

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! India's borders totally...

saying recruiting youths would result in an increased risk-taking spirit and more tech-savvy armed forces. "Everyone will accept the fact that there should be youthfulness in the armed forces. Normally, 30-50 years has been the age range of our jawans. But when jawans aged 18-20 will join as Agniveers, then the risk-taking spirit will be a bit higher," he said.

Senior jawans are discharging their responsibilities well, there is no two ways about it, he said. Today is the age of technology and the Indian youth should also be tech-savvy. Such youths are being recruited under this scheme as Agniveers, he added.

The future of these youths will not be impacted by the scheme. Steps have been taken to secure their future, including making provisions for reservation for Agniveers in paramilitary forces, Singh said. "And if we see any drawbacks, then we are ready to rectify them," he said.

In June 2022, the Centre rolled out the Agnipath recruitment scheme for short-term induction of personnel into the armed forces with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services. The scheme provides for recruiting youngsters in the age bracket of 17 years and a half to 21 years for a four-year period with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

Election notification for...

in Jammu. Scrutiny of the nomination papers will take place on 06 April, 2024 at 11:00 am at Deputy Commissioner's Office Jammu.

The candidates have the option to withdraw their candidature on April 08, 2024 until 03:00 pm. The polling day for the constituency has been scheduled for April 26, 2024, and the polling will be conducted from 07:00 am to 06:00 pm. Meanwhile, on the first day of nomination for Jammu Lok Sabha constituency, two candidates filed their nomination papers. The constituency is scheduled for 2nd phase of General Elections to be held in Jammu and Kashmir on April 26. The candidates, including Jagdish Raj and Charanjeet Chargoitra (Covering Candidate) both from BSP, filed their nomination papers in the office of Returning Officer. The last day for filing of nomination papers is April 04, 2024 upto 3:00 pm.

Scrutiny of nomination...

candidates namely Prem Nath from Bharatiya Janata Party, Tilak Raj of Bahujan Samaj Party and Diyya Suraj Partap Singh from Indian National Congress becomes null and void as they were the covering candidates and due to formal consideration/approval of the candidature of the main candidates as validly nominated candidates from the respective parties.

The scrutiny was held in presence of General Observer for 4-Udhampur, PC Dheeraj Kumar, contesting candidates and representatives of political parties.

As per the issued election notification, the candidates can withdraw their nomination before 03:00 pm on 30.03.2024 in the office of Returning Officer.

The constituency is scheduled for elections in the first phase of General Elections to be held on April 19.

Jailed gangster-turned...

that Ansari died of a cardiac arrest at the facility.

He was hospitalised for around 14 hours on Tuesday after he complained of abdominal pain.

Mukhtar Ansari, 60, is a five-time former MLA from Mau Sadar seat and has been behind bars in UP and Punjab since 2005. He has over 60 criminal cases pending against him. He was sentenced in eight cases since September 2022 by different courts of UP and was lodged in the Banda jail. His name was on the list of 66 gangsters issued by Uttar Pradesh Police last year. Earlier, his brother and Ghazipur MP Afzal Ansari, who reached the hospital, alleged that he was given poison in jail.

Security measures for...

deliberated upon. Kumar stressed the commitment of the law enforcement agencies to uphold the principles of democracy by ensuring a secure and fair electoral environment for all stakeholders involved, the spokesman said.

He said the meeting concluded with a directive to continuously monitor and assess the evolving security situation, with a focus on preemptive measures to mitigate any risks that may arise during the electoral process. Special measures for critical polling locations were identified and strategies were devised to ensure heightened security measures at these places to deal any potential threats and maintain the sanctity of the electoral process, the spokesman added.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) V K Birdi briefed the meeting about the existing security plans.

JKBOSE issues revised...

11th class examination of Soft Zone areas has now been rescheduled from 02-04-2024 at 1.00 pm while 11th class examination of Hard Zone areas shall commence from 22-04-2024 at 10.00 am. The revised schedule has been notified vide notification number F (Acad-C)/Rev/DT/AR/XI-SZ/X-XI-XII-HZ/2024 dated 28-03-2024 which is available on the official website of JKBOSE www.jkbose.nic.in.

As per the notification, the change has been necessitated because of a communique received from Joint Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Jammu, regarding the schedule for conduct of Lok Sabha Election 2024. There has also been a communication from National Testing Agency regarding conduct of Joint Entrance Examination (Main) 2024, session w.e.f. 04 April to 15 April 2024 in addition to scores of representations from the students for rescheduling of JKBOSE exams. The date sheets for the examinations of said classes/zones issued earlier be treated as cancelled, read the notification.

All the stakeholders including Principals, Overall Incharges, Superintendents, exam staff, students and parents have been asked to carefully adhere to the revised schedule. The teachers should appropriately inform their students about the revised dates particularly revised time so that there is no confusion and the examinees reach the examination centers on the right day and time. The overall Incharges shall ensure that the right question paper is opened at the right centre and on the right day/time. The Sub/ Branch officers of JKBOSE shall be specially responsible for dissemination of revised schedule of examination of Hard zone areas. In case of any confusion or query, the stakeholders can contact nearest JKBOSE office or at JKBOSE helpline number 0191-2953195, 0194-3113091 or Joint Secretary Exam JD on mobile number 9419144203 and Joint Secretary Kashmir on mobile number 8493831545.

CS reviews development...

over this portal for skilling and the kind of alerts, information to be provided to applicants. He suggested for making it multilingual for ease of diverse population living here. He also asked for inclusion of motivational videos giving details of schemes offered in each sector of self employment besides adding those on Daksh Kisan portal.

The Secretary, SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan threw light on different aspects and avenues to be onboarded over it. He gave out that the portal under development is going to host a number of online courses beneficial for the people in need of skilling themselves under different sectors or areas of interest like Agriculture, automotive, BFSI, construction, beauty & wellness etc.

Congress leaders grabbed...

utilised for the benefit of the needy. At the same time, Prime Minister Modi said, those who are trying to escape from action by law will also be brought to book, he added.

Accordingly, Dr. Jitendra said, one after the other, all the criminals, encroachers and land grabbers in the Congress Party are on their way to jail and periodically coming out on bail. He said, as a Member of Prime Minister Modi's team, each of the BJP Karyakarta has taken the vow to bring these looters to the book and restore their looted property to the genuine claimants.

As far Kathua, Dr. Jitendra said, the entire region was neglected by its Congress representatives because they were keen to appease their Kashmir-centric masters. As a result, this region suffered from continuous neglect and discrimination.

In the last 10 years, said Dr. Singh, under Prime Minister Modi, Kathua witnessed maximum development among all the districts of Jammu & Kashmir. Kathua got centrally funded Government Medical College, centrally funded Engineering College under RUSA, Passport Office, Vande Bharat Train, North India's first Industrial Biotech Park, North India's first Homeopathic College, first Seed Processing Plant, 4% reservation for youth along International border; border bunkers, Express Road Corridor from Delhi, network of roads, dozens of bridges including the important Keerian-Gandyal bridge, Juthana bridge and Atal Setu, several degree colleges and Kendriya Vidyalayas, Bamboo clusters, which gave employment to hundreds of peoples including Women Self-Help Groups, new industrial complex and much more.

Dr. Jitendra said, today Kathua is emerging as the central nodal point of education , health and trade from all across North India. This has been possible only because of personal indulgence of Prime Minister Modi and the third term of Prime Minister Modi is also going to be "Modi Ki Guarantee" for Kathua emerging as a favourite destination in North India.

During his tour, Dr. Singh was accompanied by former MLA and Minister; Rajiv Jasrotia, DDC Vice Chairperson Raghunandan Singh Babloo, BJP President Gopal Mahajan, senior leader Janak Bharti, Prem Nath Dogra, Councillors, BDC members and PRIs. Wherever he went, he was received with extraordinary enthusiasm by people chanting the slogan, "Abki Baar 400 Paar".

Arvind Kejriwal's ED...

Sisodia who was handed over the draft Group of Ministers (GoM) report for the 2021-22 excise policy at the residence of the chief minister. It said the statement of one of the AAP candidates in the 2022 Goa elections was also recorded during Kejriwal's ED custody. It revealed that the candidate did not have any money and his election expenditure was "taken care of by the AAP Office Delhi only through their associates".

Delhi HC dismisses Cong's pleas against tax reassessment proceedings

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday rejected petitions by the Congress challenging the initiation of tax reassessment proceedings against it for a period of four years by tax authorities.

A bench of Justices Ashwant Varma and Purushandra Kumar Kaurav said the pleas were dismissed in terms of its earlier decision refusing to interfere with the opening of reassessment for another period.

The present matter pertained to assessment years 2017 to 2021.

In the earlier petition, which was dismissed last week, the Congress party had challenged initiation of reassessment proceedings pertaining to assessment years 2014-15 to 2016-17.

On March 22, the high court had, while rejecting those pleas, said that the tax authority had prima facie collated "substantial and concrete" evidence warranting further scrutiny and examination.

It had, however, left open the question as to whether the delay in commencement of proceedings would be fatal to the assessment.

In that petition, the Congress had contended that action under Section 153C (assessment of income of any other person) of Income Tax Act was based on searches which were conducted on four individuals in April, 2019, and was barred by limitation.

It said that on the basis of the material which was gathered in those searches, the assessing officer also drew corresponding satisfaction

notes for initiation of proceedings against the Congress.

The I-T department had, however, asserted there was no violation of any statutory provision by the tax authority and that as per the material recovered, the "escaped" income of the party is more than Rs 520 crore.

Recently, the high court had also refused to interfere with the order of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal declining to stay a notice issued by the Income Tax department to the Congress for recovery of outstanding tax of more than Rs 100 crore.

The assessing officer had raised a tax demand of more than Rs 100 crore for the assessment year 2018-19 when the income was assessed to be more than Rs 199 crore.

NET scores to be used for PhD admissions from 2024-25: UGC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The National Eligibility Test (NET) scores will be used for PhD admissions from 2024-25 eliminating the need for separate entrance tests conducted by universities and higher education institutions, according to the University Grants Commission.

The NET is conducted twice a year -- June and December. Its scores are currently used to award Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and as eligibility for appointment as an assistant professor for those with a Master's degree.

According to University Grants Commission (UGC) officials, the commission had constituted an expert committee to review the provisions of the exam and

based on the panel's recommendations, it has decided that from the academic session 2024-25, the score can be used for admission to PhD programmes.

"Starting from the academic session 2024-2025, universities nationwide will have the opportunity to utilise NET scores for admissions to PhD programmes, replacing the need for separate entrance tests conducted by individual universities and higher education institutions (HEIs). This marks an important step in streamlining the admission process and enhancing accessibility for aspiring doctoral candidates.

"By leveraging the NET, which is conducted biannually, universities can offer greater flexibility to students, allowing them to

utilise their scores from either session to apply for PhD programmes across various institutions," UGC Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said.

Kumar explained that the initiative is poised to benefit students in numerous ways. "Firstly, it eliminates the need for students to prepare and appear for multiple entrance tests conducted by different universities, thereby reducing the burden of exam logistics and expenses. Additionally, the biannual administration of the NET provides students with increased opportunities to secure admission to their desired PhD programmes.

"We strongly encourage all universities to adopt NET exam scores for PhD admissions starting from the 2024-2025 academic session. This

To browbeat, bully others is vintage Congress culture: Modi on lawyers' letter to CJI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it is a "vintage Congress culture" to browbeat and bully others, remarks that came in reaction to more than 600 lawyers writing to the Chief Justice of India, alleging that a "vested interest group" is trying to put pressure on the judiciary and defame courts.

"To browbeat and bully others is vintage Congress culture. 5 decades ago itself they had called for a "committed judiciary" - they shamelessly want commitment from others for their selfish interests but desist from any commitment towards the nation," Modi said on X.

"No wonder 140 crore Indians are rejecting them," the prime minister said and tagged a post that carried the letter written by the lawyers.

More than 600 lawyers, including senior advocate

Harish Salve and Bar Council chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra, wrote to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, alleging that a "vested interest group" is trying to put pressure on the judiciary and defame courts, especially in cases of corruption involving politicians.

"These tactics are damaging to our courts and threaten our democratic fabric," the lawyers drawn from across the country said in the latter dated March 26.

CJI Chandrachud's leadership is crucial in these "tough times" and the apex court should stand strong, they said, adding it is not the time to maintain dignified silence.

The letter, shared by official sources, targeted a section of lawyers without naming them and alleged that they defend politicians by day and then try to influence judges through the media at night.

will undoubtedly contribute to fostering a more conducive environment for academic pursuit and scholarly advancement in our nation," he said.

In an official notification, the UGC said that from June 2024 onwards, the NET candidates will be declared eligible in three categories -- for admission to PhD with JRF and appointment as assistant professor; for admission to PhD without JRF and appointment as assistant professor; for admission to PhD programme only and not for the award of JRF or appointment as assistant professor.

"Result of UGC NET would be declared in percentile along with the marks obtained by a candidate to utilise the marks for admission to PhD. The JRF-quali-

fied students are admitted into the PhD programme based on an interview as per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of PhD Degree) Regulations, 2022.

"For students who qualify in categories 2 and 3, 70 per cent weightage will be given for test scores and 30 per cent for the interview for admission to PhD programmes. The PhD admission will be based on the combined merit of NET marks and the marks obtained in the interview or viva voce," the notification said.

The marks obtained in the NET by the candidates in categories 2 and 3 will be valid for one year for admission to PhD.

The registration process for UGC NET June 2024 is expected to begin next week.

Facility to exchange, deposit Rs 2,000 notes not available on Apr 1: RBI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The facility to exchange or deposit Rs 2,000 banknotes will not be available on Monday, April 1, 2024 due to operations associated with the annual closing of accounts, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

The facility will resume on Tuesday (April 2, 2024) at the 19 issue offices of the RBI, it added.

"The facility of exchange/deposit of Rs 2,000 banknotes will not be available on Monday, April 1, 2024 at the 19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank of India due to operations associated with the annual closing of accounts," it said.

On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination bank notes from circulation.

Nearly 97.62 per cent of the Rs 2,000 bank notes have returned to the banking system at the close of business on February 29, and only about Rs 8,470 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public.

People can deposit and/or exchange Rs 2,000 bank notes at the 19 RBI offices across the country.

People can also send Rs 2,000 bank notes through India Post from any post office to any of the RBI issue offices for credit to their bank accounts in India.

Lok Sabha Elections -2024 Expenditure Observer for 5-Jammu PC inspects working of DCCC, assesses functioning of MCC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expenditure Observer, 5-Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, Samatha Mullamudi inspected the working of District Control and Complaints Centre (DCCC) office of Returning Officer.

The Expenditure Observer also visited the Media Control Centre (MCC) at PWD Guest House Gandhi Nagar here and assessed its functioning.

During the visit, she provided necessary instructions for proper functioning of the centre and also briefed the Assistant Expenditure Observer about different aspects of election related expenditures. The Expenditure Observer, during the visit, also reviewed working of several Static Surveillance Teams around the district.

Lok Sabha Elections -2024: Voters awareness campaign under SVEEP held at Suchetgarh Border Post

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On instructions of District Election Officer Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, a voting awareness campaign was organised today at Suchetgarh Border Post under the aegis of as part of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program (SVEEP).

The event commenced with a painting competition inaugurated by Assistant Commissioner Development Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma, who is also the Nodal Officer SVEEP. Utilising posters and



Assistant Commissioner Development Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma and others during the programme.

placards, the campaign emphasised the importance of voting rights for citizens. The program continued with local Dogri artists presenting tradi-

tional folk songs especially with reference to the importance of voting on the Election Day.

Following the awareness activities and ceremonial

displays, a spectacle of Tri-colored balloons was released into the sky.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Vikas Sharma emphasised the importance of voting, voter registration and achieving maximum turnout on voting day.

A rally was also organised to raise awareness about active participation in the electoral process. A group of attendees from diverse backgrounds participated including Old Age Voters, Female Voters & Young Voters acquainting themselves with voting rights and responsibilities.

The event concluded on a patriotic note with a colourful parade by the Border Security Force personnel, adding to the overall charm and spirit of the occasion.

ARO Suchetgarh, Rajesh Kumar, BDO Suchetgarh Shalinder Kumar, BDO R.S Pura, Pradeep Singh, local Dogri Singers including Saras Bharti, Amar Chauhan, Sonali Dogra and Para Taekwondo Champion Chandee Singh, besides Officers from BSF Suchetgarh Border Post were present at this mega event.