



### BJP with its '400 paar' slogan misunderstood public mood, won't win any seat in third phase: Akhilesh

### Taapsee Pannu Says She Can't Be Overtly Submissive To Paps: 'I'm Allowed To Have A Life Beyond work'

### Avalanche warning issued

Amid inclement weather, the J&K Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) today issued an avalanche warning on the higher reaches of J&K during the next 24 hours.

An avalanche with medium danger level was likely to occur above 3,000 mt above the sea level in north Kashmir districts of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara besides central Kashmir's Ganderbal district in the next 24 hours, officials said, adding that the possibility of such

### 4 killed as vehicle falls into stream

A speeding passenger vehicle today fell into a stream at Gagangir in Sonamarg area of the valley's Ganderbal district, resulting in the death of four persons.

According to officials, the vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down into Sindh nallah. A total of nine persons were on board the vehicle. Four of them died while three

Four persons died while three others were rescued by the teams of SDRF and police. Two others were missing and the rescue teams were still searching for them when reports last came in tonight, officials

### Property seized under UAPA

In a significant move to counter terrorism, police today seized a property worth lakhs under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The property was used by terrorists for carrying out anti-national activities. The seizure was made in Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said.

"The property in question is a single-storey residential house located at Monghama, Pulwama, which was used by terrorists for their shelter and

### Just 8 pc of women candidates in 2 phases of LS polls

**NEW DELHI, APR 28:** Women constituted only eight per cent of the total 2,823 candidates in the first two phases of the Lok Sabha elections, with political activists saying it reflects a deeper issue of gender bias and that talk of women's empowerment rings hollow.

There were 135 women candidates in the first phase of the elections and 100 in the second phase, bringing the combined total for the first two phases to 235.

### Ishaq Dar appointed as Pak deputy PM



**ISLAMABAD, APR 28:** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appointed Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar as Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister with immediate effect.

The decision was announced through a notification released by the Cabinet Division. The development

## 'Shehzade' insulted Maharajas, but silent on atrocities by Nawabs: Modi

**BELAGAVI, APR 28:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of insulting India's Rajas and Maharajas, but remaining silent on the atrocities committed by Nawabs, Nizams, Sultans and Badshahs for the sake of appeasement politics.



Addressing a mega public meeting here, he said, "Congress has ensured the writings of our history and our freedom struggle with an eye on appeasement and vote bank. Even today, the Congress' shehzade (prince) is carrying forward that sin. You might have heard Congress' shehzade's recent statement — he says Bharath's Rajas and Maharajas were atyachari (oppressive)," Modi said.

"He (Gandhi) has accused them (Rajas and Maharajas) of usurping the lands and properties of people and poor...Congress' shehzade has insulted great personalities like Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Kittur Rani Channamma, whose administration and patriotism inspires us even today," the prime minister said.

Recalling the contribution of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family for which they are respected across the country even today, the PM said, "the

Congress' shehzade statements were intentional, aimed at vote bank politics and appeasement." "Shahzade spoke ill about Raja, Maharajas, but the shahzade's mouth was locked regarding the 'atyachar' that Nawabs, Nizams, Sultans and Badshahs committed in India's history. His mouth was shut on them, but on Raja, Maharajas he speaks ill and insults them," he said.

Noting that Gandhi cannot remember Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's oppressions, Modi said, "he (Aurangzeb) impured a number of our temples and destroyed them. Congress is happily making alliances with parties that praise Aurangzeb...they don't remember people who destroyed our religious places, indulged

in killing, killing of cows. They don't remember the Nawab, who played a role in the partition of India." He further recalled the contributions of the Raja of Banaras in setting up Banaras Hindu University, and Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar in the reconstruction of temples.

"It was the Maharaja of Baroda who had identified the talent of Ambedkar...the Congress' shehzade doesn't remember the contributions of Rajas and Maharajas. For vote bank they show the guts of speaking against Rajas and Maharajas, but don't have strength to speak against Nawabs, sultans and Badshahs," he said adding that Congress' appeasement mindset has come out in the open before the country, and the same reflects in their manifesto.

Veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa, party's candidate from Belagavi (Belagavi) and former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and Chikkodi candidate Annasaheb Shankar Jolle, were among those present.

Since the time Congress came to power in Karnataka, law and order situation in the entire state has worsened, Modi alleged, recalling the atrocity against an adivasi woman in

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## India will never bow down: Rajnath on talks with China

**AHMEDABAD, APR 28:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said talks between India and China were going on smoothly and in a good environment, and India would never bow down.



Singh, who was in Ahmedabad to campaign for BJP candidates contesting the Lok Sabha elections, said India 'has become a powerful country from a military standpoint and wants to maintain good relations with its neighbours'.

"India is no longer a weak India. India has also become a powerful country from a military point of view. We want to maintain good relations with our neighbouring countries," the minister said when asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's accusation against the Narendra Modi government over Chinese aggression.

Talks between India and China are going on smoothly and in a good environment over whatever issues there are, he said. "I understand that we

should wait for the outcome of the talks. But I want to assure the countrymen that India has not bowed down anywhere, nor will it ever bow down," he said.

Singh also expressed confidence that India's defence exports, which crossed the Rs 21,000 crore mark in the financial 2023-24, will increase going forward.

"In 2014, we exported Rs 600 crore defence items, but now the figure has crossed Rs 21,000 crore, and I can say that it is going to increase," he said.

The minister said the Modi government was committed to ensuring that defence items, whether missiles and other weapons, bombs or tanks, should be made in India

and by Indians. "Today, we have achieved defence production worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore," he said.

The minister had earlier said that renaming places of India by China 'does not hold any significance and such an attempt will only harm the relation between the two countries'.

Recently, China had renamed 30 places in Arunachal Pradesh.

He had stated that if India renamed a place in China, would it mean that the place comes under India? Such attempts will only harm the relation between the two countries'.

He had quoted former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who said that friends can be changed but neighbours never change. However, Singh had also sent a warning and said, "If someone tries to harm India's respect, integrity and dignity, India has the capability to respond to it befittingly". He said that people of Arunachal Pradesh were "strategic assets" and na

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## BJP won't remove reservations nor allow anyone to do so: Amit Shah

**KASGANJ (UP), APR 28:** Stating that BJP won't ever remove reservations nor allow anyone to do so, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday hit out at the opposition for keeping the Ram temple issue 'hanging' and said the 'public has to choose between those who opened fire at karsevaks and those who built the Ram temple'.



He made these remarks at a public rally in support of Rajveer Singh, the BJP candidate from Etah-Kasganj in Uttar Pradesh.

Attacking opposition party leaders for not attending the Ram temple

consecration ceremony, Shah said, "The people who did not go to the consecration ceremony, they know that they are the people who shot at karsevaks."

He asserted that there were two groups to choose from — "one that fired shots at Ram bhakts and one that built the Ram temple".

"The Congress, Rahul 'baba' and the party of Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party) kept the Ram temple issue hanging for more than 70 years. You made Modi the prime minister for a second time and he did 'Jai Shri Ram' by doing the consecration ceremony on January 22," Shah said.

The home minister also alleged that the opposition parties ignored people from backward communities, who were granted their rights by Narendra Modi after he became prime minister.

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## LG grieved over loss of lives in road accident

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 28**

LG Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the loss of lives in a road accident at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district of the valley.

In a condolence message, he said: "I am deeply saddened to learn about the loss of precious lives in an unfortunate road accident in Sonamarg, Ganderbal."

"In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. I have issued instructions to the district ad

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## Village guard killed in encounter with terrorists at Basantgarh

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 28**

In an encounter with heavily-armed terrorists in the remote Panara village of Basantgarh in Udhampur district of Jammu, a Village Defence Guard today lost his life.

Two groups of freshly infiltrated groups of terrorists were said to have entered the Basantgarh woods from the bordering Kathua district in the recent past. Following inputs about their movement in the area late last evening, security forces launched

massive 'seek & destroy' operations, officials said.

Police also activated their security grid in the limits of Basantgarh police station. Cops of Sang police picket and VDGs were heading towards Chochru Gala heights when the exchange of fire took place between them and the hiding terrorists at about 7.45 am, officials said.

In about half-an-hour long gunbattle, VDG Mohammad Sharief was wounded critically. He later succumbed to his injuries. He hailed from Khaned.

The terrorists later fled deep into the woods.

According to sources, there was an information about the movement of two separate groups of terrorists who infiltrated recently from Kathua to Basantgarh.

"One of the groups with five members was confronted, while there was no trace of the other group, which has four members and whose movement was last reported in the Machedi top area bordering Kathua," officials said.

It was believed that they were heading towards Kashmir, taking advantage of the dense forest cover

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## CDS Chauhan's France visit reaffirms long-standing strategic partnership: Govt

**NEW DELHI, APR 28:** Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Gen Anil Chauhan interacted with top executives of several French defence majors, including Dassault Aviation, Safran and Naval Group, with a view to build futuristic capabilities of the Indian armed forces.



The interaction was part of Gen Chauhan's series of engagements during his nearly week-long trip to France that concluded on Saturday.

"Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan con-

cluded a comprehensive visit to France, which has reaffirmed the continued long-standing strategic partnership between India and France," the defence ministry said on Sunday.

It is understood that India's plan to procure 26

Rafale (Marine) jets and three Scorpene submarines from France figured in his talks.

In July last year, the defence ministry approved the purchase of 26 Rafale (marine) jets from France, primarily for deployment on board the indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

The ministry had also cleared procurement of three Scorpene submarines from France.

Under the Indian Navy's Project 75, six Scorpene submarines have already

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## Elderly woman murdered

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 28**

Over some trivial issue, an elderly woman was allegedly murdered by her brother-in-law at Bardal Khurd in Akhnoor tehsil near here late Saturday night.

She was identified as Vaishnu Devi (65), wife of Shiv Ram Sharma of Bardal Khurd.

According to officials, the woman was stoned to death by her brother-in-law, who was identified as Pooran Chand, son of Amar Nath, at Bardal

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## 14 Pak nationals held with drugs worth Rs 600 cr

**NEW DELHI, APR 28:** A combined effort by Indian Coast Guard, the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) today led to the arrest of 14 Pakistani nationals off the Gujarat coast. 86 kilograms of illegal drugs valued at Rs 602 cr were recovered from them.



Coast Guard ships and aircraft were deployed for the operation. ICG ship Rajatan was used to identify the suspect boat with the

This was the 11th such successful joint operation in the past three years involving the Coast Guard and the ATS, the ICG said in a release.

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## LS elections After phase II 'washout', desperate PM 'fear mongering': Congress

**NEW DELHI, APR 28:** The Congress today alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was indulging in "fear mongering" as he had become "desperate" after facing a "washout" in the second phase of Lok Sabha polls.

"After the Phase II washout, a desperate PM is on a spree of Karnataka rallies today. Instead of lying and fear mongering, these are the questions he should answer," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, listing his posers. "Why have BJP MPs per-

formed so poorly as the people's representatives? After a 7-month delay, why has the Centre released less than 20% of drought relief funds? Why is the Centre holding up the Upper Bhadra and Mahadayi projects?" the Congress leader said on X.

Elaborating on what he said were "jumla details", Ramesh asked where have BJP MPs been while the Modi government has been "unleashing its vengeance" on Karnataka. Citing the latest data from the Parliamentary Research

Service (PRS), Ramesh claimed that the BJP MPs from Karnataka have shown a blatant disregard for their responsibilities, and displayed lack of commitment to serving their constituents.

"While the national average attendance in Parliament was 79%, the average of the 28 Karnataka MPs was even lower at 71%. The review revealed that 26 of these MPs never raised Karnataka's concerns - the release of MGNREGA funds, drought and flood relief as

## StartUps grew 300 times in 10 yrs: Jitendra

**NEW DELHI, APR 28:** Union minister Jitendra Singh today said that from just about 350 StartUps in the year 2014, StartUps in India had grown over 300 times in the last 10 years after Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister.

"India today has the 3rd largest StartUp ecosystem globally and is home to the

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## VDGs playing vital role in containing terrorism in J&K: Kavinder

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 28**

Strongly condemning the killing of a Village Defence Guard in an encounter with terrorists at Panara in Basantgarh area of Udhampur district, senior BJP leader and ex-deputy CM Kavinder Gupta today said that VDGs were playing a vital role in containing terrorism in J&K.



He denounced the terror act and asserted that such despicable attacks were aimed at disrupting the prevailing peace in the Union

and sacrifice," he said and emphasised that VDGs play a vital role in containing terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, serving as frontline defenders of peace and security in the region. He termed the terror incident as a cowardly act of Pakistan-supported terrorists, emphasising that they would succeed in their nefarious designs. He underscored the transition from violence to education and technology among the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, a transformation that stands as a testa

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