



British Indian bookseller to judge inaugural Children's Booker Prize

Rashmika Mandanna To Return As Presenter At Anime Awards 2026 Alongside The Weeknd

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Summer zone schools to start at 8 am from May 1

The authorities concerned have ordered that all summer zone schools in Jammu region would start at 8 am from May 1. The Directorate of School Education, Jammu, ordered a change in school timings for all government and recognised private schools up to higher secondary level in summer zone areas of Jammu division, with the new schedule coming into effect from May 1. According to the order, **Cont. on P9 >**

4 teachers suspended

The chief education officer, Rajouri, has placed four teachers of Middle School, Nambian, under suspension with immediate effect after a surprise inspection found them absent from duty without sanctioned leave. According to the order, an inspection was conducted in the school by the authorities concerned after a complaint was received about the unauthorised absence of teachers in the **Cont. on P9 >**

1,785 police personnel promoted

The authorities concerned have ordered the promotion of 1,785 police personnel to their next ranks. According to officials, the promotees included head constables, selection grade constables, and constables. A departmental promotion committee assessed the suitability of their eligibility before approving the promotions, officials said. The promoted personnel included 300 head constables as ASIs, 1,020 selection grade constables as head constables and 465 constables as selection grade cops, the officials added.

Govt hikes passenger fare by 18 pc

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 29
The government today approved an 18 pc increase in maximum chargeable fare for various categories of commercial passenger vehicles across the Union Territory. According to a notification issued by the transport department, the revised fare will apply to big buses, medium and mini buses, taxis, maxi cabs, tourist cabs, auto-rickshaws and Tata Magic vehicles. The order has been issued **Cont. on P9 >**

CBSE launches 'Parenting Calendar'

NEW DELHI, APR 29: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday launched the 'Parenting Calendar' for the academic session 2026-27, aimed at strengthening structured engagement between schools and parents and promoting students' holistic well-being. The calendar was launched through a live event streamed on CBSE's official YouTube channel, with participation from school principals, teachers, counsellors, wellness educators and parents. **Cont. on P9 >**

Exit polls predict BJP win in Assam, edge in Bengal

DMK to return in TN, UDF in Kerala

NEW DELHI, APR 29: Several exit polls today predicted a thumping victory for BJP in Assam and a clear edge for the party over the ruling TMC in West Bengal, while projecting a return of DMK government in Tamil Nadu and a comeback by the Congress-led UDF in Kerala after 10 years.

The pollsters also forecast a return to power for the AINRC-led NDA government in Puducherry.

Axis My India predicted a sweep for the BJP in Assam, forecasting 88-100 seats for the BJP and its allies and 24-36 seats for the Congress and its partners.

People's Pulse predicted that the NDA would get 68-72 seats while the Congress plus would secure in the range of 22-26 seats.

Matrize said the NDA is likely to get between 85-95 seats and the Congress and its allies 25-32. The Assam assembly has 126 seats with the magic mark being 64.

In Kerala, Axis My India forecast that the UDF would get 78-90 seats, LDF 49-62 and NDA 0-3.

People's Pulse predicted that the Congress-led UDF would get 75-85 seats, the LDF 55-65 and the NDA 0-3.

Matrize forecast 60-65 seats for the

LDF, 70-75 seats for the UDF and 3-5 seats for the NDA. Kerala Assembly has a total of 140 seats with the magic mark being 71.

In West Bengal, the People's Pulse exit poll predicted that the TMC would get 177-187 seats, BJP 95-110, Left Front 0-1 and the Congress 1-3.

Matrize, however, predicted a BJP edge in the state, and said it is likely to get 146-161 seats. It said the TMC would get 125-140 seats.

P-Marq predicted 150-175 for the BJP and 118-138 to the TMC.

West Bengal has a total of 294 seats with the majority mark being 148.

In Tamil Nadu, the People's Pulse predicted 125-145 for the DMK-led alliance, 65-80 for AIADMK-BJP and 18-24 for TVK.

Matrize forecast that the DMK-Congress would get 122-132, NDA 87-100 and TVK 10-12.

The Tamil Nadu has a total of 234 seats with the magic mark being 118.

Most exit polls have had a chequered history and have been off the mark on several occasions in the past.

In Puducherry, Axis My India predicted 16-20 seats for the NDA and 6-8 for the DMK-Congress. It said the TVK is likely to get 2-4 seats in the assembly. There are 30 elected seats in Puducherry.

The counting of votes for all the five assemblies - West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Assam - will be taken up on May 4.

Polls were conducted in a single phase in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. West Bengal saw two-phase polling on April 23 and 29.

On April 9, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry went to polls. Assam and Puducherry surpassed their highest-ever poll participation by recording a voter turnout of 85.38 per cent and 89.83 per cent respectively.

Tamil Nadu went to polls on April 23 along with the first phase of polls in West Bengal. Tamil Nadu with 84.69 per cent recorded their highest-ever voter turnout in Assembly polls since Independence.

In the first phase, West Bengal had recorded a record 91.78 per cent voter turnout.

While the BJP is seeking to retain power in Assam and Puducherry, where it is in an alliance government with All India N R Congress, the Congress is looking to wrest power from its rival in both these places.

In Kerala, the Congress-led UDF is seeking to replace the LDF government that is in power, while in Tamil Nadu, the DMK-led alliance is looking

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Vaishnav to flag off Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 29

Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav is all set to flag off a 20-coach Vande Bharat Express train between Jammu and Srinagar on Thursday, while the services for the general public **Cont. on P9 >**

Panchayat Electoral Roll revision extended

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 29

The State Election Commission has extended the deadline for filing claims and objections for the revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls to May 5, with April 1, 2026 as qualifying date.

"The extension follows requests from several districts. The revised schedule is in continuation of its notification issued on March 25, 2026," the commission said in a communication issued here today.

Under the revised sched **Cont. on P9 >**

Weather radars increased from 14 to 50: Jitendra



NEW DELHI, APR 29: India has significantly expanded its Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) network since 2014, increasing from 14 operational units to 50, marking over 250 pc rise. These additions, covering over 87 pc of the country, improve forecasting for cyclones, heavy rain, and thunderstorms under the **Cont. on P9 >**

LG directs to fortify security grid ahead of Amarnath Yatra



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 29

In a high-level security review meeting held here today, LG Manoj Sinha directed the authorities concerned to fortify security grid on the eve of forthcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra in South Kashmir Himalayas. He also enquired about the progress on 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan'.

In the meeting, he reviewed security scenario, progress on Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan and district-

wise preparations for the forthcoming pilgrimages.

On the occasion, the LG issued a firm directive to fortify the security grid through unwavering coordination among all security forces, ensuring a seamless and impenetrable shield against emerging threats.

Among others, the meeting was attended by chief secretary Atal Dullo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, principal secretary (home department) Chandraker Bharti, special DG coordination (PHQ) S J M Gillani, ADGP (CID) Nitish Kumar, LG's principal secretary Man-

deep Bhandari, health & medical education department secretary M Raju, social welfare department secretary Sarmad Hafeez, school education department secretary Ram Niwas Sharma, divisional commissioner, Jammu, IGP Jammu, DIGs, deputy commissioners & SSPs of Jammu division.

During the meeting, the deputy commissioners and SSPs apprised the LG of the law and order and security scenario in their respective districts. They also gave details on the **Cont. on P9 >**

Highest ever poll percentage in Bengal since Independence: CEC

NEW DELHI, APR 29: Bengal clocked its highest ever percentage of polling since Independence in both phases of the Assembly election, chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said after voting ended for the second and final phase on Wednesday.

"Highest ever percentage of polling in West Bengal in both Phase I & II since Independence - chunav ka parv, Paschim Bengal ka garv (election season, pride of Bengal)," Kumar said.

The BJP's Svendun Adhikari, who is up against



Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata's Bhabanipur in the election's battle royale, said over 90 per cent of the constituency's electorate had voted, which was a record for the seat.

In 2021, Bhabanipur had registered 82 per cent voting and 78 per cent in the

2024 Lok Sabha election, the leader of Opposition in the outgoing Assembly said.

"And at that time, the ruling party had put nearly 10 per cent false votes - dead, fake, double, triple entries," he said.

"Today, they could manage around 10 false votes, in which there are four-five votes from ward 77. Men were voting in burqas. We caught them also. They fled. When I reached there, they raise the slogan of Bangladeshi Muslims - Joy Bangla. That is because I **Cont. on P9 >**

Targeting ships in Hormuz highly deplorable, unacceptable: India

UNITED NATIONS, APR 29: India has deplored the targeting of commercial ships crossing through the Strait of Hormuz, saying such acts were unacceptable.

"Attempts to target commercial ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz is highly deplorable," Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Yagna Patel said.

In her statement at the UN Security Council, she said that the current situation in the Strait of Hormuz was of great concern for In-

dia in terms of the country's energy and economic security.

Patel stressed that India sees maritime security and the protection of waterways as essential to global security and economy.

"As a major trading nation, India strongly deplores the recent targeting of commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and the endangerment of innocent civilian crew members. Such actions have resulted in the tragic loss of precious lives of Indian seafarers and are

unacceptable," she said during the debate held under the Council Presidency of Bahrain.

India reiterated that freedom of navigation and global commerce through the Strait of Hormuz must be fully respected in accordance with international law and urged that safe and unimpeded maritime passage be restored at the earliest.

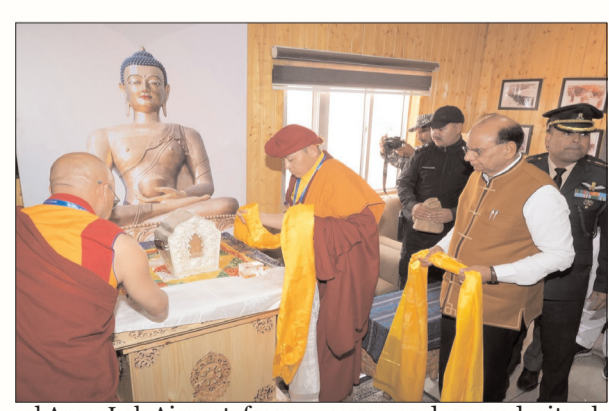
India is among the top three seafarer-supplying nations, contributing approximately 13 per cent of **Cont. on P9 >**

Holy Buddha relics arrive in Leh, LG accords ceremonial welcome

Himalayan Mail News LEH, APR 29

Amid deep spiritual fervour and an atmosphere imbued with devotion, the holy Piprahwa relics of Tathagatha Buddha arrived here today, marking the commencement of a historic spiritual celebration in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena accorded a warm and reverential welcome to the sacred relics upon their arrival at the Techni-



cal Area, Leh Airport, from New Delhi, where the holy relics are originally preserved. Traditional performances, ceremonial hon-

ours, and sacred rituals marked the reception ceremony. The relics, brought from Delhi by Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche and **Cont. on P9 >**