

NEARBY



Dalai Lama admitted to hospital in Delhi

NEW DELHI Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama was admitted to a private hospital in Delhi on Tuesday with chest infection. Tenzin Taklha, his private secretary, said: "His Holiness was feeling some discomfort this morning in Dharamsala. As a precaution, we came down to Delhi."

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

RSS leader, policeman shot dead in Kishtwar

SRINAGAR Two days ahead of the Lok Sabha election in J&K, suspected militants killed a Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh leader and his personal security officer inside a hospital in Chenab Valley's Kishtwar district on Tuesday.

NATION ▶ PAGE 7

Mercury may touch 40-degree mark in city

NEW DELHI The mercury is likely to touch the 40-degree-Celsius mark tomorrow with heatwave-like conditions in several parts of the city during the day. However, by evening, the Met Department has forecast the possibility of "thunder developments" that may bring some relief.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

Bhagirath IAS Academy
UPSC at Pune
By: Ranjan Kolambe
7378 406 920 | 9970 298 197

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 2
DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

BJP MLA, 4 security men killed in Dantewada Maoist attack

Extremists blow up vehicle with explosives, open fire at occupants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Bhima Mandavi and four security personnel were killed on Tuesday when their convoy was attacked by suspected Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district. The attack comes two days before the first phase of the Lok Sabha election begins in the State.

Dantewada falls in the Bastar Lok Sabha constituency, which goes to the polls on April 11.

Poll as scheduled
The Election Commission said the first phase of polling in the State would be held as per schedule.



Attack in the hills: The mangled remains of the vehicle that was attacked by Maoists in Dantewada on Tuesday. •PTI

The ambush occurred at the Shyamagiri hills when the MLA's convoy was heading to Kuwakonda from the Bachel area, which is about 450 km from the State capital Raipur. The Maoists blew up a vehicle in the convoy with an improvised explosive device (IED) and opened

fire at its occupants. Security forces were rushed to the area, police sources said.

The killed security personnel were identified as driver Danteshwar Maurya and District Force jawans Chhagan Kuldeep, Somdu Kawasi and Ramlal Oyami.

Modi condemns attack

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted condolence messages and paid tributes to those killed.

Mr. Modi "strongly" condemned the attack, saying the sacrifice of those killed would not go in vain.

(With PTI inputs)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Dedicate your first vote to armed forces, Modi tells young voters

After CPI(M) files complaint on speech, EC asks for report

ALOK DESHPANDE
DEVESH PANDEY
LATUR/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked first-time voters to dedicate their vote to "the Air Force which carried out the air strikes at Balakot, to those jawans who were martyred in Pulwama." Following a complaint from the CPIM that the speech violated its directive to parties to refrain from invoking the armed forces for seeking votes, the Election Commission has sought



PM Modi speaking at a rally near Latur. •VIVEK BENDRE

a report from the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer.

"The Commission has taken cognisance of the com-

plaints and sought a report from the Maharashtra CEO," said an official.

In an emotional appeal at a rally at Ausa near Latur, Mr. Modi urged young voters to dedicate their first vote to the country, society and the armed forces. "Dedicate your first vote to the Air Force which carried out the air strikes at Balakot, to those jawans who were martyred in Pulwama."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
BLINKERS ON ▶ EDITORIAL

No anti-incumbency wave in Tamil Nadu, says Edappadi

Modi alone can ensure national security: Chief Minister

S. VIJAY KUMAR
SALEM

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Tuesday asserted there was no anti-incumbency wave either against the BJP or his party in the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi alone would ensure national security by providing a stable government at the Centre, he said.

In his first interview to a newspaper since assuming

office in February 2017, he elaborated on the government's achievements and spoke about the "jubilant mood" he had encountered while campaigning across 210 Assembly constituencies in the last fortnight.

Welfare schemes

Speaking at his residence in his native town of Salem, Mr. Palaniswami contended that people were aware of the welfare and development schemes being implemented

in the State with the support of the Centre.

"The AIADMK is a party of the people. We stand for the poor, oppressed and minorities. The government functions as per the desires of the people. The people have realised that a strong government at the Centre is imperative for economic stability. There is no question of anti-incumbency," he asserted.

INTERVIEW ON ▶ PAGE 11

Home and auto loans to get cheaper

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Equated monthly instalments (EMIs) are set to fall, with banks beginning to pass on the rate cut announced by the Reserve Bank of India last week.

The largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), has cut its rates by up to 10 basis points for home loans up to ₹30 lakh. From Wednesday, interest rates will be 8.6-8.9%, down from 8.7-9% [100 basis points = 1 percentage point].

DETAILED REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 13

Rahul offers 'Nyay' to the poor in Gaya

Attacks Prime Minister at rally



Congress president Rahul Gandhi with Shatrughan Sinha at an election rally in Gaya on Tuesday. •RANJEET KUMAR

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Kicking off his poll campaign in Bihar, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday addressed a public meeting in Gaya, in support of mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) candidate Jitan Ram Manjhi of the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular).

Mr. Gandhi slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for promising to put ₹15 lakh in everyone's account, which was a lie, while the Congress wished to give 'Nyuntam aay yojana' (Nyay) to the poor.

"By putting ₹15 lakh in everyone's account PM Modi would have destroyed India's economy...you reposed your trust in chowkidar (watchman) but he betrayed you...did anyone here get ₹15 lakh in his account," he asked. "The Congress with its Nyay scheme will annually put ₹72,000 in the accounts of the poor. This works out to ₹3.60 lakh in

five years and will not destroy India's economy."

"So you've have to decide whether you want a lie of ₹15-20 lakh or ₹3.60 lakh in five years in your account," Mr. Gandhi said.

Accompanied by State Congress leaders and former BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha, who on April 6 joined the Congress, Mr. Gandhi addressed his first Lok Sabha campaign rally in the State for the mahagathbandhan candidate. Former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi is pitted against NDA candidate Vijay Manjhi (JD-U). Gaya (reserved) seat will go to the poll on April 11.

"If PM Modi will give money to the rich people, Rahul Gandhi will give money to poor people," he declared, adding that the "poor do not hire chowkidar as it's a luxury only for the wealthy people".

Mr. Sinha too addressed the public meeting for the first time in the company of Mr. Gandhi.

SC to rule on Rafale review pleas today

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Wednesday pronounce its verdict on five Rafale review petitions, chiefly on two pre-

liminary issues – the admissibility of "stolen" Rafale documents as evidence and the claim of privilege raised on them by the government. The case was heard by a

Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph. It was reserved on March 14.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 10