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## Naxals kill BJP MLA, three policemen on the last day of campaign in Bastar

Police say MLA was warned not to travel; polling on schedule: EC

**DIPANKARGHOSE**  
NAKULNAR (DANTEWADA),  
APRIL 9

MINUTES BEFORE campaigning ended in Bastar for the Lok Sabha polls on April 11, Maoists targeted a convoy in Chhattisgarh Tuesday killing BJP's Dantewada MLA Bhima Mandavi and four others travelling with him.

Maoists attacked the convoy around near Nakulnar, around 25 km from Dantewada, and triggered a powerful IED that destroyed the bullet-proof car Mandavi was travelling in, killing him along with his driver and three security personnel. Security men in two other vehicles following him then exchanged fire with Maoists.

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**RELATED REPORT**  
PAGE 11



The mangled remains of the car targeted by Maoists in Dantewada, Tuesday. Express

RSS leader and his PSO killed in Kishtwar militant attack

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, APRIL 9

A SENIOR RSS functionary and his personal security officer (PSO) were killed by unidentified militants inside a district hospital in Kishtwar town on Tuesday afternoon.

Police said Chanderkant Sharma (50), RSS in-charge for Kishtwar and Doda districts who worked as a medical assistant at the hospital, and his PSO, Rajinder Kumar (30), were gunned down by two militants. The hospital shares a boundary wall with the Kishtwar police station.

Continued on page 2

**PHIR EK BAR MASKA STAR!**



In latest, PM tells new voters: Dedicate votes to Pulwama, Balakot braves

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & JOHNSON TA**  
LATUR, MYSURU, APRIL 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday appealed to first-time voters to "dedicate" their votes to the "brave soldiers" who carried out the Balakot air strike and to the "braves martyred" in the Pulwama terror attack.

Continued on page 2



With Uddhav in Latur on Tuesday. Prashant Nadkar

shahid huay hain un veer shahidon ke naam apka vote samarpit ho sakta hai kya?"

Citizenship: BJP manifesto drops Parsis and Christians, then rewritten

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 9

THE CITIZENSHIP (Amendment) Bill, cleared by the outgoing Lok Sabha, proposed providing citizenship to "Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan". But in the BJP Sankalp Patra released Monday, Christians and Parsis were omitted with the manifesto stating "Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs escaping persecution from India's neighbouring countries will be given citizenship in India".

Continued on page 11

Keep us in the loop: EC and I-T tell each other on poll money

**RITIKA CHOPRA**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 9

WITH THE Election Commission under fire for not stepping in amid continuing tax raids on mostly Opposition leaders, the poll panel reiterated its advice to the Revenue Secretary and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a meeting Tuesday to maintain neutrality and keep the EC informed in case of suspected use of illicit money for polls.

Continued on page 2

**EXPLAINED**  
Not so neutral despite claims

IN ITS response to an EC advisory, the Revenue Department has claimed that it understands the concept of non-discrimination while carrying out its duty. But the tax department's action against Opposition leaders does not support that assertion of "neutrality".

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**EASY EC**  
Poll panel stature diminishes, and it can only blame itself

Continued on page 12

**DECISION 2019**  
By UNNY

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
By UNNY



Deep inside Sukma, a cordoned-off village will vote to get out of its cage

**DIPANKARGHOSE**  
JAGARGUNDA (SUKMA),  
APRIL 9

CONCERTINA WIRE runs along the periphery of the village, allowing no access from outside. There are two gates, guarded by Chhattisgarh Police and CRPF, on two ends. They shut at 6 pm every evening, and open 12 hours later.

Continued on page 2



Jagargunda is home to an estimated 4,000. Dipankar Ghose

Continued on page 2

Across Odisha, a battle rages over govt schemes: It's state vs central

**LIZ MATHEW**  
BALANGIR, PARADIP, PURI,  
APRIL 9

IT'S 7 pm, darkness has settled over Bahalpadar village. And Raju Tandi, a farmer, is a worried man. He's not sure whether opening up about the elections would land him in trouble. "I hope it won't affect the state gov-

ernment schemes that I benefit from," he says.

Continued on page 2

schemes. About who has benefited, and who has not.

Continued on page 2

Shah on Rahul's Wayanad show: Is it in India or Pak?

**VIVEK DESHPANDE**  
NAGPUR, APRIL 9

STEPPING UP his attack on Rahul Gandhi, BJP president Amit Shah Tuesday likened Wayanad, the second seat from where the Congress president is contesting, to Pakistan, saying "when a procession is taken out, you cannot make out whether it is India or a Pakistan procession".

This was an apparent reference to the large number of Indian Union Muslim League flags seen in Gandhi's procession when he filed his nomination papers from Wayanad on April 4.

Continued on page 2

**THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW**  
'ATTITUDE AGAINST FORCES TO COST CONG'  
TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT  
UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER

**RAFALE REVIEW PLEAS: SC ORDER TODAY** PAGE 9

What Govt calls neutral: 6 months, 15 raids against Oppn

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 9

IN RESPONSE to the Election Commission's advisory, the Revenue Department under the Finance Ministry Monday said it was being "neutral" and "impartial". But data on those raided in the poll season paints a different picture.

Continued on page 2

tanced itself from the individual. The recent searches against Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath's associates were preceded by searches in Andhra Pradesh at the premises of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam's Chairman and TDP nominee for Mydukur Assembly constituency Putta Sudhakar Yadav and TDP leader and businessman CM Ramesh.

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