Nagaland to hold interviews of 1,300 Govt job aspirants from Monday

KOHIMA: The Nagaland government on Saturday announced that it will hold interviews of over 1.300 job aspirants from April 24.

Nagaland Staff Selection Board (NSSB), in a notification, said that the viva-voce component of the Combined Recruitment Examination 2022 will be held from Monday.

Students' The Naga Federation (NSF) had pressurised the state government to cancel the interviews, which were earlier scheduled to begin on April 18.

The NSF demanded cutting down the interview component of the exam from 12.5 per cent to 5 per cent of the total marks, expressing fears of bias.

It had threatened to stage an agitation from April 18 and had requested the 1,368 shortlisted candidates not to report for interviews.

The NSF, in a press release issued during the day, said the proposed stir was called off following a written assurance from the government to hold further discussions on the matter after the current cycle of the examination.

looked into with utmost seriousness, and it is assured that after completion of the present cycle of recruitment by NSSB, the government shall call for detailed consultations with the NSF to examine the entire matter pertaining to the proportion of the total marks to be kept in the viva-voce component in the next cycle of recruitments to be conducted by the NSSB, and arrive at an agreed suitable solution to the matter," the government's response to the NSF

leader Sidhu ahead of Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll

CHANDIGARH: Ahead of the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll, Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu Saturday accused the AAP dispensation in Punjab of patronizing the liquor and sand mafia in the state and also alleged that the party came to power by "selling lies".

He also alleged that the Bhagwant Mann government has increased the state's debt burden with fresh borrowings to the tune of Rs 25,000 crore.

The Jalandhar Lok

management, no untoward

incident has been reported

Security was tightened

across Uttar Pradesh and pro-

hibitory orders under Section

144 of the Code of Criminal

Procedure (CrPC) were

anywhere," he said.

Sabha bypoll slated for May 10 was necessitated following the death of Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary in January.

The Congress has fielded Chaudhary's wife Karamjit Kaur for the bye-election while the ruling AAP has nominated Sushil Rinku.

Addressing reporters in Jalandhar, Sidhu alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party came to power in Punjab by "selling lies" to the people. "Today, the people of Punjab are feel-

Idgah, Kadru Idgah and Iqra

Chief Minister Hemant

"This is a festival of peace,

unity, joy, gaiety and enthusi-

asm. I pray that this festival

may bring happiness and

prosperity in everyone's life,

Radhakrishnan tweeted, "My

heartiest greetings to everyone

on Eid-ul-Fitr. Eid Mubarak!'

Inspector-General of Police

(Operations) Amol V Homkar

arrangements have been made

across all 24 districts of

Deployments have been

made based on intelligence

inputs and some previous inci-

In Kerala, devotees thronged

Governor Arif Mohammed

Khan joined several devotees

who had gathered at the

Eidgah in Kollam district to

offer prayers, the Kerala Raj

mosques and Eidgahs to offer

Jharkhand for the festival.

security

said adequate

dents, he said.

prayers.

Soren extended his wishes on

Masjid in the state capital.

the occasion.

he said.

Governor

ing cheated," he alleged. Sidhu alleged the AAP government has not implemented its poll promise of providing Rs 1,000 per month to women of the state.

AAP came to power in Punjab by selling lies: Cong

The AAP had claimed that it would wipe out the drug menace within a month of coming to power. But now Punjab is in a "sea of drugs", said cricketer-turnedpolitician who released from the Patiala Central Jail on April 1 after being incarcerated for nearly 10 months in a

Hitting out the ruling party, he said the AAP had promised to end liquor cartels. But now. the liquor syndicate in liquor has raised prices by 25 per cent, the former Congress MLA alleged.

"You are the patron and chief of this mafia. You are their (mafia) facilitator," he alleged targeting Chief Minister Bhagwant

On the electricity issue, Sidhu said, "When you made electricity free (up to 300 units), did you tell

(Punjab State Power Corporation Limited)? PSPCL owes Rs 20,000 crore to banks. Char Dham yatra begins

 ${\bf gage\ power\ utility\ PSPCL}$

with opening of Gangotri and Yamunotri temples

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DEHRADUN: The Char Dham yatra began on Saturday with the opening Gangotri Yamunotri temples in Uttarkashi district for pil-The gates of Gangotri

were opened at 12.35 pm

and those of Yamunotri at 12.41 pm, officials of the temple committees said. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami performed a puja at Gangotri temple on the occasion of its ceremonial opening after the six-month-long winter closure. Devotees Kharsali, goddessYamuna's winter abode, were also showered with rose petals from a helicopter. Dhami also offered prayers at in Kharsali when goddess Yamuna's idol, in a decorated palanquin carried by the priests, left in a procession for Yamunotri Dham where she will be worshipped for the next six

Welcoming devotees. Dhami said all arrangements have been made by the state government to ensure that they have a smooth and trouble-free pilgrimage. Dhami on Friday had also withdrawn his decision to impose a daily limit on the number of pilgrims visiting the four famous Himalayan temples in Uttarakhand. Over 16 lakh pilgrims have already registered for the pilgrimage and the number is rising, he had said. Kedarnath will be opened on April 25 and

Acharya Shri Mahashraman's auspicious arrival at Surat's Vesu with phenomenal 'Anuvrat Yatra'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SURAT (GUJARAT): An impressive 'Akshay Saiyam Yatra' led by Yugpradhan Acharya Mahashramanji, the pioneer of Anuvrat Yatra, arrived at Bhagwan Mahaveer University in Vesu, Surat, with an enormous massive

crowd on Saturday. Thousands of devotees, including children, women, and men, waited with bated breath when Acharva Shri Mahashramanji, known as Akshaya Purush of compassion and devoted to the welfare of all mankind, arrived at Annyrat Dwar in City Light area in Surat at around 6.50 a.m. on Saturday after treading a distance of 10 kilometres with his Dhaval Sena from Terapanth Bhavan in Parvat

Every Surat citizen was surprised and intrigued by the disciplined "Akshaya Sanyam Yatra" that came out with the queuing members of all the federal institutions of Terapanth Dharmasangh, the voice waves of diverse

tableaux, and lovely melodies. On the whole road that Param Pujya Acharya Shri Mahashramanji's trip took, Jain devotees and people of other faiths paid their which drew a large audience, was transformed into a devotional gathering at the Mahavir Samvasaran on the campus of Bhagwan Mahavir University in Vesu at 9:30 am on Saturday.

The Akshaya Tritya celebration will go off at 8 a.m. on April 23, 2023, with more than 1,111 Jain ascetics performing Varshitap Parnas in the presence of Acharya Shri Mahashramanji.

Vishwesh Sanghyi, the founder of City Tadka and Representative from Akshaya Tritiya Pravas Vyavastha Samiti, told the media persons that more than 1,111 ascetics Terapanth Dharmasangh will be performing Parana for the first time in India in the auspicious presence of Acharya Shri.

Until May 5, a number of religious and spiritual ceremonies will be done in the auspicious presence and tour of Acharya Mahashramanji.

Sanjay Surana, president of Mahashraman Acharya Akshaya Tritya Pravas Vyavastha Samiti (Surat), has invited the people of Surat to join in Acharya Shri Mahashramanji's Anuvrat Yatra and attend all spiritual sessions without regard for caste or community.

October 2022 led by the US

months.

Badrinath on April 27.

India celebrates Eid with prayers

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr on Saturday with people, dressed in traditional finery, offering prayers at mosques and Eideahs, and families coming together for feasts.

Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of the fasting month of Ramzan. In Delhi, a large number of people congregated at the historical Jama Masjid around 6:30 am to offer namaz. The special Eid prayers at Fatehpuri Masjid, Eidgah and Sunehri Masjid also drew large crowds.

People greeted each other after the prayers and took part in the festivities. Shops in the city's main markets, especially those around Jama Masjid and Chandni Chowk, did brisk business as people shopped for the festival.

While the festive spirit was palpable elsewhere in Jammu and Kashmir, residents of Sangiote village skipped the pomp and show as they grieved the death of five Army soldiers in a terrorist attack in Poonch. The soldiers were killed on

Thursday after unidentified terrorists attacked their truck and it caught fire. The truck was carrying vegetables, fruits and other items for an iftar gathering scheduled to be held in Sangiote on Thursday

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

lawver

Shoulat Hanif has been

booked for criminal conspir-

acy in the Umesh Pal mur-

der case, an official said on

Speaking to PTI, Deputy

Commissioner of Police

(City) Deepak Bhukar said

Hanif's name was added

under Section 120-B (crimi-

nal conspiracy) of the Indian

Penal Code to the FIR regis-

tered at Dhoomanganj police

station in the Umesh Pal

"We came to know that

Hanif shared pictures of

Umesh Pal with Ahmad's

son Asad days before he was

attacked," Bhukar told PTI.

Atiq

Khan

Gangster-politician



Sangiote has a population of more than 3,500 and over 60 per cent of the men are ex-servicemen.

"We just offered prayers. People are saddened by the death of jawans who were bringing material for our iftar Thursday evening, village Mukhtiar Khan told PTI over phone from his home.

UttarPradesh's Lucknow, a special 'namaz' marking the festival was held at the Aishbagh Eidgah where the old and young were seen embracing each other and exchanging greetings.

Deputy Chief Minister Pathak Brajesh Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav were among the prominent faces who visit-

Atiq Ahmad's lawyer booked for criminal

conspiracy in Umesh Pal murder case

Asad, the third of Ahmad's

five sons, was killed in a

police encounter in Jhansi

Sources said the police

might soon file a remand

application in court to inter-

rogate Hanif, who is cur-

rently lodged in Naini

Central Prison after being

sentenced to life imprison-

ment in the Umesh Pal kid-

Umesh Pal, a key witness

in the murder of BSP MLA

Raju Pal, and his two securi-

ty personnel were shot dead

On February 25, the police

registered a case against

Ahmad, his brother Ashraf.

wife Shaista Parveen, two

sons, aides Guddu Muslim

and Ghulam, and nine other

on April 13.

napping case.

on February 24.

On the occasion of Eid. Minister Adityanath urged people to celebrate the festival while taking all precautions against

COVID-19. "The CM has extended hearty greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Eid-

"On the occasion of Eid, everyone should take a pledge to further strengthen harmony. The chief minister has appealed to the people to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr by taking all precautions in view of the corona infection," the Chief Minister's Office said in a tweet.

A senior police official said Eid prayers in the state passed off peacefully at all the 31,838 places. "Due to everyone's efforts and efficient

Dhoomanganj police station.

March 28 convicted Ahmad.

Hanif and Dinesh Pasi and

sentenced them to life in

prison in the 17-year-old

Hanif and Pasi were

detained in Naini Central

Prison while Ahmad was

sent to Sabarmati Central

Samajwadi Party MP, and

Ashraf were shot dead on

April 15 by three assailants

when they were being taken

by the police for a medical

examination. They were

brought here in connection

with the Umesh Pal murder

Gujarat's

former

kidnapping case.

Jail

Ahmedabad.

Ahmad.

A special court here on

imposed across districts after gangster-politician Ahmad and his brother

Ashraf were shot dead in Prayagraj on April 15 by three men posing as journal-In Mumbai, thousands offered prayers at mosques at places like Mohammad Ali Road, Bandra, Govandi and

Kurla which have a sizeable population of Muslims. After offering namaz, people visited burial grounds to offer

Like every year, Mumbai police deployed extra personnel near mosques and on the streets to ensure a smooth celebration of the festival, an official said.

Several traffic policemen are also on the city roads to streamline vehicular movement for the benefit of those celebrating the festival, he

Similar scenes were witnessed in Jharkhand's Ranchi and Jamshedpur.

Large gatherings were seen at Harmu Idgah, Upper Bazar Jama Masjid, Doranda

Bhavan said in an official During the sermons at the

mosques in the state, religious leaders urged devotees to uphold the values of compassion, fraternity and social harmony and live a life adhering to the values of Islam.

Success of world in facing climate crisis will in part depend on decisions taken by India: US

respects to all the renowned

■ AGENCY

WASHINGTON: The success of the world in combating the climate crisis will in part depend on decisions taken by India, a senior US official has said, as he vowed to work with New Delhi and other countries in achieving the ambitious targets. These remarks were made by US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Donald Lu, who in an interview with PTI said that the US is determined to support that effort through technology and through financing. "I would say none (of the issues) is more important than the climate crisis. The success of the world in facing the climate crisis will in part depend on decisions taken by India, Lu said.

for the Prime Minister's pledge to create 500 gigawatts of nonfossil fuel capacity in India by 2030," he said, referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious energy transition goal. "Our teams are working every day on this challenge together and I have great confidence that working together not only between the United States and India, but India and the rest of the world that we will reach these really ambitious targets." he said. Responding to a question, Lu said the future of the planet in part depends "on the ability of India to lead" the way in green energy.

"I love some of the things that leading industrialists in India are saying today, which is that India will not only produce enough green energy for itself, India wants to be the biggest green energy exporter for the world," he said. "That's something that we should be fully behind as people who care about this climate crisis," Lu India and the US have a

the energy sector. In April 2021, the US and India "US-India launched the Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership, with two tracks i.e. Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP); and Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD). The SCEP Ministerial Meeting twice so far, most recently in

Energy Secretary and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The SCEP has five pillars: 1) Power & Energy Efficiency, 2) Renewable strong bilateral partnership in

Energy, Responsible Oil & Gas, 4) Sustainable Growth, and 5) Fuels Technologies (hydrogen biofuels and waste to energy). An Energy Storage Task Force was launched to support the largescale integration of renewable energy needed to support the clean energy transition. Further, a US-India Natural Gas Task Force was set up to support India's vision for transitioning into a natural gasbased economy, MoU on Strategic Petroleum Reserves for cooperation on Strategic Petroleum Reserves operation and maintenance was signed. A public-private Hydrogen Task Force enables the scaling of technologies to produce hydrogen from renewable energy. The inaugural CAFMD meeting was held on 13 September 2021 in Delhi chaired by Special Envoy on Climate John Kerry and Ministers of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. Both sides agreed to proceed with three pillars of cooperation, viz, Climate Track, Finance Mobilization and Adaptation and Resilience.

The US joined the International Solar Alliance in November 2021 and ratified the ISA Agreement in September 2022.

Shrine in memory of Guru Nanak Dev in Arunachal converted into Buddhist religious place, alleges SGPC

STATE TIMES NEWS

AMRITSAR: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee on Saturday claimed a shrine associated with Guru Nanak Dev. the first Sikh Guru, in Arunachal Pradesh has been turned into a Buddhist shrine

The SGPC claimed in a statement that photos shared by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on April 8 on social media made it clear that Gurdwara Guru

Nanak Tapasthan in Mechuka has been converted into a Buddhist shrine.

SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami termed this alleged act "an attack on Sikhs" and said converting any religious place of one community to that of another is a direct violation of Article 25 of the Constitution.

He said Guru Nanak Dev made religious journeys to different places for the welfare of humanity, which is known as 'Udasis' in Sikh history. Accordingly, there is a reference to Guru Nanak Dev's visit to Mechuka

The SGPC president said Gurdwara Guru Nanak Tapasthan was established in memory of the Sikh guru.

Historian Colonel Dalvinder Singh Grewal made an important contribution to the development of this gurdwara and with the support of the Indian Army, it was handed over to the 'Sangat' in March 1987.

"But it is highly unfortunate that now a mischievous attempt has been made to destroy this memorial shrine of the first Sikh Guru. It is unfortunate that the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh after visiting this historical Sikh shrine is showing it as a Buddhist shrine. This act is going to hurt Sikh sentiments, which will be strongly opposed at all levels," said Dhami.

He said the president, the prime minister; the home minisCommission for Minorities should intervene immediately, adding he will write to them and ask for action in the matter.

Many cases related to Sikh shrines in different parts of the country are already pending and now another case has been created, he said. "This is another example of discrimination against Sikhs, on which the government should take cognisance and move towards a solution," he said.

BJP Govt ensured transparency in recruitment process once plagued by nepotism, casteism: UP CM

STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath said on Saturday that his government has ensured transparency in the recruitment process which was earlier plagued by nepotism and casteism.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 24th national conference of chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions here, he said one-and-ahalf-lakh posts had been lying vacant under previous state governments as the Supreme Court stayed recruitment over complaints regarding lack

"When we took charge of the state in 2017, there were a lot of complaints regarding Uttar Pradesh Service Commission, Services Subordinate Selection Commission, Higher Education Selection Commission and Secondary Education Selection Commission examinations," he said.

"So much so that the court's intervention was sought to stop many recruitment exams. In some cases, the court had also made serious comments. I told officials to remove whatthe recruitment process was not transparent. Nepotism and casteism dominated the recruitment process and injustice was done to meritorious

and talented candidates," he said. The chief minister said the government formed a team of honest officials to ensure transparency in the recruitment process.

In an ideal society recruitment agencies, be it the Union Public Service Commission or State Public Service Commissions, have a big role to play

In the last six years, the government has made five-and-a-half-lakh appointments without a single question being raised on any appointment, he said.

He, however, said the number of appointments was not enough for a state with a population of 25 crore.

The chief minister said that with many youths reluctant to join the government sector, the state has devised the "One District, One Product" programme to promote entrepreneurship and unique products of each of its 75 districts.

Same-sex marriage: SC's 'haste' not appropriate, could lead to new disputes, says VHP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VARANASI (UP): The Vishva Hindu Parishad on Saturday said the "haste" with which the Supreme Court is disposing of the petitions for legal recognition to same-sex marriages is not appropriate and it should have sought the opinion of religious leaders and experts from diverse fields.

Joint General VHPSecretary Surendra Jain expressed apprehension the top court's actions could lead to "new disputes".

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud is hearing a batch of pleas seeking legal sanction for same-sex marriage. It began hearing the matter on Tuesday and the arguments remained inconclusive on the third consecutive day on Thursday. The arguments will resume on April 24.

On Thursday, the top court said it may be redefining the "evolving notion of marriage" as the next step after decriminal-

ual relationship, which implicitly recognised that same-sex people could live in a stable marriage-like relationship.

"The haste with which the honourable Supreme Court is disposing off the petitions for recognition of same-sex marriage is not appropriate in any way. This will give rise to new disputes and will also prove to be dangerous for the culture of India," Jain said.

"Hence, before proceeding ahead on this subject, the honourable Supreme Court should have taken the opinion of the religious leaders, people from the field of medicine, social scientists and academicians by forming a committee," he told reporters here.

Jain said the subject of marriage is governed by

different civil codes. "None of the civil codes prevailing in India gives permission for this (samesex marriage). Does the Supreme Court want to make a change in these?"

Ram Narayan Dwivedi of Kashi Vidvat Parishad. Govind Sharma of Ganga Mahasabha and Mahant Balak Das of Dharma Parishad also spoke at the press conference

During Thursday's hearing, the Supreme Court did not agree to the contention that unlike heterosexuals, same-sex couples cannot take proper care of their children.

Referring to its 2018 judgment that decriminalised consensual gay sex, the court said it led to a situation where two consenting homosexual adults can live in a marriage-like relationship and the next step could be to validate their relationship as mar-

"Therefore, by decriminalising homosexuality we have not just recognised the relationship between consenting adults of the same gender, we have also recognised implicitly the fact that the people who are of same sex could be in a stable relationship," it said.