# **The Indian EXPRESS**

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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".

Within an hour of *The Indian* Express contacting BJP leaders to check on the omission, the Sankalp Patra posted on the party's official website had added Christians to the list — the Parsis are still missing.

BJP general secretary Bhupender Yadav, member of the manifesto committee, said **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**  **ALL SET FOR PHASE-1** 

Voting tomorrow

#### 91 LOK SABHA SEATS IN

18 states, 2 Union Territories

#### **295 ASSEMBLY SEATS IN**

AP, Arunachal, Odisha, Sikkim

## 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

**DIPANKAR GHOSE** NAKULNAR (DANTEWADA),

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

**BJP MLA** Bhima Mandavi

erful IED that destroyed the bullet-proof car Mandavi was travelling in, killing him along with his driver

Dantewada, and

triggered a pow-

and three security personnel. Security men in two other vehicles following him then exchanged fire with Maoists.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

RELATED REPORT PAGE 11

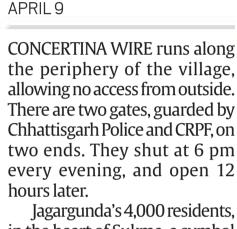


Nakulnar

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

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

**DIPANKAR GHOSE** JAGARGUNDA (SUKMA)



in the heart of Sukma, a symbol of the struggle between Maoists



Jagargunda is home to an estimated 4.000. Dipankar Ghose

and the state where neither wants to cede control, lives in a cage. And with Lok Sabha **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

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 dis-

tricts who worked as a medical assistant at the hospital, and **Sharma** PSO,

Chanderkant

Rajinder Kumar (30), were gunned down by two militants. The hospital shares a boundary wall with the Kishtwar police station.

According to local reports, there were at least three militants — while two used the rear entrance to enter the hospital, the third remained outside. The militants first opened fire at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## 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.

Addressing an election rally in Ausa in Latur district of Maharashtra, Modi said: "Mein zara kehna chhahta hoon mere first-time voteron ko. Kya aapka pehla vote Pakistan ke Balakot mei air strike karne wale veer jawanon ke naam samarpit ho sakta hai kya? Mein mere first-time voter se kehna chhahta hoon ki aapka pehla vote Pulwama mei jo veer

With Uddhav in Latur on Tuesday. Prashant Nadkar

shahid huav hain un veer shahidon ke naam aapka vote samarpit ho sakta hai kya?"

("I want to tell my first-time voters: Can your first vote be dedicated to the brave soldiers who carried out the air strike in **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## 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.

On Monday, responding to the EC's advice that action taken by agencies during polls should be "neutral", "impartial" and "non-discriminatory", the Revenue Department had said it understood what "neutrality" meant — and that the panel should advise its own officers to curb use of illicit money and keep tax officers in the loop.

In Tuesday's meeting with Revenue Secretary A B Pandey and CBDT Chairman P C Mody, sources said, the EC objected to CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

#### 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 PAGE 12

## 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.

In the last six months, at least 15 searches by the Income-Tax department have been carried out against Opposition leaders and their associates — five in Karnataka, three in Tamil Nadu. two in Andhra Pradesh, two in Delhi and one each in MP, J&K and UP. During the same period, information available in the public domain shows, searches were conducted at premises linked to one BIP functionary in Uttarakhand — the party later distanced 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 Devasthanam's Chairman and TDP nominee for Mydukur Assembly constituency Putta Sudhakar Yadav and TDP leader

and businessman CM Ramesh. A mail sent to the Revenue Department by The Indian Express seeking its comments on the alleged political nature of searches went unanswered.

On March 29, the I-T department carried out searches in Tamil Nadu at premises of DMK Treasurer and Katpadi MLA Durai Murugan and institutions run by his son DM Kathir Anand. Around the same time, on March 27 and 28, tax officials CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

**LIZ MATHEW** 

BALANGIR, PARADIP, PURI,

**DECISION** 

12019

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

priceless undeclared Crystal

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-

KANISHAK

JAIPUR

9001949244

ernment schemes that I benefit from," he says.

From the state's Kalia scheme for direct transfer of cash assistance to poor and landless farmschemes. About who has bene-

fitted, and who has not. In Balangir's Bahalpadar, Tandi and his neighbours are yet to get money under Kalia, the newest and most ambitious scheme that was rolled out by BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik before the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections were announced. "If no one had got

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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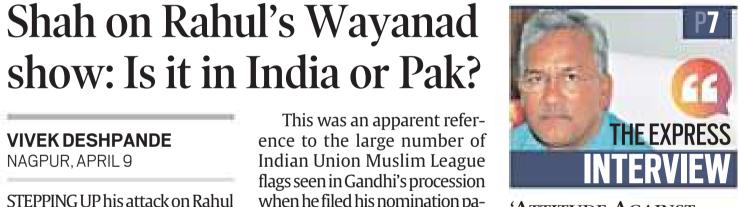
#### **VIVEK DESHPANDE** NAGPUR, APRIL 9

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".

Tell, 23317293, 23318135/36, 23736906/07

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.

Addressing a rally in Nagpur, from where Union Minister Nitin Gadkari is seeking re-election, Shah said: "Aur yeh Rahul baba apne gathbandhan ke liye, Keral ke andar aisi seat par jaakar khade CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



'ATTITUDE AGAINST Forces To Cost Cong TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER

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



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#### ers, rice at Rs 1 and the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana, to the Centre's Ujjwala scheme for subsidised LPG cylinders — all the talk this election across Balangir district in western Odisha to Puri and Paradip in the east is about LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available

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