

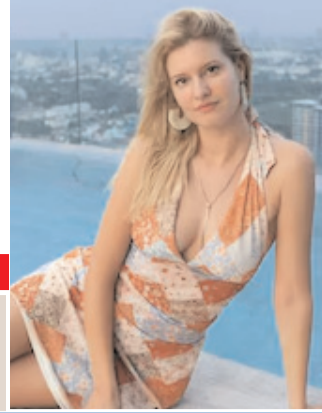


Govt Wants To Change India's Electoral Map, It's Nothing Short Of Anti-National Act: Rahul

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Who Is Lizzalazz? German Influencer Whose Bold Photos Allegedly Grabbed Virat Kohli's Attention

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MeT predicts rain, gusty winds till Apr 19

The meteorological department has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms in Jammu & Kashmir till April 19.

According to officials, weather was likely to remain generally cloudy with intermittent spells of light rain and thunder-showers at many places, particularly during morning and late evening hours, from April 17 to 19.

Officials said gusty

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20 officers appointed as executive magistrates

The government has appointed 20 officers as executive magistrates in Reasi district under section 14(1) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

According to an official order, the appointed officers will exercise all the powers of executive magistrates within their respective territorial jurisdictions in the district.

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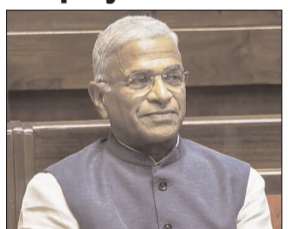
Admin bans inflammatory social media content

The administration has imposed a blanket ban on posting or sharing communally sensitive and inflammatory content on social media platforms across Jammu district for a period of 60 days, citing threats to public order and communal harmony.

It pointed out that social media platforms had been increasingly misused to spread communally provocative, false and inciting content, which had the potential to disturb public peace, cause communal tensions, and endanger lives and property.

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Harivansh re-elected RS deputy chairman



NEW DELHI, APR 17: Harivansh was today elected unopposed as the deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha, securing a third consecutive term in the post.

The position had fallen vacant after his previous term ended on April 9. Union Minister and Leader of House J P Nadda moved the motion for his election.

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Gold falls Rs 1,600, silver Rs 5,700

NEW DELHI, APR 17: Silver price declined by Rs 5,700 to Rs 2.53 lakh per kilogram in the national capital on Friday while gold fell to Rs 1.56 lakh per 10 grams amid subdued demand in the domestic market.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal plunged Rs 5,700, or 2.2 per cent, to Rs 2,53,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes).

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity also decreased Rs 1,600, or 1.01 per cent, to Rs 1,56,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

"Gold remained range-bound with subdued price

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Women's Quota Bill defeated; fails to get 2/3rd majority

NEW DELHI, APR 17: Despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging MPs to rise above partisan politics and consider the bill as a national commitment to women's empowerment, asking them to act with "complete sensitivity", the Women's Reservation Bill failed to clear a key hurdle after the Centre could not secure the votes needed for its passage in the Lok Sabha today.

The government needed a two-thirds majority to get the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, passed, but it fell short of the mark. The proposed legislation saw 298 MPs voting in its favour and 230 voting against.

Two other bills, including one for delimitation and increasing the number of seats in the Lok Sabha, were not put to vote after the first one lost, with the Centre saying they were "intrinsicly linked" to the legislation related to women's reservation.

The Lok Sabha debate, which went on till 1 am on Thursday and continued on Friday, saw the Centre making a forceful pitch for the reservation of 33 pc of seats in the lower house of parliament and state assemblies for women.

Leading the charge for the govern-

ment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought to allay a key fear of the Opposition parties and said he was personally guaranteeing that no injustice would be done to the southern states with the increase in seats in the Lok Sabha.

"Let all of us not miss this important opportunity to give reservation to women. I have come to appeal to you - do not see this from a political lens, this is in national interest," he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also assured the House on both days that the current representation of southern states would be preserved, or increase slightly, once the seats in the Lok Sabha were increased from the current 543 to roughly 816.

Both PM Modi and Shah also accused the Congress and other opposition parties of manufacturing issues to oppose the bill and deprive women of reservation. These parties, the BJP leaders said, would have to pay a price at the hustings for blocking the bill.

Shortly before the voting on the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, which provides for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, the PM appealed to all Lok Sabha members to vote in favour of the women's reservation bill and said the time had come

to ensure that half of the nation's population receives its rightful due in decision-making.

He urged all members not to do anything that may hurt the sentiments of women across India.

"Crores of women are watching us... our intent and our decisions. I once again request that everyone support the amendments to the Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam," Modi said in his appeal posted on X.

He said the proposed legislation to ensure reservation for women in legislative bodies is a significant opportunity to do justice to them.

"I would like to appeal to all members of Parliament... Please reflect upon your conscience, remembering the women in your own families. Please do not deprive our 'nari shakti' of new opportunities," he said.

The PM said Parliament is discussing the historic legislation that paves the way for reservation for women in legislative bodies.

He said the discussions, which began on Thursday, went on till around 1 am this morning and resumed after the House reconvened at 11 am on Friday. Modi said the government has addressed all apprehensions and misconceptions relating to the legislation with facts and logic. All concerns and

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India, China resume SCO talks as ties cautiously improve

NEW DELHI, APR 17: India and China held their first bilateral consultations on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) matters in the national capital, exchanging views on the implementation of SCO Leaders' decisions and the future course of the organisation.

According to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday, both sides agreed to continue and consolidate mutual cooperation and consultations within the SCO framework.

The consultations were

held in New Delhi on April 16 and April 17, with India's SCO National Coordinator Alok A Dimri and China's National Coordinator Yan Wenbin leading their respective delegations.

"Two sides exchanged views on implementation of SCO Leaders' Decisions, and the future-course of the organization. Both sides agreed to continue and consolidate mutual cooperation and consultations in SCO matters," the statement read.

Both delegations also jointly called on Secretary

(West) Sibi George to review ongoing cooperation within the SCO framework.

During the meeting, the delegations reviewed key aspects of SCO engagement and discussed ways to strengthen coordination on various fronts. They focused on advancing cooperation in areas such as security, trade, connectivity, and people-to-people exchanges.

"Both delegations, jointly, called on Secretary (West) Shri Sibi George to review cooperation within

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At UN, India flags attacks on shipping

UNITED NATIONS, APR 17: India has called for the immediate restoration of free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, saying attacks on commercial shipping during the ongoing conflict were unacceptable and that Indian seafarers had died in the course of the war.

"An aspect of particular concern for India for its energy and economic security relates to commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni said during a

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'Completely open' Iran restores Strait of Hormuz access for commercial vessels

TEHRAN, APR 17: A day after a 10-day ceasefire between Israel & Lebanon, Iran today said that the Strait of Hormuz was "completely open" for all commercial vessels.

"In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of the ceasefire," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X.

The announcement of the reopening of the vital waterway by Araghchi comes a day after US President Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel.

Araghchi, however, said the ships must sail "on the coordinated route as already announced" by the Ports and Maritime Organisation of Iran. Minutes later, President Trump also shared the announcement in a post on Truth Social.

"Iran has just announced that the Strait of Iran is fully open and ready for

full passage. Thank you!" Trump said, referring to the Strait of Hormuz. Iran effectively blocked the Strait of Hormuz following its conflict with the US and Israel, crippling global energy supplies.

Trump, however, said the naval blockade against Iran will remain in "full force" until Tehran reaches an agreement with the US to end the war.

He said the Strait of Hormuz "is completely open and ready for business and full passage, but the naval blockade will remain in full force and effect as it pertains to Iran, only, until such time as our transaction with Iran is 100 pc complete.

This process should go very quickly in that most of the points are already negotiated." The development comes a day after Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir held talks with top Iranian leadership in Tehran as part of Islamabad's efforts to resolve the conflict between the US

and Iran.

Munir, who led a high-level political-security delegation to Iran, met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and top Revolutionary Guards commanders on Thursday. Ghalibaf, who had led the Iranian delegation to Pakistan for talks with the US over the weekend, has urged the US to commit to any peace agreement in Lebanon.

Munir, the first foreign military leader to visit Tehran since a two-week ceasefire was agreed between Iran and the US last week, also visited the Khatam alAnbiya Central Headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards, where he met with its commander, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency.

During the meeting, he discussed with the commander of the IRGC the steps taken under the framework for ending the war and their recent talks

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India reviewing Bangladesh's request to extradite Sheikh Hasina

NEW DELHI, APR 17: In a delicate balancing act between legal obligations and regional diplomacy, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on Friday that it is officially reviewing a formal request for the extradition of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through established legal and judicial channels.

The announcement, delivered by MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, comes at a pivotal moment as India seeks to stabilise its partnership with the newly established govern-

ment in Dhaka following the dramatic political shifts of the "July Revolution."

"The request is being examined as part of ongoing judicial and internal legal processes. We will continue to engage constructively on the issue with all the stakeholders. We follow all developments very closely," said Jaiswal while addressing a weekly media briefing.

The extradition request, which India first acknowledged receiving in 2025, is now undergoing a rigorous assessment within India's judicial framework.

Jaiswal emphasised that the process is bound by internal legal protocols.

Despite the sensitivity surrounding Hasina's presence in India—where she has remained since her ouster in August 2024—New Delhi is signalling a "business-as-usual" approach toward the new administration.

"I would also like to emphasise that the External Affairs Minister reiterated India's desire to engage constructively with the new government and further strengthen bilateral ties,"

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Inducements worth Rs 865 cr seized in WB, Tamil Nadu: ECI

NEW DELHI, APR 17: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday announced that enforcement agencies could seize cash, liquor, drugs and other inducements worth Rs 865 crore in poll-bound West Bengal and Tamil Nadu as part of its election surveillance mechanism.

It further said that West Bengal accounted for seizures worth Rs 427 crore, while Tamil Nadu recorded Rs 438 crore, taking the combined total to Rs 865 crore since the Election Seizure Management System (ESMS) was acti-

vated on February 26, 2026. According to the official data released by the poll panel, the confiscations included cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals and other inducement items, which were meant for inducements to influence voters.

In West Bengal, authorities have seized goods and assets worth Rs 21 crore in cash, over 31 lakh litres of liquor, along with drugs, precious metals and other items valued at several crores. Tamil Nadu recorded higher cash and liquor-related seizures, along with significant re-

coveries of drugs and valuables.

The ECI said more than 5,000 Flying Squad Teams and over 5,300 Static Surveillance Teams have been deployed across both states to monitor violations and ensure swift action on complaints, with response times targeted within 100 minutes.

The Election Commission also said that it was closely monitoring enforcement activities to ensure that genuine voters are not inconvenienced during checks conducted by the

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Ukraine NSA meets EAM, Doval to discuss path to peace

NEW DELHI, APR 17: Ukraine's National Security Advisor Rustem Umerov met his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval and external affairs minister S Jaishankar on Friday to review bilateral relations and discuss efforts to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Umerov is the second high-ranking Ukrainian official, after foreign minister Andrii Sybaha, to travel to India following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Kyiv in August 2024.

Jaishankar said on social

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Omar meets delegations, assures time-bound redressal of public issues

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 17

Several legislators, delegations and individuals today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, raising several issues concerning them for redressal.

The chief minister assured them time-bound redressal of their issues.

Former minister & legislator Abdul Majid Wani, and former legislator Chaman Lal from Ramban, highlighted key concerns pertaining to their respective areas.



A delegation from the Indian Institute of Architects, J&K Chapter, led by its Chairman Vikas Dubey, apprised the chief minister of issues arising from recent amendments to the Unified Building Bye-

Laws.

Meanwhile, a delegation led by President, Jammu University Teachers Association (JUTA), Prof Ravinder Singh, presented matters concerning the

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Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti LG flags off 'Shobha Yatra'; prays for peace, prosperity

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 17

LG Manoj Sinha flagged off a grand Shobha Yatra to commemorate Bhagwan Parshuram ji Jayanti here today, and prayed for the peace & prosperity of J&K people.

The procession was flagged off by him from Chanakya Chowk at Parade in the heart of city amid tight security.

Earlier, the LG paid obeisance to Bhagwan Parshuram and prayed for peace,



progress, and prosperity for one and all.

The procession was organized by the Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, cel-

ebating the life and teachings of Bhagwan Parshuram, the sixth incarnation of Almighty Vishnu.

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PM's 'nefarious attempt' defeated: Cong

NEW DELHI, APR 17: The Congress on Friday said the "nefarious attempt" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to link their "dangerous delimitation proposals" with women's reservation had been decisively defeated in the Lok Sabha, describing the outcome as a victory for democracy and the Constitution.

The opposition party also said the defeat had raised questions over the legitimacy of what it termed the "non-biological, non-grihasthi PM."

In a post on X, Congress

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J&K shines in Mission Karmayogi JKIMPARD gets special Award for Excellence

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 17

The UT of Jammu & Kashmir has secured the prestigious third rank nationally under Mission Karmayogi during S?DHANA Saptah, marking a major milestone in institutionalising continuous learning and competency-driven governance among the civil servants.

The recognition reflects the Union Territory's structured implementa-



tion of reforms under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB). With a focus on role-based capacity building, compe-

tenency mapping and optimal use of iGOT Karmayogi digital platform, J&K has shown measurable progress in strength

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