

Assembly polls mandate has decided 2024: PM

BJP retains power in 4 States, landslide win for AAP in Punjab

NEW DELHI, Mar 10: The BJP today retained power in the politically crucial State of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur while the AAP swept Punjab with three-fourths majority to give a boost to its pitch for a national role and the opposition camp ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

As counting of votes in the Assembly elections to five

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States continued tonight, Holi came a week early for the BJP as an incumbent Government returned to power in UP after over three decades with the saffron party riding on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's effective implementation of welfare policies to create a "new history".

The spectacular rise of the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) outside its Delhi turf with an unprecedented mandate in Punjab and a toe-hold in Goa by bagging two seats also foretells a big likely churn in the opposition camp. While Kejriwal hailed the party's performance in Punjab as a "revolution", it was a hat-trick for the BJP in Goa.

"Poll results highlight people's stamp of strong approval for BJP's pro-poor pro-active governance," Modi said in his address to jubilant party workers at the party headquarters in Delhi. "Those who look at UP through prism of caste insult it; people of State repeatedly voted for politics of development since 2014."

The outcome of the Assembly polls held over February and March and seen as a barometer of people's mood also saw the Congress' epitaph

written on the electoral battlefield.

by the Gandhi siblings Rahul and Priyanka. Like the

incumbent returning to power in the state after serving a full term,

ing second Covid wave last year and the intense protests by farm-

Commission data, the BJP won or was leading in bulk of the 113 seats in western UP where it was thought to be on a sticky wicket.

"People have buried the politics of caste and religion by ensuring the victory of BJP and its allies in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Adityanath said at the State BJP headquarters in Lucknow where excitement was palpable with the party workers dancing to popular tunes and throwing gulal at each other.

Bulldozers -- real as well as miniature versions -- were at the centre stage of the celebrations at the BJP office in the State capital as they figured in the poll campaign in a reference to the action taken against criminals and what the State Government calls buildings linked to the 'mafia'. SP leader Akhilesh Yadav, a former Chief Minister,



UP CM Yogi Adityanath and senior BJP leaders celebrate the party victory in Lucknow (left) while AAP CM candidate Bhagwant Maan hugs his mother after party's landslide victory in Punjab (right) on Thursday. (UNI)

The Congress, now in power only in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, an all-time low, lost Punjab and could bag only two seats in UP notwithstanding the high-decibel campaign

Congress, the AAP will also be in trends and results available for the 403 seats in Uttar Pradesh where Adityanath also achieved the maiden feat of an

the BJP crossed the majority mark garnering 202 seats and was leading in 53, short of its earlier count of 312.

The BJP's showing in UP also indicated that the devastat-

ers against the three contentious farm laws, which was subsequently withdrawn, did not appear to have any major impact on the fortunes of the saffron party. According to Election

NIA team from Delhi visits blast site

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 10: A special team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) today reached Udhampur from New Delhi to join investigations in yesterday's Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast at Sathia Chowk in Udhampur town in which one civilian was killed and 16 others were injured.

Sources told the Excelsior that the high-level NIA team inspected the spot and splinters

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J&K adds 35 cases, Ladakh 5

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU/SRINAGAR/LEH, Mar 10: Jammu and Kashmir today reported 35 cases of COVID-19 while Ladakh recorded five positives.

Kashmir division registered 21 cases and Jammu region 14. Jammu district reported 13 fresh COVID positive cases and Ramban one while rest eight districts in Jammu region didn't report any cases.

With 29 recoveries, number of the active positive cases in Jammu

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ACB arrests Patwari for taking bribe

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Mar 10: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) today trapped and arrested a Patwari and a Chowkidar at Brien Nishat of Srinagar for demanding and accepting bribe.

The ACB said that it received a written complaint wherein the complainant alleged that Asif Farooq Wani, Patwari, Halqa Brein Nishat, Srinagar and Chowkidar Nazir

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Strength of Pr Secys, Comm/Secys fixed DoPT allocates 189 posts of IAS, IPS, IFoS to J&K from AGMUT cadre

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 10: The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) today amended All India Services (AIS) rules formally allocating 189 posts of IAS, IPS and IFoS of AGMUT cadre to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Three separate notifications to this effect were issued by the DoPT Ministry, headed by Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh, today.

The notifications allotted senior duty posts to Jammu &

Kashmir under the Arunachal Pradesh Goa Mizoram Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre.

As per the notifications, 65 senior duty posts of AGMUT cadre have been allotted to Jammu and Kashmir in Indian Administrative Services, 70 in Indian Forest Services and 58 in Indian Police Services.

J&K will have one post of Chief Secretary, six Principal Secretaries, one Chairman Special Tribunal, one Principal Secretary to Governor, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), one Principal Resident Commissioner, nine

Commissioner Secretaries, two Divisional Commissioners and 20 Deputy Commissioners among others.

Similarly, the posts of IPS and IFoS have also been mentioned separately in the DoPT notification. However, majority of the posts already existed in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the amendments have brought Jammu and Kashmir at par with other States and Union Territories of the country.

Following amendments in the All India Services Rules,

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Jawan's body found, Guard shot at TRF comdr among 3 militants killed

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 10: Three militants including the



Security forces patrol near the site of shootout in Dargah area of Srinagar on Thursday. Another pic on page 6.

Resistance Front (TRF) commander were killed in two separate encounters in Southern district of Pulwama and Hazratbal area of Srinagar today.

Militants shot at a Jammu and Kashmir Bank guard while the body of a missing soldier was found in Budgam today.

A TRF commander Manzoor alias Haider alias Hamzah, who was a

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

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(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

20 feet long statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh to come up at Lakhanpur

Avtar Bhat

KATHUA, Mar 10: Creating a history of sorts, the BJP led Lakhanpur Municipal Committee is installing a 20 feet long statue of Maharaja Gulab Singh -the founder of erstwhile J&K State at Lakhanpur, the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir.

The 20 feet long bronze statue costing Rs 75 lakh has been made by Padamshri Ravinder Jamwal, a renowned sculptor of J&K who has been working on it for last three years. The installation of 20 feet in height bronze statue with Maharaja astride on

a horse which will be placed on 20 feet high pedestal tonight will be the greatest tribute to this great ruler and warrior of J&K on the bi-centenary coronation year of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

The statue will be an attraction for millions of visitors, besides the pilgrims of Mata Vaishno Devi and Shri Amarnath Ji entering J&K from Lakhanpur after crossing the Ravi bridge. A special welding team has been called to put the statue on pedestal.

The total cost incurred on the installation of statue with

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

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