of Kathua's daughter.

"Such alliances betray the trust of the people and compromise justice," Azad said and expressed disappointment with the present leadership of Congress, stating, "Their actions have severely tarnished the Congress ideology we had

worked hard to uphold. I would have never allowed this in Congress. Such deviation from the party's principles is regrettable and undermines the legacy we strive to maintain."

"Omar Abdullah is campaigning in Chenab valley against DPAP, not BJP. He has been tasked to divide secular votes. He has done nothing for his own constituency. I gave district status to Ganderbal, which

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Campaigning ends in Udhampur LS seat, polling on Apr 19

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 17

The campaigning came to an end today in Kathua-Udhampur parliamentary constituency which is witnessing its first major electoral battle since the bifurcation of the erstwhile J&K state into the UTs of J&K and Ladakh, and the abrogation of Article 370.

The constituency would go to polls in the first phase on April 19 and will decide the fate of 12 contestants, including Union Minister Jitendra Singh who is seeking a third term.

Congress candidate Lal Singh and DPAP candidate G M Saroori are also in the contest. Both are former J&K ministers.

"No untoward incident was reported during the campaigning by the candidates of political parties and Independents. The electioneering ended at 6 pm and advance parties of security and polling staff along with election logistics and materials have been dispatched to the remote pockets including snow-bound areas to ensure free and fair polling," an official said.

Over 16.23 lakh elec-

torate including 7.77 lakh women are going to vote at 2637 polling stations across the constituency which is spread over five districts of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua.

After Udhampur, Jammu parliamentary constituency will go to polls on April 26 followed by Anantnag-Rajouri constituency on May 7, Srinagar on May 13 and Baramulla on May 20. The counting of votes will be held on June 4.

The contestants, especially the BJP, the Congress and the DPAP, left no stone

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As first time voters join BJP, Kavinder says youth impressed by Modi govt's policies



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 17

After several first time voters embraced BJP in a

function held here today, senior BJP leader and ex-deputy CM Kavinder Gupta said youth of the country were highly impressed by the nationalist & develop-

ment policies of the PM Modi-led NDA government at the Centre.

Addressing a gathering at Raipur, Satwari, where

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Jammu's LS polls key to reinforcing the national narrative of J&K

Sahil Mahajan

In few days' time, Jammu will be going to polls in the first two phases of the seven-phased Lok Sabha polls-2024. This is a natural consequence of the electoral democracy in India. The campaign has gone on expected lines, with battles being between the incumbent BJP MPs- Dr. Jitendra Singh from Udhampur-Doda and Jugal Kishore Sharma from Jammu-Reasi - and their Congress rivals Choudhary Lal Singh and Raman Bhalla respectively. These have been two main rival parties over the decades BJP, and its original incarnation Jan Sangh used to offer

symbolic challenge as long as Congress was dominating scene at the Centre. The first change occurred in 1977, when Jan Sangh as part of Janta Party won Jammu Lok Sabha seat. Its candidate was Thakur Baldev Singh, who originally hailed from Kathua district. Thereafter the changes started showing in the post 1996 polls, with Congress and BJP alternating in winning the electoral battles. And it is a coincidence that Jammu is facing the electoral competition between these two parties yet again, under the BJP rule at the Centre, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi being the universal face of the party all across the country. And, he himself came to campaign in

Udhampur for two of the party candidates. This time Jammu's Lok Sabha electoral battle is extraordinary. Since BJP has left the field open in Kashmir, where in all likelihood it has opted out of the contest, making way for NC, PDP and Congress parties to take wings. Apni Party is contesting on two of the three seats - Srinagar and Anantnag, People's Conference is fighting it against NC, PDP and Engineer Rashid in Baramulla constituency. So, a marked difference has come about on the political landscape even before the first vote is cast. This makes the electoral contest in Jammu region very, very important. It was very difficult to

imagine BJP not contesting on three of the Valley seats, particularly when the whole focus and theme of its current campaign is transformation of Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370. It is curious move, but it is certain that party's leadership must have thought something before deciding not to contest three prestigious Lok Sabha seats. The party had contested all the three seats in the Valley in 2019. It needs to be analyzed why the party is playing a different political cards this time. Against this backdrop, Jammu region's two Lok Sabha seats will be very critical for BJP to re-establish its narrative on the abrogation of Article 370. The victory on

these two seats can help it compensate for its absence from the contest on three Valley seats. This, politically speaking, will be a verdict from the whole of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, because the region cannot be separated from the geography and demography of the union Territory. And as the voting percentage of the past elections has shown is higher in Jammu region since 1989 Lok Sabha polls, it will give a currency to BJP to claim its success in the political narrative driven by the abrogation of the constitutional provision. It had adopted the abolition of the Article 370 as a matter of faith. This faith, it is expecting would be vindicated in

Jammu and Udhampur seats, thus making the percentage in the Valley seats irrelevant. There are still fears that Valley's polling percentage may not be as high as that of Jammu region. In Udhampur constituency, the campaign by DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad is also serving as a motivation for the voters to vote in large numbers. Azad's role needs to be acknowledged, no matter what the outcome will be at the end of the day. DPAP has fielded Ghulam Mohammad Saroori and Azad is campaigning quite vigorously. That has the potential to change scene of the electoral battle. In short, key to the national narrative is with Jammu region