IAF Apache helicopter makes precautionary landing in Ladakh

Srinagar: An Indian Air Force (IAF) Apache helicopter made a precautionary landing after sustaining damage due to undulat-ing terrain and high altitude during an operational training sortie in Ladakh, officials said on Thursday. They said that the IAF Apache helicopter "sustained damage due to undulating terrain and high altitude" during the precautionary landing in the Ladakh Area of Responsibility (AOR) on April 3.

Rajiv Kumar appointed as DPR for HP

Shimla: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Thursday appointed 2007 batch HPAS officer Rajiv Kumar as Director of the Himachal Pradesh Information and Public Relations Department. He will succeed Arati Gupta, who retired from the post on March 31. Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena informed about the appointment in a notification issued here on Thursday. Ku-mar, who is posted as Additional Principal Private Secretary Chief Minister cum-Adl Secretary CM, would also hold the charge of the post of Director, Information and Public Relations, Himachal Pradesh, with immediate effect, in the public interest, it said.

Punjab: Toddler among 3 killed

Amritsar: In a tragic incident that has shocked the residents of Kandowali village in Ajnala, Punjab, a 35-year-old man has been taken into custody by the three members of his family. The victims have been identified as his mother, Manbir Kaur, his sister-in-law, Avneet Kaur, and his two-and-a-half-year-old nephew, Samrath. The horrify-ing event unfolded Wednesday night when Amritpal Singh re-portedly carried out the brutal killings at their residence. Fol-lowing the disturbing act, Singh made his way to the local police station and presented himself to the authorities.

Elderly couple among 5 killed in 2 road accidents in AP

Vijayawada: Five people, including an elderly couple, were killed in two road accidents that took place in Visakhapatnam and Krishna districts in AP on Thursday. Police said that three people were killed and three were injured when a Tata Ace van collided with a lorry at Akkireddy-palem village in Pendurthi mandal in Visakhapatnam district. The deceased belonged to Kovvuru town in WG district. The deceased were identified as Hanumanthu Ananda Rao (45), Hanumanthu Sekhar Rao (15), and Chintadi (65). In another road accident, an elderly couple was killed when the scooter on which they were riding rammed a stationary lorry at Lankapalli village in Ghantasala Mandal on National Highway 216.

Sr citizen arrested for stabbing two

Mumbai: A 60-year-old senior citizen was arrested for allegedly stabbing two people in Vaishali Nagar, Mulund West, after a request not to kick a street dog, an official said on Thursday. According to the police, a 50-yearold woman was sitting outside her apartment building. The man, Dinesh Borecha, was walking by and allegedly deliberately kicked a street dog twice. Hearing the dog's cry, the woman asked him why he did that when the dog wasn't bothering him. A police official said that the woman was acquainted with the accused, who is said to have a short temper and often turns vi-

Arunachal Governor greets people on the eve of Mopin

Itanagar: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik on Thursday greeted the people of the State on the eve of Mopin, the annual agro-based festival of the Galo community. He hoped that the festivity would promote peace and communal harmony among all tribes of the State. In his message, the Governor said Mopin is one of the most popular festivals of Arunachal Pradesh, showcasing the vibrant cultural legacy of the State. Like numerous other native celebrations in Arunachal Pradesh, it has deep roots in agricultural traditions.

Modi promises for accelerated development of Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched campaign of NDA for the Lok Sabha election in Bihar and promised for accelerated development of the state and coun-

Modi, while launching campaign of NDA at a massive public meeting here in support of Arun Bharti, candidate of LJP- Ram Vilas, an ally of BJP, said that his government had worked hard in last ten years to ensure development of the country. The scenario consequently changed in all sectors including economic condition, border security of the nation and influence of India at world

On the other hand, during Congress regime at the Centre, cross border terrorism was prevalent but such incidents had now become things of the past, he added.
"India now strikes at terror out-

RSS prohibits 'shudras', women from its inner sanctum: Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday alleged that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh prohibits the entry of "shudras" and women into its inner sanctum. "People should not fall for BJP-RSS. Shudras-Dalits and Women are not allowed inside the RSS sanctum sanctorum," the Chief Minister's office quoted him as saying at the meeting of the SC/ST activists and leaders at the district Congress office. He also alleged that lower-caste communities, referred to as "shudras" were being used by the BJP and RSS for political purposes only.

Siddaramaiah accused the BJP and RSS of being against social justice and opposing reservation poli-cies and emphasized that reserva-



fits based in neighbouring country which had greatly helped in combating the menace of terrorism", the Prime Minister said adding that the neighbouring country, earlier responsible for cross border terrorism, was now struggling for edibles like flour, a reference to Pakistan. Similarly, menace of naxalism, a serious threat on internal security, had almost lost its steam, he further said and added that Jamui was also infamous for naxal-

Cong lodges complaint for destroying campaign materials

Tripura Pradesh Congress on Thursday wrote to Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Puneet Agarwal, seeking action against the miscreants allegedly belonging to the ruling BJP for vandalizing a van carrying campaign materials of the party on Tuesday in the outskirts of the city.

The Congress State President and INDI Alliance candidate Asish Kumar Saha alleged that a publicity vehicle carrying party flags, flexes, and posters, was forcefully commandeered by a group of BJP goons, and the miscreants forcibly took the vehicle into the nearby jungle at Brinda Chowmuhani from Kali Bazaar under the Bamutia assembly segment.

The flags, flexes, and posters on the vehicle and the materials have been set on fire, blatantly violating the sanctity of the electoral process and undermining the democratic principles upheld by our nation. This egregious act of coercion and intimidation not only threatens the integrity of the ongoing electoral proceed-



to the safety and well-being of individuals involved in the electoral process.

"I must stress the urgency of this matter, as the actions of these BJF goons strike at the very heart of our democratic ideals. Furthermore, the deliberate targeting of political op ponents and their campaign materials represents a flagrant disregard for the laws and regulations governing fair and free elections in our coun try," the letter reads.

Smriti Irani criticises Congress and INDI block for their double standard politics

Union Minister Smriti Irani on Thursday made a scathing attack on the INDI bloc and the Congress party on their duplicity when it comes to Political understanding in New Delhi

Addressing a massive crowd at Kalpetta organised to extend support to the BJP State President K Surendran, the party candidate from Wayanad Parliamentary constituency, she said, "The INDI bloc leaders are hugging in New Delhi, but the coalition partners are competing with each other in Kerala, this is considered as cheating the people of Wayanad, so Rahul Gandhi should



NDA leaders accompanied Sudarshan who marched in a massive motorcycle rally to file his nomination papers before the District Collector

K Surendran is pitted against AICC leader Rahul Gandhi and LDF candidate Annie Raja in the Wayanad Parliamentary constituen-

She reached Wayanad a day after Rahul Gandhi visited Wayanad to file his nomination from the Wayanad constituency. She said that Rahul Gandhi's family had done nothing for the Amethi people, so they defeated Rahul Gandhi in the 2019 elections. She said "I come from Amethi where Rahul Gandhi or his family members have been there for four decades. She said, after the BJP won from there, some developments were made under the leadership of

A suspected smuggler shot dead in Tripura's Sepahijala district

Agartala: A suspected smuggler has been shot dead and another received bullet injury in a scuffle between a group of villagers and a BSF Jawan posted at the N C Nagar border outpost of Sonamura in Tripura's Sepa hijala district. Security personne identified the deceased as Saheed Miah (45), of Durganagar locality of Sunamura along the Bangladesh border and the injured as Kabil Miah (50). The injured has been undergoing treatment at Agar tala Govt Medical College with a seri ous bullet injury. Police launched an investigation into the incident and extra deployment has been made in the locality to prevent further escala tion of tension. However, the villagers registered a murder case against an unidentified BSF jawan.

NC & Cong to fight LS polls together in five seats of J&K: Omar Abdullah



Srinagar (UNI)

Former chief minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday announced that National Conference and Congress would jointly fight the five seats of Lok Sabha in Jammu and Kashmir. He said this a day after the Peo-

ples Democratic Party (PDP) an-

nounced that it would contest all three seats in the Valley. The announcement set the stage for the National Conference and the PDP partners in the Opposition INDIA bloc — to take on each other on the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir. The Congress party is also part of IN-DIA alliance partner.

"They (Congress) have assured us and made it clear that all the three candidates of NC will get their support.. In the next one or two days after going to Delhi, it'll be clear that NC & Congress will fight together on five seats in J&K," Omar told reporters in Srinagar.

He said NC leader and party president Farooq Abdullah has already started campaigning for the two Congress candidates in Jammu re-

Heavy rains to continue over N-India till April 7

Department (IMD) on Thursday predicted that enhanced rainfall and thunderstorms will continue to lash the parts of Northeast India till April 7.

Heavy rainfall and snowfall are expected over Arunachal Pradesh from April 4 to 7 with the possibility of very heavy falls on April 6 and over Assam and Meghalaya tomorrow, the IMD said.

According to weather department, "Fairly widespread to widespread moderatea rainfall with isolated thunderstorms and lightning very likely over Arunachal Pradesh; scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura during the next seven

Gourav Vallabh quits 'directionless' Cong, joins BJP

Hours after resigning from the Congress' primary membership Prof Gourav Vallabh joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in New Delhi on Thursday alongside former Bihar Congress President Anil Sharma and RJD leader Upendra Prasad.

The former Congress spokesperson joined the BJP in the presence of General Secretary Vinod Tawad and other senior leaders at the party headquarters here.

Vallabh called the grand old party "directionless" as he cited his expanding disagreement on the party's view especially on the Ram temple consecration in Ayodhya.

In a letter to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday, Val-



labh wrote that the party "is not able to adjust itself to the youth with new

In his letter to Kharge, which was posted on social media platform X, Vallabh, who debuted in politics in 2019, said, "I don't feel comfortable with the directionless way the Con-

gress was moving today.

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi's position in LS elections favourable for **BJP: Congress leader**

Mumbai: Congress leader and former MP, Dr Bhalchandra Mungekar, on Thursday termed exit of Vanchit Bahujan Agadhi (VBA) led by Advocate Prakash Ambedkar out of the Maha vikas Aghadi (MVA) as 'unfortunate' and said this move will be favourable for ruling BJP in upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a press conference at party head office here, he said that the current Lok Sabha elections is very crucial for the protection of the country's democracy.

Observing that Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's stance was anti-facist and believed that only democracy can give a real justice to people, he said that Adv Ambedkar of VBA has taken a stand against these views.

Toddler extricated from borewell

A two-year-old boy, who fell into a 16-foot-deep borewell in Lachyana village of Indi taluk in the district, was rescued here on Thursday. Despite the challenges and the

nearly 20-hour-long rescue opera-tion, the efforts paid off as the child, Satvik Satish Mujagond, was safely brought out from the borewell.

The sound of the boy crying during the rescue operation must have been a source of anxiety for everyone involved, but it ultimately turned into a moment of joy and relief as he was reunited with his family.

To reach the trapped toddler, earthmovers worked tirelessly throughout the night to excavate a parallel pit. However, the operation faced challenges due to the rocky soil and a substantial boulder obstruct-



Satvik fell into the borewell while playing on his parent's farm on Wednesday evening.

Oxygen pipes were deployed to maintain Satvik's oxygen supply

while he was trapped in the borewell to ensure his survival during the rescue operation. Additionally, a parallel well was dug up to create a pathway to reach the boy.

Hemant Patil's candidature from Hingoli cancelled

Hingoli: Bowing to pressure of BJP, the candidature of Hemant Patil, the sitting MP of Hingoli, has been cancelled.

Patil is an MP of the Shiv Sena (Shinde) group, and his candidature was announced eight days ago. How-ever, BJP MLAs from Hingoli op-

posed his nomination. Also, due to BJP's pressure, Chief Minister Shinde had to change the Hingoli Lok Sabha candidate after a

delegation of MLAs met Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Following this development, former Zilla Parishad member Baburao Kadam-Kohlikar of Talani in

Hadgaon taluka has been nominated for the Hingoli Lok Sabha behalf of BJP. Due to this, Patil's supporters are very upset as his candidature was cancelled after announcement.

Indian Coast Guard evacuates injured crew from fishing boat



Indian Coast Guard Station Pipavav evacuated one critically injured pa-

tient aged-37 yrs, from an Indian

Fishing Boat named Pushkar Rai, 50

Km from the coast in Gulf of Kham-

bat on Wednesday. On receipt of information, ICG Interceptor Boat C-409on deployment was diverted by Maritime Rescue

Sub Centre, Pipavav.
Interceptor Boaton reaching scene of action, established communication with the IFB and the tandel of boat intimated that the fisherman had sustained fracturein his left foot and his ankle had parted.

The patient was safely evacuated by the Interceptor Boat.

The fisherman was administered with initial treatment by ICG medical team and was later shifted to Govt. Hospital in stable condition for further medical management.

Rahul, Priyanka among Congress star campaigners to address rallies in J&K likely next week

Jammu: As many as 25 star campaigners from the Congress party, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, to address rallies in support of their candidates contesting the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir. The top leaders of the Congress party are expected to visit next week.

"Around 25 top leaders from the party including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi will be visiting Jammu and Kashmir likely next week," party sources said.

They added that the leaders will address relies in Jammy and Likempur for



dress rallies in Jammu and Udhampur for Phase-1 and Phase-2 elections. The Congress party has rallied an impressive line-up of star campaigners, including top leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, to intensify and strengthen its campaign efforts for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections,

As per party sources, party's Organization General Secretary KC Venugopal has issued a list of star campaigners visiting to Jammu and Kashmir comprising notable figures such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, Ambika Soni, Sachin Pilot, and others.