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THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW
I WILL NEVER ALIGN WITH COMMUNAL BJP... BUT CONGRESS IS A SECULAR FORCE'
TTV DHINAKARAN
AMMK LEADER

Valley SDM on poll duty says stopped, beaten up by Army men

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, APRIL 16

A SUB-DIVISIONAL Magistrate (SDM), who was on election duty, was allegedly dragged on the road and beaten up by some Army personnel in Dalwachi area, in Anantnag district, on the Srinagar-Qazigund stretch of the National Highway on Tuesday. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ghulam Rasool Wani, SDM of Dooru in Anantnag district who is also the Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) in South Kashmir for the Lok Sabha elections, said: "I was on election duty. I was going towards Vessu because the District Magistrate was waiting there... They (Army) had halted traffic on the highway. But when they saw the 'SDM' sign on our vehicle, they allowed us to go. We passed three check-points, but at the fourth place, a soldier asked us to stop. We immediately stopped. Suddenly, a few Army personnel came and targeted our vehicle. First, they beat up my driver and then they beat us all."

Wani said he was accompanied by four other staff members. "They grabbed me by my collar and dragged me on the road for 20 metres," he said. "They pointed their guns at me, snatched my cellphone and broke it," he said. "They damaged my driver's phone also. They made the other staff members get out of the..."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNYS
850 year History? Our history changes every time we vote out a govt.

PHASE-2 VOTE TOMORROW FOR 95 SEATS

TN campaign ends on bitter note: Tax men raid Kanimozhi home, find nothing

BJP, AIADMK targeting Oppn because they fear defeat, says Stalin

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, APRIL 16

INCOME TAX personnel and Tamil Nadu election flying squads searched a house late Tuesday evening in Thoothukudi where DMK Lok Sabha candidate Kanimozhi, who is a Rajya Sabha MP, had been staying since the start of her poll campaign. The search, on the last day of campaigning in Tamil Nadu which votes April 18, saw the team return empty-handed because the "intelligence input" that cash was stored in the house turned out to be incorrect.

The search triggered a political row with Kanimozhi saying she was being targeted because she represents the Opposition al-



During the raid at the residence of Kanimozhi, Tuesday. ANI

liance. "After an hour long search, they left my place having found nothing. As my party chief M K Stalin said, we suspect that Tamilisai (Kanimozhi's rival candidate and BJP state president) has crores of money at her home. We have seen videos of AIADMK

leaders bribing voters in Theni. Will you go and search them?" she told reporters.

DMK president Stalin slammed the Centre, accusing it of "murdering democracy". He said the AIADMK-BJP alliance was "abusing" power and targeting Opposition leaders because it "feared defeat" this election.

A senior I-T official said the search was conducted on the basis of input from the Tuticorin district administration that the upper section of the house was being used to store cash.

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Vellore poll cancelled, voters say what's new about use of money

ARUN JANARDHANAN
VELLORE, APRIL 16

ELECTION TO the Lok Sabha constituency of Vellore in Tamil Nadu was cancelled Tuesday, two days before the state votes, on a recommendation from the Election Commission in the wake of cash seizures, allegedly from the premises of DMK candidate Kathir Anand, son of party treasurer Duraimurugan.

President Ram Nath Kovind issued an order to rescind the Vellore parliamentary election and a government notification said the Commission was "fully satisfied that the current electoral process in Vellore has been seriously vitiated on account of

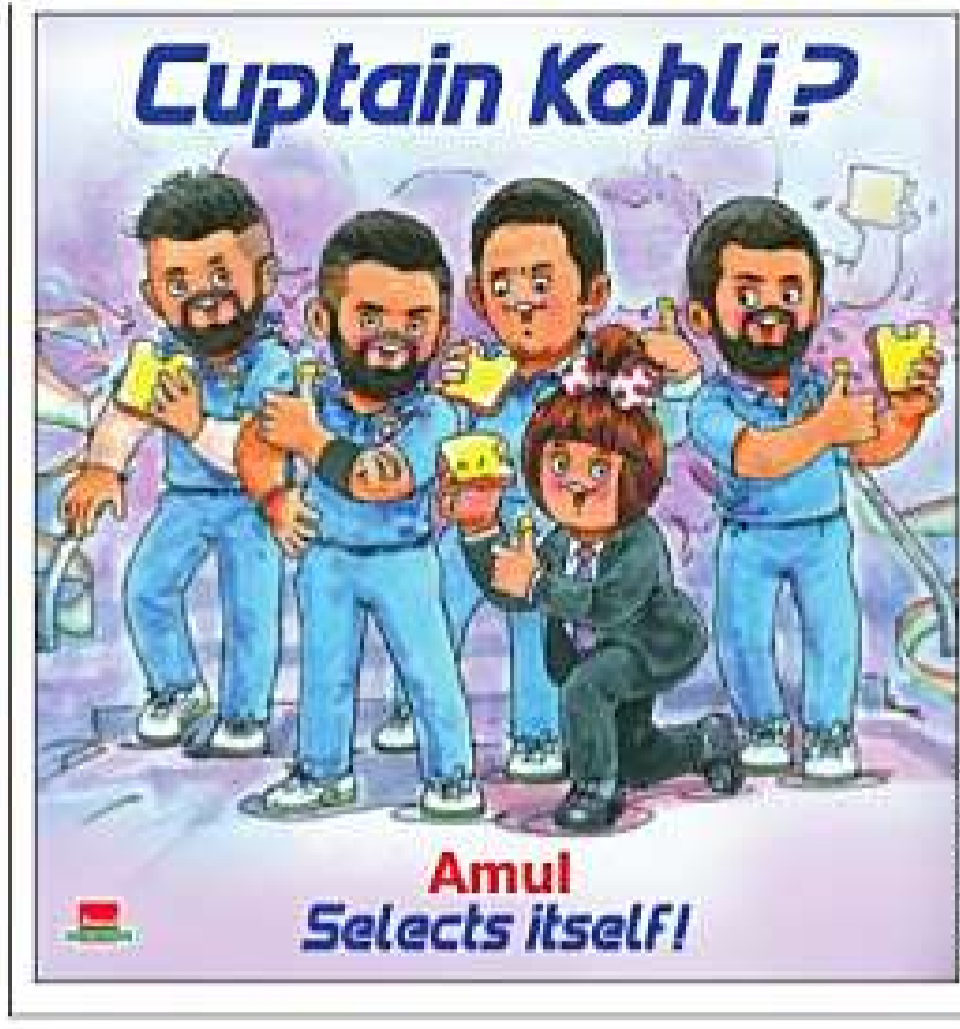


Voters say cash distributed even on Tuesday. Express

unlawful activities of certain candidates and some workers of the political party."

Bypolls to two assembly seats, Ambur and Gudiyattam, will be held on April 18 as scheduled.

The cancellation of the...
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM blames Cong for Bastar Naxal attack: Lifting their spirits

Baghel hits back: Ordered probe into attack, has PM done it for Pulwama

DIPANKAR GHOSE & SAMPAD PATNAIK
RAIPUR, BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 16

A WEEK after Dantewada BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi was killed by Maoists in Bastar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday called the Congress "supporters of Maoists and Naxalites" and said that such attacks were taking place because the Congress was "lifting Maoist" spirits through their manifesto.

Addressing two rallies in Korba and Bhatapara in Chhattisgarh before polling on April 23, Modi began his speech by condolences to Mandavi saying his sacrifice will always be remembered. Mandavi, his driver and three security personnel were killed last Tuesday when their convoy was attacked by Maoists in Dantewada.

"It is unfortunate that the attack happened in the area where the influence of Naxals had been brought down... The question is, why did something like this happen? You will



Modi in Sambalpur, Odisha, on Tuesday. PTI

remember when the Vidhan Sabha elections were happening, I had come here and I had drawn Chhattisgarh's attention to the comments made by Congress leaders," he said.

"Then, there was a phase within the Congress calling the Naxalite revolutionaries. Today what is happening here is because of the Congress improving the spirits of the Naxalites."

Referring to the BJP, he said that on one hand, jawns are protecting the country and in tribal and backward areas his government had worked to prove roads, railway lines, mobile...
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Jet Airways aircraft at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Tuesday. Pradip Das

Jet crisis deepens: Fleet down to 5, airline asks for Rs 400 crore emergency funding

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, APRIL 16

INDIA'S OLDEST private airline Jet Airways, which is operating on a skeletal schedule with just five aircraft due to its critical liquidity position, Tuesday said it is talking to its lenders for emergency funding to "arrest further deterioration of its services".

Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola, who reviewed the situation, said the airline has sought immediate fund infusion from banks to stay afloat. In a mail sent to Jet's employees late Tuesday, the airline's chief executive officer Vinay Dube said the airline reached out to State Bank of India "yet again and stressed on the need for urgent funding requirements, critical to the continuation of the operations". "In the said communication, we have highlighted the specific areas that will be immediately impacted, should the funding not be forth-

EXPLAINED
E.

Bank funds may help for now

A DELAY in banks releasing emergency funds to Jet Airways for daily operations has worsened the situation. While the promised Rs 1,500 crore was a small amount for the airline, which has debt and payables exceeding Rs 10,000 crore, it could have provided the impetus required to survive until a new investor is brought on board.

coming," wrote Dube. According to airline sources, while the company has sought...
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

As lenders discuss future, 16,500 Jet employees are on a wing — and a prayer

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA, ASTHA SAXENA & AVINASH NAIR
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, AHMEDABAD, APRIL 16

THE 16,500-PLUS employees of Jet Airways were on a wing and a prayer Tuesday evening as a three-hour meeting of Jet Airways' board of directors to secure emergency funding from lenders remained inconclusive.

From running a Save Jet Airways campaign on social media and knocking at the Prime Minister's Office to just checking in every day despite delayed salaries, to playing cricket when it is not too hot, most employees

reported to work as usual across states, hoping that "one of India's finest airlines" will stabilise soon.

"What is encouraging is we get regular updates from management," said a manager in the finance department in the company's Mumbai office. The employees received a mail Tuesday morning from Jet Airways Chief Executive Officer Vinay Dube stating the future course of action for the airlines will be decided in by the board.

The previous day, the CEO had informed employees again by mail that the promised Rs 1,500 crore interim funding by lenders to keep the flights operational had not yet been received. "Tension gripped the...
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Hearing plea on women in mosques only because of Sabarimala: SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 16

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday issued notice to the Centre, All India Muslim Personal Law Board and National Commission for Women among others on a petition by a Pune couple who sought directions to let Muslim women enter mosques and offer prayers.

The bench of Justices S A Bobde and S Abdul Nazeer did not seem very convinced by the submission of the petitioners who also cited the Supreme Court order in the Sabarimala case. The bench said it was hearing the plea only "because of the judgment in Sabarimala".

Last September, a five-judge Constitution Bench lifted age restrictions on the entry of women to the Sabarimala temple. Review petitions were filed against the order and the court, after hearing parties to the matter, reserved its verdict.

"The only reason we are hearing you is because of the judgment in Sabarimala. Otherwise we don't think you are giving satisfactory answers," the bench told advocate Ashutosh Dubey who appeared for petitioners Yasmeen Zuber Ahmad Peerzade and her husband Zuber Ahmad Nazir Ahmad Peerzade.

The petition recalled the Sabarimala order in which the court said "religion cannot be used as cover to deny rights of...
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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

STEMMING THE GROWTH DECLINE
BY NEELKANTH MISHRA
PAGE 12

EC makes it clear: NaMo TV must follow 'election silence' rule

RITIKA CHOPRA & ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 16

THE BJP-SPONSORED NaMo TV will have to comply with the 48-hour "election silence" ahead of every phase of voting, the Election Commission (EC) is learnt to have told the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Tuesday.

The EC has also told the Delhi CEO that all expenditure incurred on programmes and advertisements on NaMo TV should be identified appropriately and attributed to candidates or political parties.

The two-day silence period for the second phase of voting on April 18 started Tuesday evening. According to a senior official in the Delhi CEO's office, a direction to comply with Section 126(i)(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, was sent to the BJP within hours of receiving the EC's communication.

Section 126 (i) (b) of the RP

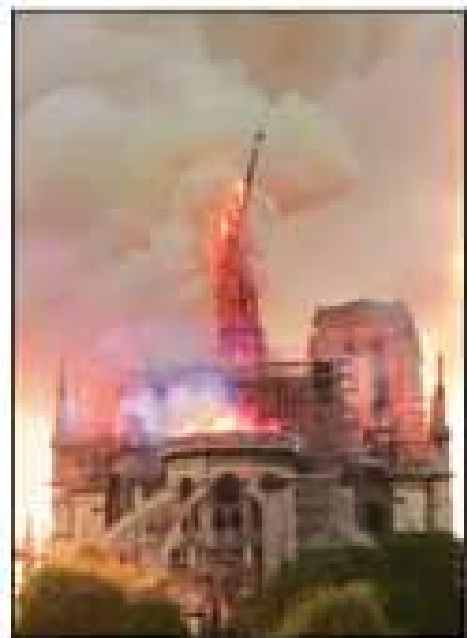
DECISION 2019

MODI HAS CAMERAS IN POLL BOOTHS, IS WATCHING: BJP MLA IN GUJARAT
FULL COVERAGE, P 7, 8, 9

Act prohibits display of any "election matter by means of cinematograph, television or other similar apparatus", in the 48 hours before the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in a constituency.

The EC's order brings clarity on the applicability of election silence on NaMo TV, which aired political content and pre-recorded speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 48 hours preceding the first phase of voting on April 11.
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WORLD



FRANCE GRIEVES FOR NOTRE-DAME PAGE 14

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SOWMIYA ASHOK
BEIJING, APRIL 16

SHOULD CHINESE employees in the IT sector work from 9 am to 9 pm, six days a week? That's the debate raging across China, discussed on every commuter's smartphone on the subway, among students on college campuses and friends sharing a meal.

Dubbed "996", it began when tech workers set up a discussion on the code-sharing platform GitHub, called "996.ICU" pointing

out that people working the 996 shift on a regular basis could end up in the intensive care unit of a hospital. Since then, the 12-hour shift has been widely discussed on WeChat and Weibo, and has now even state-run media weighing in. The trigger: Alibaba group founder and billionaire Jack Ma recently remarked that working overtime could be a "huge blessing" for young workers while referring to "996".

This introspection in China comes in the backdrop of a similar debate in Europe, which is pushing for a four-day week,



Jack Ma said working overtime could be a big blessing

suggesting that that working less could deliver higher productivity and better work, life balance.

Reports in government media outlets Tuesday reminded entrepreneurs to "obey the rules" and "avoid chaos" around the 12-hour work schedule practised in many tech industries. In an op-ed, China's news agency, Xinhua, termed the "996 schedule" a "violation of the labour law."

Last week, Ma said in a speech to Alibaba staff that the company expected workers to put in 12 hours a day since it had huge commitments to its clients.

"If you don't work 996 when you are young, when will you? Do you think never having to work 996 in your life is an honour to boast about?" he had said.

On Sunday, on the microblogging platform, Weibo, he called "996" a "huge blessing" and said: "How do you achieve the success you want without paying extra effort and time?" Ma said any prospective employees looking to work at Alibaba should be prepared for the long hours.

An op-ed on state-run news agency, Xinhua, noted that China

today needed "more struggle" than ever before. "The struggle we advocate is the struggle for the workers to achieve decent work and all-round development. It is based on people's sense of responsibility for the cause and confidence in the future. If we can't really protect the interests of employees, if we ignore the wishes and physical and mental health of our employees, and even let our employees work hard to get a working overtime fee, the "996 work system" imposed by some enterprises is...
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