



Union Ministers Slam Oppn Over Defeat Of Women's Quota Bill, Accuse Them Of Prioritising Politics

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Raashii Khanna's Team Reacts to Rs 50,000 Theft Report, Denies Actor Was Targeted

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Security tightened ahead of Pahalgam attack

Security has been beefed up at tourist spots across Kashmir ahead of the first anniversary of Pahalgam terror attack in which 25 Hindu holiday-makers and a local were massacred by LeT terrorists on April 22 last year. The pilgrims were holidaying at Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam when terrorists had sprayed bullets on them, killing 25 of them. A local had also lost his life.

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Soldier found hanging at Nagrota camp

A soldier was found hanging inside Nagrota Army camp near here today.

According to officials, he was found hanging with a rope from the ceiling of his room in family quarters area of the camp at Nagrota in the early hours.

The body was shifted to the GMCH mortuary for medico-legal formalities. Preliminary reports suggest

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2 US nationals detained at Sgr airport with satellite phone

Two US nationals were today detained at Srinagar International Airport after authorities recovered a satellite phone from their luggage during routine checking.

Sources said a satellite phone was recovered from the luggage of two US nationals during routine security checking at Srinagar airport. Soon thereafter, security agencies took them into custody for questioning, the sources added.

The use of satellite phones is strictly regulated in the Kashmir, and possession without prior

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11,000 posts violating election guidelines removed

NEW DELHI, APR 19: According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), more than 11,000 social media posts were found to be in violation of election guidelines and have been acted upon since March 15.

Additionally, 3,10,393 complaints were resolved through the C-Vigil app, achieving a 96.01 pc resolution rate within 100 minutes.

The ECI underscored the need for strict adherence to legal norms governing social media and AI-generated content during the 2026 Assembly elections across five

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For PM, women's reservation matter of faith: Jitendra



SHIMLA, APR 19: "For Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women's reservation is a matter of faith and commitment, not mere legislation," said Union Minister Jitendra Singh, underscoring that over the past decade, women-centric governance has been at the

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TMC govt allocating more resources for 'madrasa education': Modi

Accuses it of 'favouring infiltration'

PURULIA, APR 19: **Accusing the TMC government in West Bengal of favouring infiltration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today alleged that Mamata-led regime was allocating more resources for 'madrasa education' in the state.**



He also accused the TMC-led government of changing the state's language and culture through "infiltration" and neglecting the rights of tribal communities by favouring what he described as "appeasement politics."

He accused chief minister Mamata Banerjee-led government of pursuing politics that favoured "infiltrators" over the native population.

In Purulia, the PM accused TMC government of allocating more resources for "madrasa education."

"The Santali language is being humiliated while a

record budget is allocated for madrasa education. This is nothing but appeasement," the prime minister alleged while addressing back-to-back rallies in the tribal dominated districts such as Purulia, Bankura and Jhargram deprived of roads, drinking water, jobs and other basic amenities.

Referring to the Mamata-led regime as "Maha jungleraj," PM Modi accused it of leaving tribal-dominated districts such as Purulia, Bankura and Jhargram deprived of roads, drinking water, jobs and other basic amenities.

"Under TMC's Maha jungleraj, tribal-dominated

districts are lagging in development and basic amenities," he alleged.

Modi also accused the ruling party of grabbing tribal land through a network of local syndicates.

"The TMC syndicate has occupied the land of the tribals. Nothing gets done without paying cut money to the ruling party," he alleged.

In apparent reference to the defeat of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha, PM Modi accused the TMC of opposing women's reservation,

alleging that the party "feared" women legislators. "The TMC feared that if more women MLAs were elected, they would raise their voice for women's rights. That is why it opposed the reservation for women. At the time of voting, you must punish TMC for this crime as well," he said.

The Prime Minister alleged that corruption and extortion had paralysed both governance and economic activities in the state.

"In TMC's jungle raj, nothing gets done without bribery. When bribery is forced, how will industry thrive? Therefore, the industry is also in dire straits here," he said.

Linking corruption with unemployment, Modi claimed that West Bengal had witnessed "dangerous" levels of joblessness during the TMC's 15 years in power.

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Will implement women's reservation: Rajnath

TAMIL NADU, APR 19: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday slammed the Congress and DMK over the defeat of the amendment bill regarding the Women's Reservation Act in Parliament but said the government was determined to implement it and that "no power in the world can stop us," from doing so.

Addressing a poll rally in support of BJP candidate Ananthan Ayyasamy here in Tenkasi district for the April 23 Assembly polls, he lashed out at the ruling DMK over corruption and

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Oppn 'played with fire', conspired to derail Quota Bill: Puri

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 19



Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri today alleged that opposition parties, led by Congress, "hatched a conspiracy" to derail the Women's Reservation Bill, warning they had "played with fire" and would face serious consequences.

"Even at the last minute, the government made efforts to accommodate the opposition's concerns to ensure passage of the bill," he said while addressing a press conference here alongside Rajya Sabha MP Rekha Sharma.

"The bill was not merely a political issue but a social cause aiming to ensure equitable representation," Puri said and maintained that opposition would face the consequences of public backlash.

He said Home Minister Amit Shah had appealed in the House for an hour to incorporate suggestions, but the offer was rejected.

"They were not interested in constructive engage-

ment. This was a deliberate attempt to derail the discussion and stall a historic reform," Puri said.

He said all of this was part of a conspiracy by Congress and its alliance parties, including DMK, TMC and Samajwadi Party, and they do not want this to be implemented before the 2029 elections.

"However, after listening carefully to the address to the nation by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, it is clear that the national mood is still in favour of implementing this before 2029," the minister added.

Calling the bill a "trans-

formative step" in India's democratic journey, the minister said the move seeks to transition from women-centric welfare to women-led development.

He reiterated that the government has been committed to 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures since 2014, when it was clearly outlined in the BJP's manifesto.

Highlighting the government's track record, Puri pointed to schemes focused on women's empowerment, including the construction of around 11 crore toilets and nearly three crore houses under the Pradhan

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Interstate terror module unravelled

LeT terrorist 'Khargosh' escaped India with fake passport

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, APR 19: Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Umer Harris, alias 'Khargosh' (rabbit), is believed to be in Saudi Arabia after managing to escape the country using a forged passport issued in the name of Sajjad, claiming to be a resident of Rajasthan.

Srinagar police, spearheading the investigation into the inter-state LeT terror module, has shared details with central intelligence agencies, raising concerns about systemic

loopholes that allow such abuse, according to officials.

"While the case, registered by J&K police earlier this month, is likely to be taken over by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), details have been shared with the state police forces concerned to facilitate urgent action and plug the gaps," officials said.

Contrary to earlier reports stating that Harris hailed from Karachi, it has emerged that he is from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Pakistan. He joined the LeT to evade police prosecution as he had several arson cases pending against him in Karachi. He was pushed by the terror group into Jammu and Kashmir in 2012.

Harris earned the alias 'Khargosh' as he could hop from place to place in no time, evading the security dragnet.

According to investigations and interrogations of the arrested accused, Harris, after infiltrating into

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EAM meets S Korea Prez, says talks will deepen strategic ties

NEW DELHI, APR 19: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Sunday called on South Korean President Lee Jae-myung, who is on a State visit to India and said that the talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi tomorrow would further flip the Special Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

In a post on X, he praised President Lee Jae-myung's commitment to deepen ties and said, "Honoured to call on President Jaemyung Lee of the Republic of Korea as he be-



gins his State Visit to India. Value his commitment to

deepen India-Korea relations across multiple domains. Confident that his talks tomorrow with PM Narendra Modi will fur-

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23 killed in firecracker factory blast

NEW DELHI, APR 19: At least 23 people, including women workers at a private firecracker manufacturing unit, were killed and several injured in an explosion at Kattanarpatti in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Sunday.

"So far, we have recovered 23 bodies. The identification process is going on" a government official said.

A fire department official said about 30 workers were at the unit when the incident occurred at around 3:30 pm on Sunday.

According to officials, the blast occurred on the front

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Radhakrishnan calls on Dissanayake, discusses strengthening of ties

COLOMBO, APR 19: Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan today met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo and discussed various initiatives, including the Indian housing project and fishermen's issues between the two South Asian neighbours.

Radhakrishnan, who arrived in the Sri Lankan capital earlier in the day on a two-day visit, also discussed ongoing Indian projects in Sri Lanka, with emphasis on the USD 450 million Cyclone Ditwah aid



extended by India.

Accompanied by a 49-member delegation, the vice-president was received at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo

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by Sports Minister Sunil Kumara Gamage and other dignitaries. Radhakrishnan's visit is the first by an Indian vice

IAF to get compact UAV system

NEW DELHI, APR 19: The government has started the process for procurement of a compact unmanned aerial vehicle system for the elite Special Forces unit of the IAF that can operate in extreme environmental conditions, and at altitudes up to 16,400 feet above mean sea level, according to officials.

The planned system is intended for "high-altitude surveillance" and operational support across a range of terrain and climatic conditions. It is also envisaged to have an increased range and endurance level, compared to the existing

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EC adds 7 lakh new voters to WB electoral rolls ahead of polls

NEW DELHI, APR 19: The Election Commission has added nearly seven lakh new voters to the electoral rolls of West Bengal, just days before the state's assembly elections. However, the Commission has not disclosed the age or gender breakdown of this additional electorate.

A senior poll official said that around 3.22 lakh of these new voters will cast their ballots in the first phase, while nearly 3.88 lakh will vote in the second phase. The poll body has not specified how many of these new entrants are

first-time voters, who have just turned 18.

"The aggregate figures have been released in line with norms. Detailed data is maintained separately and may be shared later if required," the official stated.

The total electorate in the state now stands at 6,82,51,008, a number that may rise if further names are added following tribunal orders.

West Bengal is scheduled to go to the polls in two phases, on April 23 and 29, with the vote count set for May 4.

Last week, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to issue a supplementary revised electoral roll, incorporating voters whose appeals against the deletion of their names are upheld by the appellate tribunals in West Bengal.

To handle the process, the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court has set up 19 tribunals, led by former high court chief justices and judges, to decide on appeals against name deletions from the voters' list.

Additionally, around 700

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Cong demands implementation of quota law on current LS strength

NEW DELHI, APR 19: The Congress on Sunday demanded immediate implementation of women's reservation on the existing Lok Sabha strength, as it staged a protest against the Modi government, accusing it of deliberately delaying women's quota for political reasons.

The protest by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee comes two days after the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill - to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures in 2029 and increase the number of Lok Sabha seats to 816 - was

defeated in the Lok Sabha. Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh, who participated in the protest, said, "When the Bill was passed, we (the Congress) demanded that the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' be implemented from the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. That demand was ignored and we were told the date when it would be enforced would be notified later. They kept silent for nearly 30 months. Suddenly, on the night of April 16, the Bill was notified."

Ramesh alleged that

when it became clear that the Bill with provisions for delimitation would not pass due to opposition unity, the government "rushed to notify the women's reservation law" and is now claiming that the Congress is against women's reservation. The protest, led by Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav, saw party workers march towards the BJP headquarters, raising slogans as part of their demonstration.

Among those present were senior leaders, including All India Mahila

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Indian tanker crosses Hormuz safely after 2 ships reversed course

NEW DELHI, APR 19: An Indian-flagged crude tanker passed safely through the Strait of Hormuz, while two other vessels were forced to retreat after coming under fire, leading India to raise safety concerns with Iran over merchant shipping.

Crude oil tanker Desh Garima, with 31 Indian seafarers onboard, crossed the strategic waterway on April 18 and is expected to reach Mumbai on April 22, according to an update released by the government on developments in West Asia.

Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) tanker is the 10th India-flagged vessel to have crossed the strait since early March.

In contrast, very large crude carrier Samnar Herad and bulk carrier Jag Arnav reported a firing incident while transiting the strait in the past 24 hours and returned to the Persian Gulf.

No injuries were reported among the crew. MarineTraffic data showed oil tankers Desh Vaibhav and Desh Vibhor also reversing course near the chokepoint, taking the

number of India-flagged ships in the Persian Gulf to 14.

The foreign secretary summoned Iran's ambassador in New Delhi to convey "deep concern" over the incident and underscored the importance of ensuring the safety of merchant shipping and mariners.

He urged Tehran to relay India's position to its authorities and to resume facilitating India-bound vessels through the route at the earliest.

"The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in

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