



### MeT predicts rains, snow

The Meteorological Department today predicted cloudy weather with possibility of light rains, snow at many places with thunder, lightning and gusty winds over plains of Jammu and Kashmir on March 21 and 22.

A MeT department official stated that the weather condition was expected to remain generally dry during March 18 and 20.

He said during March 21 and 22, the weather would remain generally cloudy with possibility of light rain,

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### Car falls off road, 1 killed

One person was killed and another injured critically after a car they were travelling in skidded off the road near Khaleni in Doda district today and fell into a deep gorge.

The ill-fated car was plying on Khaleni-Marmat link road when it went out of control of its driver and then plunged into a deep gorge, officials said.

In the incident, one person, who was identified as Roshan Lal, died on the spot while another, who was identified as Tanveer Ahmad, sustained injuries. The injured was hospitalised. Overspeeding was

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### Mortar shell found near school

A mortar shell was found lying near the bank of a stream in Muglian area of Mendhar in Poonch district of Jammu today.

According to officials, the mortar shell was spotted by a villager near the bank of a stream at Muglian. After he informed forces, a bomb disposal squad along with a police team forthwith reached the spot which is close to a primary school.

The shell, said to be a rusted one, was defused by the bomb disposal squad, officials said.

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### KDA calls for half-day strike in Kargil

#### Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 18

The Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) has called for a half-day general strike on March 20 in solidarity with renowned education reformist

Sonam Wangchuk whose hunger strike in support of statehood and constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory of Ladakh entered 13th day on Monday.

The agitation in Ladakh in support of the demands is likely to intensify further in the coming days with the KDA and Leh-based Apex

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### Army raises Elite Unit to work on 6G, AI

**NEW DELHI, MAR 18:** The Indian Army has raised an elite unit that will undertake research and evaluation of futuristic communication technologies like 6G, artificial intelligence, machine learning and quantum computing for military use in view of the changing nature of the field.

The Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group or STEAG is mandated to nurture technologies spanning the complete spectrum of wired and wireless systems, officials said.

The setting up of STEAG is part of the Army's efforts to develop technologies

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## Court directs Tihar officials to take Sanjay Singh to Parl for oath as RS MP

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## Sobhita Dhulipala opens up on debut Hollywood project Monkey Man: 'Dream to be part of Dev Patel's vision'

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### 'Challenge accepted'

## Modi assails Oppn's 'anti-Shakti' remark, vows to protect 'Shakti'

**JAGTIAL (TELANGANA), MAR 18:** *Lashing out at the Opposition INDIA Bloc over its 'anti-Shakti' remark, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today vowed to protect 'Shakti', saying that the fight in 2024 'is between those who want to destroy 'Hindu Shakti' and those who worship them'.*

His comments came hours after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "we are fighting against a Shakti" remark at a political rally in Mumbai.

On Sunday, addressing a public rally in Mumbai, the Congress leader had said that PM Modi "cannot win the elections without EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines)".

"There is a word 'Shakti' in Hinduism. We are fighting against a Shakti. The question is, what is that Shakti? The soul of the King is in the EVM. This is true. The soul of the King is in the EVM and in every institution of the country, in ED, CBI, and the Income Tax department," he said.

"The nation dedicated 'Chandrayaan's' success to 'Shiv Shakti' and the Opposition parties are talking of destroying 'Shakti'," he said.

"On Sunday in Mumbai, there was an INDI alliance rally after the announcement of the schedule for elec-



tions. They announced their manifesto in the rally. In Mumbai's Shivaji Park, they said their fight was against 'Shakti'. For me, every mother, every daughter is a form of 'Shakti'. Mothers and sisters. I worship you as 'Shakti'. I am Bharat Maa's 'pujari'," he said while addressing a public rally here.

Saying that the INDIA bloc's manifesto talks about finishing 'Shakti', the PM said, "The fight is between those who want to destroy 'Shakti' and those who worship them."

"INDI alliance in its manifesto announced to finish/destroy Shakti. I accept their challenge. I will sacrifice my life for the security of mothers and sisters," he further said.

Stating that people's support to BJP was growing continuously in Telangana, Modi said, "As the vot-

ing day nears, there is a BJP wave in Telangana, while Congress and BRS will get cleaned up."

The whole country is saying — more than 400 (seats for NDA) on June 4 (counting day), he further said.

Alleging that Congress has made Telangana its 'ATM state', he said the "looted money is going to Delhi".

"Our fight against Modi is not on a personal level. Modi is a 'mask' who works for a 'Shakti' (power). He is a shallow man who doesn't have a 56-inch chest," Gandhi said.

The Congress also hit back at PM Modi over his remark that the INDIA bloc's manifesto talks about finishing 'Shakti', saying the elections will decide whether the country would be run by 'Asuri Shakti' (demonic power) or 'Daivik Shakti' (divine power).

"The prime minister is upset and the entire BJP is talking baseless things after Rahul Gandhi attacked 'Asuri Shakti'. This election is between 'Asuri Shakti' and 'Daivik Shakti'," Congress national spokesperson Pawan Khara said.

The elections for 543 Lok Sabha seats will be held in seven phases from April 19 to June 1, with the counting of votes scheduled for June 4.

### SIA files charge-sheet in narco-terror financing case

#### Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 18

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) today filed a charge-sheet against two people, including a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, accused of operating a narco-terror financing module in the Union Territory.

The charge-sheet was filed in the special-designated UA(P)A court under the NIA Act against Zaaheed Ahmad Khoja and Zameer Ahmad Lone under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

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### Soundararajan resigns as Telangana Guv, Puducherry LG



**HYDERABAD, MAR 18:** Telangana Governor and Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Monday resigned from her post.

She is likely to contest forthcoming Lok Sabha elections from Tamil Nadu

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### Modi gave women 'Ease of Living' with dignity: Jitendra



#### Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAR 18

Jitendra Singh, Union Minister & BJP candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, today said that Prime Minister Modi gave women 'ease of living' with dignity.

"The evidence of this is

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### Electoral Bonds

## SC gives SBI tongue-lashing, asks it to disclose all details by Mar 21

**NEW DELHI, MAR 18:** In a third tongue-lashing to the State Bank of India, the Supreme Court on Monday told it to stop being "selective" and make "complete disclosure" of all details related to the electoral bonds scheme by March 21.

The apex court said the details to be disclosed include the unique bond numbers that would reveal the link between the buyers and the recipient political parties.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said there is "no manner of doubt that the SBI is required to make complete disclosure of all the details" which are in its possession.

The bench, also comprising Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice B R Gavi, Justice J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, said the Election Commission shall forthwith upload on its website the details received from the SBI.

In a landmark verdict, a five-judge constitution

bench had done away with the scheme, calling it "unconstitutional", and ordered disclosure by the Election Commission of donors, the amount donated by them and the recipients by March 13.

On March 11, the SBI, which unsuccessfully sought an extension of time till June 30 to disclose electoral bonds details, faced searching questions from the top court which wanted to know about the steps taken to comply with its directions.

Last Friday, the SC admonished SBI for furnishing incomplete information and issued a notice to the bank to explain the reasons for the non-disclosure of unique alphanumeric numbers.

On Monday, the bench noted the submission of senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the SBI, that there is no reservation on the part of the bank in disclosing all the details of electoral bonds which are in its possession.

"In order to fully effectu-

ate the order and to obviate any controversy in the future, the chairman and managing director of SBI shall file an affidavit on or before 5 pm on Thursday (March 21) indicating that SBI has disclosed all details of the electoral bonds which were in its possession and custody and that no details have been withheld," the bench said.

During the hearing, the bench asked the SBI to disclose all conceivable information on electoral bonds, including bond numbers.

"We had asked all details to be disclosed by the SBI which includes electoral bond numbers as well. Let SBI not be selective in disclosure," the bench mentioned orally.

It said the apex court had, in its verdict in the electoral bonds case, asked the bank to disclose all the details of the bonds and it should not wait for further orders on this aspect.

The bench refused a hearing on unlisted pleas of industry bodies, Associated

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## 8 killed as Pak conducts airstrikes inside Afghanistan; Taliban reacts

**ISLAMABAD/KABUL, MAR 18:** Eight people were today killed in airstrikes carried out by Pakistan inside Afghanistan on multiple suspected hide-outs of Pakistani Taliban.

Amidst a war of words between the two neighbours, Pak army said that those killed were "militants", including a wanted terrorist commander, but the Taliban, which described the attack as "reckless", said the dead included women and children.

The Pakistani army, which issued a statement hours after the airstrikes, said that on the night of

March 17-18, the security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan district on the reported presence of terrorists.

"During the conduct of the operation, after intense fire exchange, eight terrorists including HVT (high-value target) terrorist commander Sehra @Janan were sent to hell," the statement said.

"He was involved in orchestrating the terrorist attack on Security Forces' Post in Mir Ali on March 16 and was highly wanted by the law enforcement agencies," it said and added that

sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area as the security forces remain determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Afghan interim government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the attacks, denouncing them as violations of Afghan territory and asking Pakistan to desist from blaming Afghanistan for its internal issues.

A senior Afghan interim government official confirmed that strikes in the

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### Lok Sabha polls

## EC orders large-scale transfers of bureaucrats, WB DGP

**NEW DELHI, Mar 18:** Seeking to ensure a level-playing field in the Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission on Monday ordered the removal of the home secretaries of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and it also directed the shunting out of West Bengal DGP Rajeev Kumar.

Also, the secretaries of the general administrative departments of Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh have been removed.

The decision to shift the West Bengal DGP was taken as the officer was removed earlier too from active election management-related duty during the 2016 assembly election in the state and in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the sources pointed out.

The EC has asked the state chief secretary to post Rajeev Kumar to a "non-election" related assignment, and, as an interim arrangement, post an officer immediately junior to him as DGP.

The state has been asked to send a panel of three officers who would be posted as the DGP.

The home secretaries of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand were removed as they were found to be holding dual charges in the offices of the chief minister in the respective states. This may potentially compromise or be seen to be compromising the impartiality and neutrality required during

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### General Elections

## CEO issues guidelines for printers, publishers

the printing and publication of election pamphlets, posters etcetera is being governed by the provisions of section 127-A of Representation of Peoples Act, 1951.

As per "127-A Restrictions on printing of pamphlets, posters etcetera; no person shall print or publish, or cause to be printed or published, any election pamphlet or poster which does not bear on its face the names and addresses of the printer and the publisher thereof. No person shall

print or cause to be printed any election pamphlet or poster; unless a declaration as to the identity of the publisher thereof, signed by him and attested by two persons to whom he is personally known, is delivered by him to the printer in duplicate and unless, within a reasonable time after the printing of the document, one copy of the declaration is sent by the printer, together with one copy of the document "Where it is printed in the capital of the state, to the

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