



### Centre's Conspiracy To Change Federal Structure Defeated: Priyanka Gandhi On Women's Quota Row

### 'I Haven't Gone Under The Knife': Avneet Kaur Breaks Silence On Plastic Surgery And Botox Rumours

#### Darbar Move

### HC offices to close in Jammu on Apr 30

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has ordered the annual Darbar Move of its main wing from Jammu to Srinagar for the summer season of 2026.

As per the order, several offices, including the main wing of the high court, office of the principal secretary to chief justice, registrar vigilance, director of J&K Judicial Academy, Registrar Rules, Registrar IT, and the Central Project

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### Jawan injured in landmine blast

An Army jawan was injured in a landmine explosion near the Line of Control in Balakote area of Poonch today.

The explosion took place after an Agniveer inadvertently stepped on a landmine during an area domination patrol in the border area, officials said.

The jawan was wounded and evacuated to a medical facility by other troops ac

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### QR code-based ID system launched for pilgrims' safety

The authorities have introduced a unique QR code-based identification system for all tourism service providers for the safety of tourists in the valley's Pahalgam, which was rocked by a deadly attack last year orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists.

"The system enables easy identification and verification of genuine and registered service providers, including pony-ride operators, hawkers, business establishments, as well as outside vendors," officials said.

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### DA/DR hike approved for central employees, pensioners

NEW DELHI, APR 18: The government on Saturday increased Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by 2 per cent, benefiting about 50.46 lakh central government employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of an increase in both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs 6,791.24 crore per annum, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while briefing about decisions taken at

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### India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park to be set up in Ladakh



LEH, APR 18: In a landmark initiative to preserve Ladakh's ancient heritage, Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena today laid the foundation stone for India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park on the banks of the Indus River here on World Heritage Day.

Petroglyphs are prehis

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## 'Selfish politics, we'll be back'

# Oppn 'crushed women's dreams' by blocking Quota Bill: Modi

Apologies for setback

NEW DELHI, APR 18: Apologising to women after Lok Sabha rejected 33 pc reservation bill, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the opposition parties had "mercilessly crushed" the dreams of women by not allowing Quota Bill to pass in Parliament despite the government's best efforts.

In his address to the nation, a day after a bill to implement women's reservation in legislatures was defeated in the Lok Sabha, he said the self-serving politics of parties like the Congress, the DMK, the TMC, and the Samajwadi Party had come at the expense of the nation's women, and that they had foiled efforts to grant 33 per cent reservation to women in legislatures.



"I seek forgiveness from all women of the country," he said.

The prime minister said opposition parties, that opposed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam in Parliament, were taking women's power for granted.

"Today, every citizen of India is witnessing how the march of India's women has been halted. The dreams of the country's women have been mercilessly crushed, and despite

The prime minister said the bill was aimed at giving wings to women's empowerment without taking anything away from anyone.

"I expected the Congress to correct its past mistakes, but it missed an opportunity to script new history. The family-run parties do not want women to move forward as that could end their selfish politics," he said.

He also accused the Congress of pursuing divisive politics, alleging it spread falsehoods about a North-South divide "A woman forgets everything, but not her insult; this insult by the Congress and its allies will always remain in every woman's heart," he said.

Modi said the amendment to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam was the need of the hour and an honest effort to ensure balanced empowerment across north, south, east and west.

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## Don't fear AI; it's only aid, not substitute: CJI

BENGALURU, APR 18: Cautioning that the adoption of technology in the judiciary must be accompanied by a clear and conscious understanding of its inherent limitations, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday urged judicial officers not to be "afraid" of AI.

Asserting that technology must remain an aid, not a substitute, he said the integration of Artificial Intelligence into the judicial process must be guided by a principle of balance-leveraging its benefits to enhance efficiency



while steadfastly preserving the human intellect, experience, and constitutional conscience that lie at the heart of justice.

The chief justice was speaking at the 22nd biennial state-level conference of judicial officers, themed 'Reimagining the Judiciary in the Era of Artificial In-

telligence', organised by the Karnataka State Judicial Officers Association.

"I would also like to add that you should not be afraid of AI. What do you do when a case involving very complicated facts and complex questions of law is placed before you? You apply more thought, spend more time, exercise greater patience, and feel a sense of satisfaction when you decide such a case," Justice Kant said.

"The same will happen with AI tools when we begin using them carefully

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## Congress reiterates stand on women's reservation

### Targets govt over 'flip-flops'

NEW DELHI, APR 18: The Congress on Saturday reiterated that its position on the immediate implementation of women's reservation in legislatures has remained unchanged, while accusing the Modi government of repeatedly shifting its stance and attempting to introduce "insidious" changes to the country's political framework.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said the party, in its Nyay Patra

manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, had criticised what it called the government's "linking" of delimitation with women's reservation, and had committed to immediate implementation of the quota.

"Our stand has been consistent - in September 2023, June 2024, and now April 2026," Ramesh said in a post on X.

He alleged that the government had "consistently flip-flopped" on the issue, with its approach marked by what he described as in-

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## Cabinet extends rural roads scheme, increases outlay by Rs 3,727 cr

NEW DELHI, APR 18: The Centre on Saturday decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) beyond March 2025 till 2028-29, with an increase in the outlay by Rs 3,727 crore to Rs 83,977 crore.

A decision to this effect was taken during the meeting of the Union Cabinet, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This revised outlay of Rs 83,977 crore aims to boost the rural economy by improving market access and reducing transport costs. Extending validity of the

PMGSY-III, with an initial outlay of Rs 80,250 crore, was to be completed by March 2025.

The extension of the timeline, the government said, will "significantly boost the rural economy and trade by enhancing market access for agricultural and non-farm products, reducing transportation time and costs, and thereby improving rural incomes".

Of the revised outlay Rs 83,977 crore, the central government's share would be Rs 54,848 crore and states' Rs 29,129 crore. The

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### LS, RS adjourned sine die

NEW DELHI, APR 18:

The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on Saturday, drawing curtains on the Budget session that began in January.

As soon as the House met at 11 am, Speaker Om Birla read out his concluding remarks, following which he adjourned the House sine die (for an indefinite period).

The session concluded a day after a Constitution Amendment Bill to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies by 2029 by increasing the

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### Admin takes over 58 schools linked to banned Jel

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 18

The administration today ordered the takeover of management committees of 58 schools linked to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and its Falah-e-Aam Trust.

Official sources said the action follows adverse intelligence reports and the expiry of the schools' management validity.

The school education department invoked Ministry of Home Affairs notifications declaring JeI an un

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### Shabir Shah arrested in terror related case

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 18

Separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah was arrested by the NIA in connection with a three-decade-old terror case and remanded in the agency's custody for 10 days by a special court on Saturday.

He was arrested by the Srinagar branch of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in the 1996 case involving a terrorist attack on policemen during a terrorist's funeral, and was produced before the Patiala House Court in Delhi which

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## Drug-Free J&K Campaign

# LG joins padyatra at Rajouri, administers anti-drug pledge to officials

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 18

Under the Drug-Free J&K Campaign, LG Manoj Sinha today joined padyatra and addressed a public rally in Rajouri town of Jammu, besides administering an anti-drug pledge to officials.

"The border Rajouri district is sensitive & prone to cross-border drug smuggling. But we are determined to crush these challenges, dismantle the drug trade and liberate society from addiction," he said in his address.

"From April 11, police have launched a relentless crackdown in Jammu division. More than 45 FIRs were filed, 63 smugglers nabbed and massive drug hauls seized between April 11 & 15. Regular Checks are now covering schools, pharmacies, drug agencies and this drive will continue re-



lently," the LG said. He emphasised that not all wars rage on borders. He said some battles brew unseen and for years, countless J&K families have fought addiction within their walls and many have lost loved ones to it.

"On April 11, from the hallowed grounds of Jammu's M A Stadium, we sounded the clarion call to total war by launching a resolute 100-day crusade

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## Toy car bomb plot foiled; 4 terror suspects held with IED

NEW DELHI, APR 18:

Delhi police have arrested four 'radicalised' terror suspects from Maharashtra, Odisha and Bihar who allegedly planned terror activities, carried out reconnaissance of sensitive locations to target them and attempted to recruit others through encrypted online platforms.

An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and related material were seized during the operation, officials said.

Two of the accused were in the process of assembling a remote-controlled toy car fitted with an IED to

target crowded places, officials said.

The special cell apprehended two of the accused from Maharashtra and one each from Odisha and Bihar in a coordinated, intelligence-led operation, the officials added.

The four were influenced by extremist ideology centred around the idea of establishing a caliphate and were promoting narratives such as "Ghazwa-e-Hind", police said.

"They were also inspired by the concept of a 'Lashkar from Khurasan' carrying black flags, which they

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## Indian-flagged ships attacked in Hormuz as Iran reimposes restrictions

NEW DELHI, APR 18:

Two Indian-flagged ships were hit in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, shortly after Iran's military announced the closure of the waterway over the United States' plan to continue its naval blockade of Iranian ports.

Official sources said a convoy of 14 India-bound ships carrying crude oil and gas was stopped by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) after firing at two of the vessels while they were transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Following the firing, 13 of the

ships returned to different locations in the Persian Gulf.

Gunboats of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corp fired on a tanker in the strait northeast of Oman, the UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) said in an online statement.

"Tanker and crew are reported safe. Authorities are investigating."

The UKMTO said later that it also received a report of a container ship in the same area "being hit by an unknown projectile which caused damage to

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## Court seeks written submissions in Sonia Gandhi voter list inclusion case

NEW DELHI, APR 18:

A Delhi court has asked parties to file written submissions within a week in a case related to the alleged inclusion of Sonia Gandhi in the voter list.

During the proceedings, the senior counsel for the complainant concluded rebuttal arguments and also sought permission to place on record a report of the Election Commission of India.

listed for hearing on May 16.

In an earlier order dated December 9, 2025, Special Judge (Prevention of Corruption Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court agreed to examine the revision plea and issued notice to Sonia Gandhi as well as the Delhi Police, directing that the matter be taken up for further hearing.

The case stems from a complaint that was earlier dismissed by a Magistrate court, which declined to order registration of an FIR. The court had observed that the judiciary cannot

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