

## Malik not detained : DP

NEW DELHI, Apr 22: Police today said they have not detained former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik in southwest Delhi's R K Puram area.  
 "We have not detained former Governor Satya Pal Malik. He came on his own volition, along with his supporters, to the R K Puram police station and we have informed him that he can leave at his own will," Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Manoj C said.  
 Another officer said a meeting was scheduled to be held at an MCD park in R K Puram and

## SC seeks reply from J&K on Dutch national's plea

NEW DELHI, Apr 22: The Supreme Court has sought the response of the Jammu and Kashmir administration to a plea filed by a Dutch national, lodged in a jail in Jammu and suffering from paranoid schizophrenia, seeking direction to the authorities for providing him proper medical treatment for his ailment at a specialised hospital.  
 The petitioner, 53-year-old Richard De Wit, who was arrested in April 2013 in Srinagar in connection with a murder case and is currently

## Rahul vacates official bungalow

NEW DELHI, Apr 22: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said he was paying the price for speaking the truth and vowed to continue to raise people's issues as he vacated his official bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi and shifted to his mother Sonia Gandhi's residence today.  
 Gandhi, who was disqualified from Lok Sabha last month following his conviction in a defamation case, was asked to vacate the 12, Tughlaq Lane bungalow by April 22.  
 "I have paid the price for speaking the truth. I am ready to pay any price," he said, adding

## Drone returns to Pak after BSF firing

JAMMU, Apr 22: Alert troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) this morning opened fire at a drone seen flying over their outpost along the International Border at Narayanpur in Ramgarh sector of Samba district.  
 The drone, with blinking white and red lights, was flying approximately 600-700 metres above the ground, the officials said.  
 They said the BSF troops fired nearly 20 rounds towards it after which it flew back to the Pakistan side of the International Border opposite Ramgarh sector.  
 The BSF has been maintaining very high alert all along the International Border.

## 11 test COVID +ve in J&K

JAMMU, Apr 22: A total of 11 fresh COVID-19 positive cases were reported today from Jammu and Kashmir, all from Jammu division and none from Kashmir valley.  
 The highest number of 6 cases was reported from Jammu district, followed by 2 each from Doda and Reasi and 1 from Udhampur district.  
 As per reports, a total of 1,709 COVID tests were conducted in the Union Territory in last 24 hours. The number of active COVID cases in the UT

## Eid-ul-Fitr observed across Kashmir with fervour

SRINAGAR, Apr 22: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated across Kashmir today with traditional fervour and gaiety as the largest congregation of devotees was witnessed at the Hazratbal shrine on the banks of the Dal lake while no prayers were allowed at Jamia Masjid Srinagar.  
 Authorities didn't allow people to offer prayers at the 14th-century mosque in the city's Nowhatta area for the fourth consecutive year.  
 They had directed the Jamia Masjid management to conduct the Eid prayers at 7.30 am instead of 9 am.  
 The Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid said the prayers could not be held at 7.30 am as people had to come from far-flung areas in accordance with the schedule announced earlier.  
 This has led to anger among the general people as Jamia Masjid is one of the oldest

# Number of PSs go up to 11,370, Aux PSs if required

## 3 major elections scheduled in J&K this FY including Panchayats, ULBs, LS: CEO

JAMMU, Apr 22: Number of Polling Stations in Jammu and Kashmir has gone up to 11,370 and some Auxiliary Polling Stations can be set up where number of voters exceeds 1400 for the next Lok Sabha elections as three elections are scheduled in Jammu and Kashmir during current financial year including Panchayats, Municipalities and Parliament while Assembly polls are due.

### \*Youth turning 18 get special chance for enrollment as voters



Sanjeev Pargal, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Jammu and Kashmir, said that the number of polling stations in the state has increased to 11,370. He mentioned that three major elections are scheduled in the current financial year: Panchayat, Municipalities, and Parliament, followed by Assembly elections. He also highlighted that youth turning 18 will have a special chance for enrollment as voters, and that the process for Panchayat elections is being expedited.

registered during Special Summary Revision. He said the Panchayat, Urban Local Bodies and Lok Sabha elections are scheduled in Jammu and Kashmir during current financial year while Assembly elections are due. Panchayats and Municipalities will complete their five-year term in October-November this year and Lok Sabha polls are scheduled in April-May next year, he said. "As per the procedure, separate revision in the electoral rolls has to be carried out for Panchayat polls while for Urban Local Bodies, the rolls can be extracted from the general Summary Revision," the Chief Electoral Officer said. He added that separate revision for Panchayat elections is necessary as there are very small Panch constituencies and shifting of even one house from one Ward to another leads to objections. Therefore, separate revision will be carried out for the

Panchayat polls, he said. Number of electorates in Jammu and Kashmir had gone up to 83.59 lakh when Special Summary Revision was done last year and final electoral rolls were published on November 25. The numbers could further go up when final rolls will be published on May 27. However, for Urban Local Bodies, Pole said, the Summary Revision Rolls will be the basic rolls but they will be put in domain for corrections and objections for Corporations, Councils and Committees. The CEO J&K said the Election Commission had stated that upcoming elections will be inclusive with special facilities for Persons With Disabilities, and 4-5 type of other physical disabilities like deaf and dumb, blind etc. "Now, every Polling Station will know how many persons with disabilities it has and their voting will be facilitated with



Nomad heading towards higher reaches ahead of summer season on the outskirts of Jammu. -Excelsior/Rakesh

## 'His claims need credibility check'

### If Malik had info about irregularities, he should have spoken during his tenure: HM

Excelsior Correspondent  
 JAMMU, Apr 22: Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said the claims being made by former and last Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Satya Pal Malik needs credibility check and if he had information about irregularities, he should have spoken during his tenure.  
 He made these remarks while speaking at India Today Karnataka Roundtable 2023 today.  
 "The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) hasn't done anything that needs to be hidden. The issues should not be discussed in a public forum," Shah said responding to a question on Malik's allegations who had recently commented on Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were martyred and files pertaining to insurance and power project.  
 Malik had also made critical remarks about the BJP-led Centre, especially regarding its handling of Jammu and

\* BJP has done nothing which needs to be hidden

been called in. He is being probed in an alleged insurance scam and the probe agency is just doing its duty. There is no relation between the CBI summons and his allegations," he said.  
 The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has called Satya Pal Malik for questioning in connection with his claim that he was offered a Rs 300-crore bribe to clear two files during his stint in J&K.  
 "On speculations of Malik joining hands with a rival party, the Home Minister said, "He made the claims after separating himself from us and hence, his claims are doubtful."  
 Shah said Satya Pal Malik has been a part of the party for a long time.  
 "People change from time to time. Voters should judge carefully," he said.  
 The CBI has asked former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik to answer certain queries in connection with an alleged insurance scam in the Union Territory, officials said on Friday.

## Search operations on but without success

### NSG team, Northern Command chief visit terror attack site

JAMMU, Apr 22: A team of National Security Guards (NSG) visited Bhatta Durrian site of terror attack in Mendhar area of Poonch district today where five Army jawans sacrificed their lives and another was injured on Thursday.



Top Army Commanders near the site of encounter at Poonch on Saturday. -Excelsior/Rahi Kapoor

\*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com  
 The NSG Post Blast Analysis Team led by top officials examined the site of attack along with officials of other security and Intelligence agencies and collected certain samples for examination.  
 A cordon-and-search operation backed up by drones and sniffer dogs to trace the militants entered the second day today without any success except for detention of certain suspects.  
 Sixteen people have so far been detained for questioning, officials said, adding that some of them have been let off.  
 Meanwhile, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General

## Subdued Eid in Sangiote due to terror attack

Excelsior Correspondent  
 POONCH, Apr 22: Villagers of the border hamlet of Sangiote in this district did not celebrate Eid with much enthusiasm today as they grieved the killing of five Indian soldiers when an Army truck carrying material for a scheduled Ifar was ambushed by terrorists.  
 Sangiote has a population of more than 3,500 and over 60 per cent of the men are ex-servicemen.  
 "We have not celebrated Eid with any pomp and show. We just offered prayers. The people are grieved over the martyrdom of jawans, who were bringing material for our Ifar on Thursday evening," Sangiote Sarpanch Mukhtiar

## Discusses deployment, domination plans

### DG BSF visits Rajouri, Poonch; reviews situation with top officials

JAMMU, Apr 22: Director General of Border Security Force (BSF) S L Thaosan today visited forward areas and reviewed security situation and challenges along the Line of Control (LoC) in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in this region.  
 The DG also had security-related discussions with Director General of Police Dilbag Singh and other CRPF Commanders based in Rajouri and Poonch districts, officials said.  
 Thaosan, who arrived in Jammu on a two-day visit on Thursday, visited forward defence locations in Rajouri and Poonch districts and reviewed



Director General BSF S L Thaosan along with senior officers at Rajouri to review security scenario on Saturday.

## Modi led India from pessimism to optimism: Dr Jitendra

### BJP Core Group asks cadre to gear up for LS, Panchayat polls

Avtar Bhat  
 JAMMU, Apr 22: Though Election Commission of India (ECI) has not taken any decision on holding of much delayed Assembly elections in the UT of J&K, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in its Core Group meeting here, today asked its cadre to gear up for the next year's Lok Sabha as well as Panchayat and Local Bodies elections which are due to be held in October - November this year.  
 According to sources, BJP during the Core Group meeting while unfolding the party's future programmes to be held in connection with completion of Narendra Modi's nine years in

Government said the focus of the month-long programme held from May 15 to June 15 all over the country including J&K should be on elections to Lok Sabha, Panchayats and Local Bodies.  
 \* Pic on page 9  
 Video on www.excelsiornews.com  
 Sources said BJP national general secretary and in charge J&K Tarun Chugh informed the Core Group members that even ECI can take the decision about the Assembly elections at any time and hence party should make exercise for the same from today also.  
 Tarun Chugh, while addressing the meeting stressed on for-

defeating the opponents in the elections.  
 The Core Group meeting was attended by Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, party president JK UT, Ravinder Raina, MP, Jugal Kishore Sharma, BJP general secretary (Org), Ashok Koul, former Deputy CMs, Dr Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta, former Minister, Sat Sharma, party general secretaries, Dr D K Manyal, Sunil Sharma and Vibodh Gupta, former MLA, Devender Rana, party chief spokesperson, Sunil

Sethi and spokesperson, G L Raina.  
 However, party MP Gulam Ali Khatana and senior leader Dr Darkshan Andrabi could not attend the meeting as they were pre-occupied with celebration of Eid festival.  
 Sources said the recent militant attack on Army bus at Poonch also figured in the meeting. While party expressed full confidence in the Government machinery involved in handling the mili-

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**WEATHER**  
 JAMMU:  
 Partly cloudy  
**TEMPERATURE**  
 Max: 30.1 Degree C  
 Min: 16.6 Degree C  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
 RH-I (Morning): 57.0 per cent  
 RH-II (Evening): 33.0 per cent  
 Sunset on Sunday: 07.07 p.m.  
 Sunrise on Monday: 05.53 a.m.  
 SRINAGAR:  
 Possibility of light rain/thundershowers  
**TEMPERATURE**  
 Max: 14.2 Degree C  
 Min: 3.9 Degree C  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
 RH-I (Morning): 92.0 per cent  
 RH-II (Evening): 52.0 per cent  
**LEH:**  
**TEMPERATURE**  
 Max: 6.4 Degree C  
 Min: -4.2 Degree C

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