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NIA attaches plot belonging to terror accused

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today attached a plot of land belonging to a terror accused in Budgam district of Kashmir.

The attached property falls in S K Bagh area of Budgam, according to officials.

"It belongs to Tafazul Hussain Parimoo, a resident of Sheikh-ul-Alam Colony in Nowgam," officials said.

"Parimoo is presently in NIA custody in a case reg

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Girdawar, forest guard placed under suspension

A revenue official and a forest guard have placed under suspension in Samba and Doda districts respectively for alleged dereliction of duty.

In Samba district, deputy commissioner Ayushi Soodan ordered the suspension of girdawar Pankaj Singh Jamwal for failure to complete the digitisation of revenue records within stipulated timeframe de

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Residences of 2 drug peddlers demolished

The district administration today demolished residential properties of two drug peddlers on the outskirts of Jammu city as part of its crackdown on the assets linked to persons involved in drug trafficking and trade.

Bulldozers, accompanied by police, rolled into Indra Nagar colony of Miran Sahib and razed the houses of two drug peddlers in the area, officials said.

The action against the duo, booked under the provisions of NDPS Act,

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Gold Futures drops to Rs 1.51 lakh/10g

NEW DELHI, APR 24: Gold prices fell Rs 462 to Rs 1.51 lakh per 10 grams in futures trade on Friday, tracking weak global trends amid a stronger US dollar and rising crude oil rates.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the yellow metal for June delivery declined Rs 462, or 0.3 per cent, to Rs 1,51,299 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 8,310 lots.

Analysts said pressure on precious metals came from a firm dollar and elevated energy prices, as well as heightened inflation concerns.

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RBI cancels banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank

MUMBAI, APR 24: The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it has cancelled the banking licence issued to Paytm Payments Bank.

The licence was cancelled as the "affairs of the bank were conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of the bank and its depositors", the RBI said in a statement.

"The general character of the management of the bank is prejudicial to the interest of depositors as also the public interest," it said.

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'Death knell for jungle raj'

Phase-1 polling signals 'wave of change', TMC shaken: Modi

KOLKATA, APR 24: Asserting that the massive turnout in the first phase of polling had sounded the "death knell" for the Trinamool Congress (TMC) regime, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today declared that the ruling party had "lost its nerve" in the face of an undeniable wave of change.

"The overwhelming participation of people has already ensured an end to the TMC's 'maha jungle raj' marked by systemic corruption, misrule, and the influence of infiltrators," he said while addressing a high-decibel election rally at Panihati under Dum Dum Lok Sabha constituency in North 24 Parganas.

"The wave of change that had been visible in Bengal for a long time - yesterday's first phase of voting has put its seal on it. The support shown yesterday in favour



of BJP has sounded the conch shell of its victory," he said.

He issued a stern warning to those allegedly engaging in political intimidation, stating that after the results were declared on May 4, TMC "goons" would find no place to hide and no one to protect them from the law.

"The first phase of polling has marked the end of the TMC's 'maha jungle raj'," he claimed.

Nearly 92 per cent of the 3.60 crore electors turned up to vote in the first phase

of the West Bengal assembly polls on Thursday.

"In Bengal, where the TMC had crushed the temple of democracy with its dictatorship, people have started reconstructing the temple of democracy. Now, in the second phase, you have to unfurl the victory flag over this temple," the prime minister said.

He claimed that the TMC was "extremely rattled" after the first phase of polling and alleged that the ruling party had mobilised its "goons" through the night. Stepping up his attack

on the ruling party over women's safety, Modi described the TMC as an "anti-women party" and said the BJP believed in a "women-led development model".

Referring to women candidates fielded by the BJP, Modi said the party had given representation to those who had suffered injustice.

"This mother helped her daughter become a doctor. But that daughter was taken away from her by the TMC. We have made that mother a candidate," Modi said while referring to the party's Panihati candidate, the mother of the RG Kar rape-murder victim.

"The BJP has also given an opportunity to the victim of Sandeshkhali to lead. When the women of Bengal ask for justice, the TMC tells them not to step out of their homes," Modi alleged. West Bengal yesterday

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'Anga, Banga, Kalinga' will see BJP govts next month: Amit Shah

KOLKATA, APR 24: Asserting that voters had turned out in large numbers seeking change, Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said that "Anga, Banga and Kalinga" regions would see BJP governments next month, referring to ancient kingdoms of eastern India. He also cited the reported over 92 per cent voter turnout in the first phase.

"Anga, Banga and Kalinga" are three ancient kingdoms from eastern India that represented the regions of modern-day Bihar, Bengal, and Odisha,



the first phase polls held on Thursday," the Union Minister, who has been campaigning in the state as party's star campaigner after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said while speaking to reporters here.

He claimed that the BJP would form the government in West Bengal with an absolute majority next month, adding that a Bengali leader educated in a Bengali-medium school would become the Chief Minister.

The second phase of polling for the remaining

Barrier-free tolling from Dec: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, APR 24: Seamless, barrier-free tolling on several national highways across the country will be implemented by December, road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

Addressing the second edition of Logistics Shakti Summit & Awards 2026, he

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SC refuses to entertain pleas of those on election duty in Bengal

NEW DELHI, APR 24: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain petitions filed by several individuals from West Bengal, including 65 people deployed on election duty, challenging the deletion of their names from the voter list after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The court directed them to seek relief before the designated appellate tribunals.

"You have to raise these arguments before the (appellate) tribunal," a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices

Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi told counsel appearing for the petitioners in two separate pleas.

The petitioners' counsel argued that 65 of those affected were currently on election duty in the state.

"The order issued for election duty mentioned the EPIC (electors photo identity card) number, which was deleted subsequently. Now, the people on election duty cannot vote. This, on the face, is arbitrary," the counsel argued.

He submitted that the deletion of their names

Oppn moves fresh notice in RS to remove CEC

NEW DELHI, APR 24: Opposition parties today submitted a fresh notice in the Rajya Sabha seeking a motion for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, sources said. The fresh charges against the CEC include "continued partisan asymmetry in the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct".

The opposition has accused the poll panel of not acting on complaints against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "address to the nation" on April 18, ahead of assembly elec

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Investigations initiated against 48 drug peddlers: LG

Participates in anti-drug rally at Reasi

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 24

LG Manoj Sinha, who today participated in a massive anti-drug rally taken out at Reasi under Nasha-Mukt J&K Campaign, said that financial investigations had been initiated against 48 drug peddlers.

In his address on the occasion, he urged communities, institutions, and individuals to unite in fight against drug abuse, a crisis he warned was eroding the very foundations of society from within.

The LG appealed for a broad-based people's movement while highlighting that for the past 12 days, a collective force had risen across the Union Territory against drugs, and people were resolutely committed to the objective to make this land free from narcotics.

Highlighting the achievement of the campaign in the past 12 days, he said in Jammu division, between April 11 & April 22, a large



number of cases were registered and several drug smugglers were arrested.

He said narcotics valued at nearly Rs 3 cr had been seized and about Rs 1 cr worth movable and immovable properties were attached.

"Properties of drug smugglers have been demolished. 187 driving licences and four vehicle registrations have also been cancelled. Financial investigations have been initiated against 48 drug peddlers. Drug and chemist shops have been inspected, and 15

drug store licences have been cancelled. Drug users have been referred to de-addiction and rehabilitation centres and counselling has also been extended to drug users," he added.

"1,947 women committees have been established across districts in Jammu division since the beginning of the campaign on April 11 and with the support of mothers and sisters, this cancer in society will be cured," he said.

"We must build a historic movement, one that rises

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7 AAP Rajya Sabha MPs quit party; to join BJP

NEW DELHI, APR 24: In a massive jolt to the Aam Aadmi Party, seven of its Rajya Sabha MPs, including Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal, today quit the party.

"Two-thirds of the Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MPs have quit the party and will join the BJP as a faction," Chadha, flanked by Pathak and Mittal, said while addressing a press conference here.

Chadha said that party MPs Harbhajan Singh and Swati Maliwal were also quitting the AAP.

"AAP, that I nurtured with my blood and sweat and to which I gave 15 years of my youth, has completely strayed from its principles, values and core morals," he said.

Chadha was recently removed as the deputy leader of AAP in the Rajya Sabha

and was replaced by Mittal in the Upper House.

"In the Rajya Sabha, the Aam Aadmi Party has 10 MPs. More than two-thirds of them are with us in this initiative.

"They have already signed, and this morning we submitted all the required documentation, including signed letters and other formal paperwork, to the chairman of the Rajya Sabha," Chadha told reporters.

Hitting out at Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP, Chadha said that the party is no longer working for the country, but for its own benefit.

"Over the past few years, I have increasingly felt that I am the right person in the wrong party. Today, I announce my decision to move away from AAP and work

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Foreign debit cards, FCRA violations under ED scanner

NEW DELHI, APR 24: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has uncovered a suspected cross-border financial network involving the use of foreign bank debit cards to withdraw large sums of cash across India, allegedly to fund activities of an unregistered organisation.

The discovery was made following ED raids at six locations across multiple states on April 18 and 19 as part of a probe into the activities linked to The Timothy Initiative (TTI) in India. TTI is not registered

under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), which governs the inflow of foreign funds into the country.

According to the ED, its investigation found that debit cards issued by Truist Bank in the United States were brought into India and used to withdraw cash repeatedly from ATMs in different states.

"The withdrawn money was allegedly utilised to meet expenses related to TTI's operations in India, bypassing established regulatory channels," an ED

spokesperson said in a statement on Friday.

The agency intercepted one individual, identified as Micah Mark, at Bengaluru International Airport based on a lookout circular. "He was found carrying 24 foreign debit cards. Subsequent investigation revealed that these cards were part of a larger network involving multiple individuals across the country," the spokesperson added.

"Probe has revealed that suspicious withdrawals

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High-level team conducts safety inspection of rail bridges over Ravi

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 24

Asking engineers to remain prepared for the upcoming monsoon season, a high-level team of the Indian Railways on Friday conducted a comprehensive safety and technical inspection of rail bridges over the Ravi river in Kathua-Madhupur section of Jammu division.

According to officials, the detailed inspection focused on a critical rail bridge spanning Ravi river between Kathua in Jammu

and Madhopur in Punjab. The primary objective was to assess ongoing repair work on rail bridge number 17, which had sustained damage due to heavy rainfall in 2025, officials said.

During the visit, officials carried out an in-depth analysis of key structural and safety parameters, including the condition of pillars and foundations of the bridge.

Given the strategic importance of the route connecting J&K and Punjab, particular emphasis was laid on evaluating its load-bearing capacity and long-

India-US trade talks made positive progress: Govt

NEW DELHI, APR 24: The government today said the three-day trade talks between India and the United States had made positive progress, with both countries agreeing to sustain the momentum going forward.

The talks conducted in Washington during April 20-22 sought to finalise the details of the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement (BTA) between the two countries.

In a statement, the Union Ministry of Commerce explained that the talks deliberated on issues including market access, non-tariff measures, technical barriers

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Country that values workers' dignity unstoppable: Mandaviya

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 24

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya today said a country that values the dignity of its workers is unstoppable on the path of progress, asserting that their welfare must, therefore, remain at the centre of governance.

"A country that values the dignity of its workers is unstoppable on the path of progress," he said in his address after inaugurating a 30-bedded Employees' State Insurance Corpora-



tion (ESIC) Hospital at Ompora in Budgam district of the valley.

The newly inaugurated ESIC hospital in Kashmir, marking a historic milestone in the expansion of worker welfare services in the region.

"Our social security coverage has risen from 19 per cent in 2015 to 64.3 per

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