



### Plea in SC seeking expert panel to examine possible side effects, risk factors of Covishield vaccine

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### Lara Dutta addresses rumors of playing Kaikeyi in Ranbir Kapoor starrer; says 'Who wouldn't want to...'

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### 3.4 magnitude earthquake hits Kishtwar

A 3.4 magnitude earthquake hit Kishtwar in the Jammu region in the wee hours of this morning but no loss to life or property was reported from anywhere in the district, the National Center for Seismology said.

As per the NCS, the earthquake occurred at 1.33 am on Wednesday. The NCS also said that the earthquake occurred at a depth of 30 kilometres. "Earthquake of magnitude 3.4 on P9 >

### NH reopens after 2 days

After remaining closed for two days due to multiple landslides and shooting stones between Ramban & Banihal, the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was today thrown open to vehicular traffic.

The road was reopened for light motor vehicles (LMVs) in the morning while heavy motor vehicles were not allowed to ply for the time being as the road clearance and widening operation was still on, officials said.

The LMVs were released on the highway from both sides at about 9.30 am after the official men & ma Cont. on P9 >

### 2 gram sewaks suspended

Taking cognisance of viral videos against them, the district development commissioner, Doda, has placed under suspension two gram sewaks in Doda district of Jammu.

An order issued by district development commissioner, Doda, Harvinder Singh said: "On the basis of an office communication received from assistant commissioner, development, Doda, on April 30, 2024 regarding the viral videos on social media against Basharat Hussain, Cont. on P9 >

### GST collection breaches Rs 2 lakh cr milestone

**NEW DELHI, MAY 01:** Goods and Services Tax collections grew 12.4 per cent to a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April, aided by strong economic momentum and increased domestic transactions and imports, the finance ministry said on Wednesday. The GST collections have breached the Rs 2 lakh crore mark for the first time in April this year, it said in a statement.

"The Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high in April 2024 at Rs 2.10 lakh Cont. on P9 >

### Swaminathan takes charge as Vice Chief of Navy



**NEW DELHI, MAY 01:** Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, known for his expertise in communication and electronic warfare, on Wednesday assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.

He was serving as Chief of Personnel at the naval headquarters in his previ Cont. on P9 >

## Congress didn't implement Constitution fully in Kashmir: Modi

**NEW DELHI, MAY 01: Reiterating that "New India" does not send dossiers on terrorists to other countries but gives a "dose" to them and kills them on their home turf, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today took a jibe at the previous governments of Congress at the Centre, saying that the Constitution was not implemented fully by them in Kashmir but he did it.**

"I did not worry about vote bank. I don't work for winning the elections. I wanted to make the lives of Muslim women easier and we made Triple Talaq illegal," he added.

He also took an apparent jibe at Rahul Gandhi, saying that the Congress leader was warning of a fire in the country if PM Modi was re-elected.

"The 'Shehzada of Congress' gets a fever when I do all of this. He is saying that if Modi becomes PM for the third time, there would be fire in the country. The fact is, the dreams of the Congress have burnt and turned to ashes," Modi said.

He added that Congress leaders were now claiming the Constitution was in danger and reservation would be abolished.

"Congress leaders are now claiming the Constitution is in danger and



reservation will be abolished. In reality, the Congress could not implement the Constitution in the entire country during its 70-year rule. Our Constitution was not implemented in Kashmir. It was Modi who did it because Modi is committed to the Constitution," he emphasised.

"The New India does not send dossiers on terrorists to other countries but gives a dose to them and kills them on their home turf," the prime minister asserted.

"Ten years ago, the country was suffering due to terrorism. However, Congress, despite knowing the origin of terrorism, used to send a dossier to Pakistan," the prime minister said at a rally in Himatnagar city of Gujarat's Sabarkantha district. "Today, India doesn't send dossiers to the masters of terrorism, but gives them a dose

and kills them on their home turf." Follow full coverage of the Lok Sabha elections here.

In his speech, the prime minister also targeted the Congress, saying that Muslim women in India were the biggest victims of their vote bank politics.

"Our Muslim sisters were the biggest victims of vote bank politics... You (Congress) did not provide security to the Muslim sisters even after Supreme Court's verdict... The abolition of Triple Talaq provided security to families, not just the women... They (Congress) did not stop the practice of Triple Talaq for the vote bank..." the prime minister said.

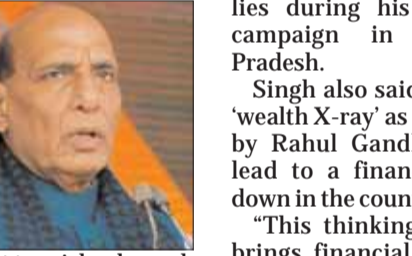
Earlier, addressing a poll rally in Latur district in Marathwada region, Modi had mocked the alleged ineffectiveness of previous Congress-led governments. "During Congress regime, news headlines used to be about India handing over another dossier to Pakistan about terror activities and terrorists. It used to be big news. Some of our friends in the media used to clap after any such dossier was sent," he had remarked, commenting on the situation post the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

Claiming that it was his government that had made the country safe and secure, the PM had said: "Today, Cont. on P9 >

## Congress may be disbanded this election: Rajnath

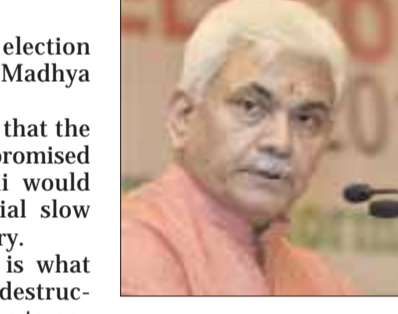
**NEW DELHI/KHANDWA, MAY 01:** Stating that there was no constitutional right to provide reservation based on religion and that the Congress ideology was suffering from 'mental paralysis', Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said that the people of the country were going to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's wish at the time of Independence and wipe out the Congress from the politics of the country in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

"We have no constitutional right to provide reservation based on reli-



gion, but to mislead people and to gain their support is an old habit of Congress. Today also, they are working on this which is why with time their existence is eroding," he said after attending a nomination procession of BJP candidate for Northeast Delhi constituency, Manoj Tiwari, and while addressing rally

### LG extends greetings on Labour Day



**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 01**

LG Manoj Sinha today extended his greetings to all the workers of Jammu and Kashmir on Labour Day.

"On the occasion of Labour Day, I extend my greetings Cont. on P9 >

## DPAP will courageously voice public concerns in Parl: Azad

### Rejects discrimination based on religion, caste



**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 01**

Stating that his party rejects discrimination on the basis of religion & caste, DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad today called upon people to elect DPAP candidates to victory in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, saying the party would courageously voice their concerns in the parliament.

He conducted roadshows at Rajouri, articulating his core agenda cen-

tered around development, unity and progress.

In his address, Azad denounced the divisive tactics employed by rival parties, condemning their attempts to sow discord based on religious and caste.

He underscored the dangers of divisive politics, pointing out that while some parties had historically divided people on religious lines, they were now resorting to caste-based divisions.

He highlighted the detrimental impact of such di-

visive tactics on the region's future, emphasizing that the election of MPs based solely on community affiliations would inevitably lead to neglect and marginalisation of other communities.

He urged the electorate to reject this brand of politics, emphasizing the importance of unity for the progress and prosperity of the region and the UT at large.

"If we choose MPs based on religion or caste, how can we expect justice for all Cont. on P9 >

## EC revises protocol on storage of Symbol Loading Units

**NEW DELHI, MAY 01:** The Election Commission has come out with a new protocol for handling and storage of Symbol Loading Units (SLUs), following the directions of the Supreme Court which had ordered that the machines should be sealed and secured in a container and stored in a strongroom along with the EVMs at least for 45 days post the declaration of results.

In a statement, the poll authority said all state chief electoral officers have been directed to create necessary infrastructure and provisions to implement the new

protocols for handling and storage of the symbol loading units (SLUs).

"As mandated by the Supreme Court, the revised protocols are applicable in all cases of completion of the symbol loading process in the VVPATs undertaken on or after May 1, 2024," the Commission said.

The top court had on Friday last issued directions to seal and store symbol loading units and also paved the way for verification of micro-controllers embedded in the electronic voting machines (EVMs) on the request of the candidates who stand second and third in

the elections.

The SLU uploads the name and symbol of the candidates contesting on a particular seat on VVPAT or paper trail machines.

So far, the EVMs and VVPAT slips were stored for 45 days post results. In these 45 days following the declaration of an election result, people can file an election petition in the concerned high court challenging the election. The EVM and VVPAT slips can be called by the court while hearing the plea.

Before the Supreme Court order, the SLUs were Cont. on P9 >

## Pak intruder shot dead at Samba; 2 OGWs held at Bandipora

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 01**

While BSF personnel today shot dead a Pakistani intruder near the International Border in Samba district of Jammu, two Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of terrorists were apprehended by police in Bandipora area of the valley.

"Amid the multi-tier security bandobast that has been put in place by BSF along the IB to foil any infiltration bid by terrorists into the Indian territory on the eve of Lok Sabha elections, a suspect entered India from a border area of

Samba in the evening," officials said.

The border guards picked up his movement and challenged him but when he kept advancing towards the border fencing, they opened fire as a result of which he died on the spot, the officials added.

"The area is being searched thoroughly and further details are being ascertained," officials said.

A round-the-clock vigil is being maintained all along the IB & the LoC, following intelligence inputs that Pakistan can push terrorists into India to disrupt peace on the eve of ongoing

parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, police today said that they had arrested two terror associates from Aragam area of Kashmir's Bandipora district.

"In a joint operation, Army, police and CRPF took into custody two terrorist associates at Aragam," the officials added.

It was suspected that they had been passing on information to terrorists about the movement of security forces, besides providing them them logistic support.

Their sustained questioning was in progress.

### Properties of 7 Pak-based terror handlers attached

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 01**

Police have attached properties worth lakhs of rupees of seven Pakistan-based terror handlers in Baramulla district of the valley.

After obtaining attachment orders passed by the additional sessions court, Baramulla, police attached the properties (8 kanals, 6 marlas & 2 sersai) land belonging to terror handlers Sajad Ahmad Bhat, son of Ghulam Mohammad of Cont. on P9 >

## Oppn using deepfakes, other tricks for its propaganda: Anurag

**LUCKNOW, MAY 01:** Union minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday said the opposition Congress was using all types of tricks — fear, confusion, rumour and now deepfake — for its propaganda.

He also refuted the Congress' charge that democracy was under threat or that reservations will be taken away by the BJP government.

"It was during Congress regime that democracy was finished by imposing Emergency," Thakur, who was in the state to attend several programmes that include



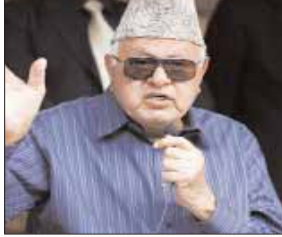
the filing of nominations by party leaders, said.

"Congress is using fear, confusion, rumour, deepfakes and all kinds of tricks. The way foreign powers try to destabilise any country, the Congress is using all kinds of tricks for its propaganda." The BJP has lodged a complaint with the Elec-

tion Commission against the Congress, alleging that it circulated the "deepfake and morphed" video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to derail the poll process, and demanded strict action against the party.

"They (Congress) have been lying constantly. They say reservation will be finished, democracy will be finished. The Modi government ruled for 10 years, there was no talk of reservation. It will never end in the Modi regime. We have given the rights to SC, ST Cont. on P9 >

### Farooq attacks EC for deferring polls on Rajouri-Anantnag seat



**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 01**

NC president Farooq Abdullah took a dig at the Election Commission of India (ECI) for postponing polling in the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat to May 25.

He maintained that they Cont. on P9 >

## SC reserves verdict on whether pvt properties can be termed resources of community

**NEW DELHI, MAY 01:** A nine-judge Supreme Court bench reserved its verdict on Wednesday on a vexed legal question that whether private properties can be considered "material resources of the community" under Article 39 of the Constitution and consequently, taken over by State authorities to subserve the "common good".

The question is being dealt with by the Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud. The bench is hearing 16 petitions, including the lead petition filed by the Mum-

bai-based Property Owners' Association in 1992.

The POA has vehemently opposed Chapter VIII-A of the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority Act. Inserted in 1986, the chapter empowers state authorities to acquire cessed buildings and the land on which those are built if 70 per cent of the occupants make such a request for restoration purposes.

The MHADA Act was enacted in pursuance of Article 39 of the Constitution, which is part of the Directive Principles of State Pol-

icy, and makes it obligatory for the State to create a policy towards securing "that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good".

The state government, represented in the court by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, said the MHADA provisions are protected by Article 31C of the Constitution, which was inserted by the 25th Amendment Act of 1971 with an intention to protect laws giving effect to

Cont. on P9 >

## Modi govt safeguarded rights of nomads; NC exploited them for yrs: Kavinder

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 01**

Senior BJP leader and ex-deputy CM Kavinder Gupta today said that while the NDA government led by PM Modi had safeguarded the rights of Gujjars & Bakkerwals, NC had exploited them for years.

He came down heavily on NC leader Omar Abdullah for his remark on deferment of poll on Rajouri-Anantnag seat, he said unlike the erstwhile governments, the Modi government had safeguarded the rights of Guj-



jars & Bakkerwals and providing them succor through various centrally sponsored welfare schemes.

Criticising Omar for saying that BJP had conspired to change the polling date on Rajouri-Anantnag seat just to ensure that NC doesn't get the votes of Gujjars &

Bakkerwals, Gupta said the votes of nomads would never be polled in NC's favour because the party's successive governments had exploited them for years together and whatever the NC leader was saying was nothing but a bundle of lies as postponement of polls was the decision of Election Commission.

"Fears of NC that people would not vote in its favour are genuine because its leadership knows well that it did nothing else except for exploiting people on different counts including region Cont. on P9 >