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## BRIEF

### 2 labourers die after falling into trench

**Srinagar :** Two labourers died while two were rescued after they slipped and fell into a trench in Chakpora area of Kulgam on Friday. An official told that they were working in the trench when suddenly they slipped and fell into it. "Soon after the incident police, locals rushed to spot and rescued them. The official said they were shifted to a hospital, where of two among them died. The deceased have been identified as Maqbool Dar of Kulgam and Aziz ur Rehman of Bengal.

### Woman dies after mudslide hit kotha

**Srinagar :** A woman died after a mudslide damaged a temporary Kotha in Kokernag area of Anantnag district on Friday. An official told that a mudslide due to incessant rains at Takiya Magam, Kokernag damaged one Kotha belonging to Ab Hamid son of Ab Rehman Ahanger. He said that in the incident his wife Saleema Begum came under the debris and received injuries who was shifted to GMC Anantnag for treatment where she succumbed. Meanwhile authorities have taken cognizance of the incident.

### ED files prosecution complaint against 9 accused in court

**Srinagar, Apr 19 :** The Enforcement Directorate has filed a prosecution complaint under the provisions of the PMLA, 2002 before the special court Srinagar against 9 accused. In post on X, ED, said that complaint was filed against Mohammad Akbar Bhat, Mrs. Fatima Shah, Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Qazi Yasir, Mohammad Abdullah Shah, Sabzar Ahmad Sheikh, Manzoor Ahmad Shah, Mohammad Iqbal Mir and Syed Khalid Geelani alias Khalid Andrabi. It added that the court has taken cognizance of the complaint.

### Senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat appointed as NSG chief, Sapna Tewari as Special DG IB

**New Delhi, Apr 19 :** Senior IPS officer Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the chief of National Security Guard (NSG), the country's counter-terrorism force, according to a Personnel Ministry order. Prabhat, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, is presently working as Additional Director General in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment as the Director General, NSG for a period up to August 31, 2028 i.e. the date of his superannuation, the order said.

Popularly known as the "black cats", the federal contingency force NSG was raised in 1984. Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) chief Daljit Singh Chawdhary was holding the additional charge of the NSG. The ACC has also approved appointment of Sapna Tewari as the Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

# 65.08% polling recorded in Udhampur LS seat

**TT Correspondent Jammu/Udhampur/Kathua, April 19 :** Despite inclement weather, voters in

the current voter turnout stands at 65.08% overall, reflecting a robust engagement of the electorate in

Ramnagar (SC), Udhampur East, and Udhampur West, voter turnout percentages have seen steady increments

5:00 pm, the latest update on voter turnout in the Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency reveals a sig-

segment. The electorate has displayed remarkable enthusiasm and commitment to the democratic

respectively. The highest turnout, as of the latest update, has been recorded in Kathua (SC) assembly

two-time former Member of Parliament Choudhary Lal Singh and DPAP's G M Saroori, led by Ghulam



the Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency have turned out in significant numbers, marking a spirited display of democratic participation in the ongoing elections. The latest figures, updated till 5:00 pm, reveal a notable surge in voter turnout across various assembly segments within the constituency. As per the Election Commission of India's data,

shaping the democratic process. The electoral enthusiasm is palpable in every corner of the constituency, with each area showcasing varying degrees of voter participation throughout the day.

In Bani, Banihal, Basohli, Bhaderwah, Bilawar, Chenani, Doda, Doda West, Hiranagar, Jasrota, Kathua (SC), Padder-Nagseni, Ramban,



since the polling booths opened at 7:00 am. As of

nificant surge in participation across all assembly



process, with several areas recording turnout rates well above the halfway mark. In Bani, voter turnout stands at 60.65%, while Banihal follows closely behind at 56.62%. Basohli leads the tally with an impressive turnout of 63.57%, closely trailed by Bhaderwah at 60.85%. Bilawar and Chenani also witness high participation rates, standing at 64.51% and 66.33%,

segment, with an impressive 70.80%, marking a significant surge in voter participation compared to previous updates.

Notably, the constituency is witnessing a keenly contested electoral battle among 12 candidates, including Union Minister Jitendra Singh, seeking reelection for the third time. Other prominent contenders include Congress leader and

Nabi Azad, alongside six independent candidates. The context of these elections is particularly significant, given that it marks Jammu and Kashmir's first major electoral battle post the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019. Spanning an expansive area of 16,707

(Cont. on Page-11)

## Your vote safe, come out in large numbers to exercise franchise : CEC

**New Delhi :** Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Friday dismissed apprehensions about Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and assured people that their vote was safe and secure.

Kumar asserted that the EVMs were 100 per cent safe as a large number of safeguards - technological, administrative and process-oriented - were in place. "It is a settled issue. It is 100 per cent safe. It has been raised in the honourable Court also. We are awaiting judgment, nothing can happen to the machines. Every stage political parties and

their candidates are involved. Mock polls are done," he said to questions on doubts raised on the EVMs.

"There are a large number of safeguards, technological, administrative, and process-oriented. Just enjoy the voting. This is a time to enjoy the voting, not doubt anything," the CEC said. "Enjoy your voting, your vote is safe, secure and will be recorded as you vote," Kumar said. The first phase of the Lok Sabha elections got underway across 102 constituencies in 21 states and union territories on Friday. "We are get-

ting reports from the field that even if rains are happening, people are really coming out in large numbers. Women, youth, old age people... everyone is rushing towards the polling stations. It is really a delightful situation to see that people are dancing to the tune of democracy," Kumar said.

He said the Election Commission has used technology to a great extent to ensure better voter turnout by reaching out to the youth and women voters by mapping parliamentary constituencies where voting has been traditionally less.

## LG chairs meeting to review skill development, entrepreneurship

**TT Correspondent Jammu, April 19 :** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting to review skill development, entrepreneurship and labour welfare. Senior officials of the Department of Skill Development, Department of Labour & Employment and Mission Youth attended the meeting.

The Lt Governor discussed various issues such as creating convergence of skill development schemes, opportunities and strategy for employment generation across the sectors through entrepreneurship, skill gap

analysis and skill mapping for upskilling, reskilling of labour force and youth, and



effective, efficient implementation of Healthcare, Social Security schemes for labour welfare and Livelihood Generation Schemes for youth and women.

The Lt Governor laid special emphasis on vital

need for upskilling and reskilling of youth and labour workforce as per the

evolving skill development landscape to meet the requirement of industries. He called for a whole of government approach towards skill development and providing opportunities for budding entrepreneurs. The Lt

Governor also called for strengthening the measures for protection of workers, including unorganized workers in terms of statutory minimum wage, social security and healthcare of workers. The Lt Governor directed for streamlining the process for registration of unemployed youth and labourers in the respective departments and to improve employability of local youth in development projects. He also said that Departments should help unorganized workers to register himself or herself on e-Shram portal.

(Cont. on Page-11)

## Car falls into gorge at Zojila Pass, miraculous escape for Jammu-bound passengers

**Srinagar :** At least five Jammu-bound passengers had a miraculous escape after the car they were traveling in glided on Zojila pass and fell down the 50-foot-deep gorge.

The incident occurred on Friday morning at Zojila Pass in Sonamarg falling in the Ganderbal district. An official stated that a Swift Desire car bearing registration number JK02BG-2903 was on its way to Srinagar

from Kargil when it went out of control of the driver near Baajiri Nallah Zojila Pass and skidded off the road, falling 50 feet deep gorge.

He said five persons on board including the driver suffered injuries in the incident who were shifted to nearby Primary Health Centre Sonamarg. The condition of the injured as per the official is stated to be stable.

## Jammu-Srinagar highway closed again after being partially restored

**Srinagar, Apr 19 :** Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, was blocked due to mudslide at Mehad, Ramban and shooting stones at Kishtwari Pather, Banihal again blocked the highway which remained shut for the better part of the day. In the morning, the highway was blocked due to landslide at Gangroo in Ramban. Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Kashmir Valley's Shopian district with twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch, remained closed and shal remain "till further notice" following fresh snowfall, officials said.

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## District Police Jammu Attached property worth in lakhs linked to Drug Peddler in Akhnoor

**Jammu, April 19 :** In continuation its drive against drug peddlers to annihilate properties of drug peddlers in District Jammu, District Police Jammu under the supervision of Sh. Vinod Kumar, IPS (SSP Jammu), executed another attachment operation resulting in the freezing/ seizure of movable property (private Car) Thar worth in lakhs owned by peddler at Akhnoor District Jammu\*.

This property belonged to the notorious drug peddler Anil Singh @ Furtilla s/o Madan Singh R/o Hamirpur, Khour at present Kodewala, Akhnoor District Jammu\*.

District police jammu executed this operation under sections 68 A 2 (c) & E read with 68-F of the NDPS Act of 1985, dealing with provisions for attachment of properties of drug peddlers/ smugglers. The mandate has been provided under PITNDPS ACT also.\*

The drug peddler Anil Singh @ Furtilla is presently detained under PITNDPS Act

ing, was uncovered during thorough investigation and inquiry conducted by police team of Akhnoor Subdivision with the help of transport department\*.



This operation serves as a stern reminder of the unwavering commitment of the District Police Jammu to eradicate the drug menace from our communities.

The local populace also lauded this proactive initiative, recognizing it as a pivotal step towards ensuring a safer and drug-free environment for all.

As part of the campaign, a strong message has been sent to curb the activities of drug peddlers by attaching the property of a notorious drug peddler. This action underscores the administration's firm resolve to tackle drug-related issues and ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

The property attachment operation was conducted by the team headed SDPO Akhnoor, Mohan Sharma, SHO Akhnoor Tariq Ahmed under supervision of SP Rural Brijesh Sharma.

## Police arrested drug peddler's, 10 grams of Heroin (Chitta) recovered

**Jammu :** On dated 18 April an information was received from the reliable sources at PP Nagri that one person namely Praveen @Bhuta S/o Prem Chand R/o Chak Drab Khan Tehsil & District Kathua is indulged in illegal trade of selling narcotics like contraband substance. Acting swiftly police team led by I/C PP Nagri under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Kathua & SHO PS Kathua during naka/ checking at Sherpur Khad area noticed one person who was roaming under suspicious circumstances on motorbike bearing Reg. No. JK08N-7644 who was signalled to stop for checking purpose. During checking, approx. 10 grams of heroin like narcotics were

recovered from the possession of said person namely 1. Praveen @Bhuta S/o Prem Chand R/o Chak Drab Khan District Kathua. Thereafter all the recovered narcotics i.e. approx. 10 grams of Heroin (Chitta) was seized and said person was arrested

and motorbike was seized by the police party on spot. In this connection, a case vide FIR No. 118/2024 U/S 8/21/22/ NDPS Act got registered at P/S Kathua and further investigation was taken up. Kathua Police again requested people of the area to come forward and share information on 100 or 9858034100 about any such illicit activity with Police for the cause. Your identity will be kept confidential.

## Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff

**New Delhi, April 19 :** The Government has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, as the next Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from the afternoon of April 30, 2024. The present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM retires from service on April 30, 2024.

Born on May 15, 1964, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on July 01, 1985. A Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, he has had a long and distinguished service spanning nearly 39 years. Prior to taking over as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, he had served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. Vadm DK Tripathi has commanded Indian Naval Ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul. He has also held various important

operational and staff appointments which include Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet; Director of Naval Operations; Principal Director, Network Centric Operations and

Principal Director, Naval Plans at New Delhi. As a Rear Admiral, he has served as the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy and Plans) and the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. In the rank of Vice Admiral, he has served as Commandant of the prestigious Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala; Director General of Naval Operations; Chief of Personnel and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. An alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa and National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi has undergone courses at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington; Naval Higher Command Course, Karanja and Naval Command College at the United States Naval War College, USA.

## Congress, INDI alliance is anti-development and anti-farmer : PM Modi

**Wardha April 19 :** Calling the Congress and INDI bloc "anti-development and anti-farmer," Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the INDI bloc struggles with a lack of substantial issues and accused it of resorting to a "politics of insults".

Addressing a public meeting in Wardha, Maharashtra, PM Modi said, "In contrast to the BJP's development agenda, the INDI Alliance struggles with a lack of substantial issues, resorting to a politics of insults. Inviting leaders opposed to Sanatan principles, they boycott events like the Ayodhya Ram Temple inauguration. However, their denial contradicts the nation's deep devotion on such occasions, revealing the true face of the

INDI Alliance." He further said that under the NDA government, rapid progress is underway, notably with the imminent completion of the Lower Wardha and Lower Pedhi Irrigation Projects, which promise to be a lifeline for farmers. "Before 2014, there was a perception that nothing good can happen in the country. There was disappointment everywhere. Villagers thought that water, roads, and electricity could never reach their village... 'Jisko kisi ne nahi poocha, usko gareeb ke iss bete ne puja hai,'" he said. PM Modi further asserted that the condition of farmers in the country has remained so bad for decades. A stone laid in the family's name remained unfinished for generations,

causing suffering in Vidarbha under Congress rule. Today, our government prioritizes Vidarbha's needs, with Eknath Shinde, Devendra Fadnis, and Ajit Pawar committed to serving you all," the PM further mentioned. He regarded Wardha as the land of a great confluence of spirituality and patriotism. "Your presence today in such a large number is proof that the target of 'Viksit Maharashtra' and 'Viksit Bharat' is not too far. Bapu envisioned this dream pre-independence. Today, as the nation takes decisive strides, Wardha's blessings are crucial. Your (people) overwhelming presence, and the strong backing from Wardha and Amravati, signify that the aim of a developed Maharashtra and India is with-

in reach. Maharashtra echoes today: 'Phir EK Baar, Modi Sarkar!'", the PM added with confidence.

"We have separately identified the oranges of Amravati and turmeric of Wardha under ODO (One District One Product) so that the farmers here can benefit from it. For financial assistance to farmers, money from PM Kisan Samman Nidhi is also being sent directly into the accounts," PM Modi said. The Prime Minister asserted that the Congress party is aware that they will not be able to win in these elections. "The Congress party is aware that they will not be able to win in these elections. Congress Prince is threatening dire consequences following the results of the elections. Their

mindset of imposing Emergency hasn't changed. However, the country has made up its mind!" he said. PM Modi encouraged the people to ensure a resounding victory for the BJP by casting record-breaking votes.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra, which has 48 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, is polling in five seats today. The polling is held in Chandrapur, Bhandara-Gondiya, Gadchiroli-Chimur, Ramtek and Nagpur on Friday. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won 23 out of 25 seats it contested in alliance with the undivided Shiv Sena. Elections to the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra will be held in five phases. The counting of votes will be held on June 4.

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