

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

President election: 11...

country's highest constitutional post. The nomination process would continue till June 29. Parliamentary sources said a person named Lalu Prasad Yadav from Saran in Bihar was among those who filed their papers.

The nomination of one of the candidates was rejected as the person had not attached a certified copy of the entry showing his or her name in the current electoral roll for the parliamentary constituency in which the candidate is registered as an elector.

The candidates who filed nominations on Wednesday were from Delhi, Maharashtra, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

A nomination paper of a candidate for the election has to be made in the prescribed format and has to be subscribed by at least 50 electors as proposers and at least 50 electors as seconders.

The security deposit for the election of Rs 15,000 should also be deposited.

Police personnel injured...

area of #Anantnag, resulting in minor injuries to one police personnel," the Kashmir Zone Police tweeted.

A case has been registered, the police said, adding, the area has been cordoned off and a search operation launched.

Communal tension: Curfew...

on Prophet Mohammad and social media posts by some right wing local activists in her support.

The broadband and mobile internet services, however, remained suspended for the seventh consecutive day in both Doda and Kishtwar districts.

"The curfew was relaxed in Bhaderwah town for two hours from 3.30 pm till 5.30 pm," Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Dil Mir Chowdhary told PTI.

He said the relaxation followed a series of meetings between socio-religious organisations and the civil-police administration during which both the communities, including representatives of Shri Sanatan Dharam Sabha in Bhaderwah, Anjuman-e-Islamia and senior citizens council called for maintaining peace and brotherhood.

Officials said the meeting was also attended by Deputy Commissioner Doda, Vikas Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom.

During the meeting, Senior citizens Council Bhadarwah urged the administration to relax the curfew to allow people to buy essential commodities.

Shops and business establishments reopened soon after the relaxation was announced and people were seen making purchases, officials said, adding security forces are deployed in strength and are keeping a close watch on the situation.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Shafqat Hussain Bhat said the day curfew was lifted from Kishtwar town early this morning.

The curfew was relaxed for one-and-a-half hours on Monday and five hours on Tuesday and there was no untoward incident reported from anywhere during the relaxation period.

"After 5-hours relaxation yesterday (Tuesday), a full day relaxation was given in curfew today and the situation in the entire district is normal," the SSP said.

Rajnath on 2-day...

brief Singh about the overall security situation in the hinterland as well as along the Line of Control (LoC).

Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing a spate of killings of innocent civilians in the past few weeks triggering apprehensions of an intense cycle of violence in the region. The security forces have intensified their anti-terror operations in view of the killings.

The sources said the defence minister will be apprised about the situation along the LoC and the International Border (IB).

In a significant move aimed at reducing tensions, the Indian and Pakistani armies on February 25 last year announced that they would cease firing across the LoC while recommitting themselves to a 2003 ceasefire agreement.

Bank Manager's assassin...

in Kulgam on June 2. He also revealed that Lone was earlier working as an over-ground worker (OGW) for LeT district commander Adil Ramzan and had killed the bank manager on the latter's directions.

"After this terror crime, he actively joined the terror ranks and we have been tracking him ever since. Ganie had earlier escaped from two encounters in Kulgam's Chaki Samad area on April 9 and Khur-Batpora area on April 11," Kumar said.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including an AK-47 rifle and a pistol, were recovered from the encounter site. All the recovered materials have been taken into the case records for further investigation, the spokesperson said.

He said Kumar congratulated the joint teams for carrying out the anti-terrorist operation in a professional manner and without any collateral damage. He also appreciated the efforts of the police in tracking down and neutralising the terrorist involved in the bank manager's killing.

A police spokesperson revealed that Jan Mohd was earlier working as OGW of LeT's district commander Adil Ramzan and he killed a Bank manager on the direction of said LeT commander. After this terror crime he actively joined terror rank.

Major tragedy averted...

Squad (BDS) were immediately rushed to the scene and the explosive substance was later detonated through a controlled mechanism.

A case under relevant sections of law was registered at Jajjar Kotli police station and further investigation is underway, the spokesperson said.

The officials said the bus was coming from Doda to Jammu when it was stopped for checking by a police team.

At least two persons were detained for questioning in connection with the presence of the explosive material in the bus along with some detonators, they said.

ED questions Rahul...

general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as his convoy whizzed past police barricades thronged by media persons and party supporters.

A huge contingent of police and paramilitary personnel has been deployed around the federal agency's office, and prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) are in force.

The questioning began at 12 noon and the ED has been conducting a video and audio recording of the statement of Gandhi during all the three days' sessions.

His statements are being typed on A4 size papers and are minutely reviewed by

him and signed before submission to the investigating officer.

Gandhi, agency sources told PTI, is being asked about the assets worth about Rs 800 crore "owned" by AaJL and how a not-for-profit company like Young Indian (YI) was undertaking commercial activities of renting out its land and building assets.

The Congress party has claimed that there was no FIR or scheduled offence in this case, on the basis of which a PMLA case was filed and Gandhi and his mother Congress president were summoned.

Officials said the ED action is on a "higher pedestal than that of proceedings undertaken on the basis of the FIR" as the court has taken cognisance of the Income Tax department charge sheet filed in the case and issued process.

They said sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating) of the IPC applied in the I-T case are "predicate offences" that enable the ED to register a money laundering case.

ED investigators said the offence of money laundering as defined under section 3 of the PMLA is being applied by the ED to probe the role of Gandhi in this entire case where "while there is no movement of cash but the proceeds of crime have been generated and some people have benefitted from them".

Section 3 of the PMLA says whosoever directly or indirectly attempts to indulge or knowingly assists or knowingly is a party or is actually involved in any process or activity connected with proceeds of crime and projecting it as untainted property shall be guilty of the offence of money laundering.

Officials also counter the claim of the Congress party and even Gandhi who have maintained that YI was a non-profit company and no one can enjoy personal funds or shares of the company.

Violation of any law is an offence and in this case the I-T department's chargesheet and the PMLA enforcement case information report (ECIR) indicate that the provisions of a not-for-profit company have been violated, officials said.

Gandhi has clocked over 24 hours in multiple question and answer sessions over the last two days at the ED office.

Officials said Gandhi's questioning could not be completed on Tuesday, and hence, he was asked to continue the recording of his statement on Wednesday.

About 15-16 questions about the incorporation of the YI company, the operations of the National Herald newspaper, the loan given by the Congress to the Associated Journals Limited (AaJL) and the funds transfer within the news media establishment have been put to Gandhi during the questioning held till now, sources indicated.

They said the role of Gandhi and his detailed statement in the case is vital as he is a "major shareholder" in YI and "important person" in the AaJL and National Herald affairs.

It is understood that the agency has put across questions to him about the assets owned by AaJL.

Gandhi is also understood to have been asked about a loan of Rs 1 crore taken by YI from a Kolkata-based company in February 2011 and the rationale behind it.

The questions put to Gandhi, the sources indicated, start from the year 2011 when YI was incorporated. It has also been learnt that the questions cover the changes that took place in the shareholding pattern of the company after that, the procedures followed, and the salaries and VRS given to journalists working in the organisation among other issues.

The Congress has denied any wrongdoing in the case, saying YI is a non-profit company established under section 25 of the Companies Act.

The party said AaJL, which was established in 1937, faced huge debts and the Congress, from 2002 to 2011, gave Rs 90 crore to the National Herald newspaper, out of which Rs 66 crore was used to pay the salaries/VRS of the journalists and staffers who worked there.

The rest of the money was given to the government as pending lease amount for the assets held by AaJL, its electricity and building expenses and house tax, Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal were questioned in this case recently, and Kharge said he gave "evidence" to the agency during his questioning.

The probe pertains to alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Limited, which owns the National Herald newspaper.

The newspaper is published by the AaJL and owned by Young Indian Private Limited.

Rahul Gandhi's mother and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who is currently admitted to a hospital here due to Covid-related issues, has also been summoned by the agency for questioning in the case on June 23.

The ED recently registered a fresh case under the criminal provisions of the PMLA after a trial court here took cognisance of an Income-Tax department probe against YI on the basis of a private criminal complaint filed by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are among the promoters and shareholders of Young Indian.

Swamy had accused Sonia and Rahul Gandhi and others of conspiring to cheat and misappropriate funds, with YI paying only Rs 50 lakh to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that AaJL owed to the Congress.

In February last year, the Delhi High Court issued a notice to the Gandhis for their response on Swamy's plea, seeking to lead evidence in the matter before the trial court.

The Gandhis had secured separate bails from the court in 2015 after they furnished personal bonds of Rs 50,000 and one surety.

They, however, had contended in the high court that Swamy's plea was "misconceived and premature".

Army Commander reviews...

physical fitness standards and provide golden opportunities to the youth to serve the Nation by serving in the Army.

The Army Commander accompanied by the Chinार Corps Commander, Lt Gen ADS Anjla, YSM, SM, VSM also visited various locations and formations in Hinterland today. He was briefed on counter terrorism grid, development works and current security situation.

Army Commander reviewed security and operational preparedness for Amarnath Yatra. He held a detailed briefing with all the stakeholders and appreciated efforts being undertaken for a peaceful and incident free Yatra. He reviewed the security arrangements on both the routes for the Yatra alongwith the administrative arrangements.

Army Commander during his interaction with the troops over tea complimented the soldiers for the conduct of just operations with precision, ensuring zero collateral damage. He was appreciative of the excellent Soldier - Citizen connect activities, which have resulted in overall reduction in the terrorist recruitments.

The Army Commander arrived at Chinार Corps Headquarters later in the day. He was briefed by Lieutenant General ADS Anjla, YSM, SM, VSM, GOC Chinार Corps on the overall security situation and measures instituted to counter adversaries' design.

Nitishwar inspects Shri...

He also inspected the arrangements at Frisking point Sarbal.

The Principal Secretary, who is also the CEO of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, held a meeting with the camp directors of various camps on the Pahalgam axis. He was informed that preparations are going on as per plan.

The Principal Secretary directed the camp directors to maintain a close synergy with officials from various departments and regularly review the arrangements at their camps to ensure all facilities are in place before the commencement of the Yatra. Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla; SSP Anantnag, Sh Ashish Mishra, senior officials from various line departments among others were present on the occasion.

Cabinet nod to...

with direct 5G spectrum allotment by the telecom department, the business case of TSPs (Telecom Service Providers) will get severely degraded.

Notably, Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) -- which counts Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea as its members -- did not issue a statement on Wednesday on the spectrum auction.

The bid document said direct allocation to the big tech companies will follow a demand study and sector regulator TRAI's recommendation on aspects such as pricing and modalities of such allocation.

Big tech companies like Google and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) have been seeking direct allocation of spectrum for applications such as machine-to-machine communications, IoT and Artificial Intelligence, while telecom companies have been opposing direct allocation of 5G spectrum to them saying it will distort the level playing field and rob the government of revenues.

"Enterprises setting up Captive Non-Public Network may obtain the spectrum on lease from TSPs (telecom service providers) having Access Service Authorization and establish their own isolated network. Required Licensing terms and conditions and Spectrum Leasing guidelines shall be issued by DoT," the Notice Inviting Applications said.

As per the document, the government from time to time will publish required provisions and guidelines and licensing terms and conditions for enabling the setting up of Captive Non-Public Networks (CNPNS).

According to the bid document, the auction is slated to start on July 26, 2022. Among other key dates to watch-out for is the pre-bid conference scheduled for June 20, 2022, submission of applications with a deadline of July 8, and pre-qualification of bidders on July 18.

Mock auctions will be held on July 22 and 23, 2022.

A total of 72,097.85 MHz of spectrum with a validity period of 20 years will be put to auction as India market gears up 5G services that will usher in ultra high speeds and spawn new-age services and business models.

Overall, the payment terms have been eased for bidders in the upcoming auction.

For the first time ever, there is no mandatory requirement to make upfront payment by the successful bidders. Payments for spectrum can be made in 20 equal annual instalments to be paid in advance at the beginning of each year, a relaxation that is expected to significantly ease cash flow requirements and lower the cost of doing business in this sector.

The bidders would be given an option to surrender the spectrum after 10 years with no future liabilities with respect to balance instalments. No SUC (spectrum usage charges) will be charged for spectrum acquired in this auction.

"The availability of sufficient backhaul spectrum is also necessary to enable the roll-out of 5G services. To meet the backhaul demand, the Cabinet has decided to provisionally allot 2 carriers of 250 MHz each in E-band to the Telecom Service Providers," an official statement said.

The requirement for a successful bidder to submit a Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) and Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) has also been done away with.

ICRA estimates that the telecom industry will shell out around Rs 1 - 1.1 lakh crore on the 5G auction, despite telcos' reservations over high spectrum prices, but cautioned that sector debt level is likely to rise with the upcoming auctions.

The Broadband India Forum (BIF), which had batted for private 5G networks by enterprises, said the Cabinet's decision to enable captive networks is a forward-looking step that will drive digital transformation, augment industry efficiencies and lead to greater economic benefits.

CS launches 'JK...

system (IVRS), Geo fencing, and other mobile applications.

Further, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to use the m-seva platform for disseminating information on their respective welfare and developmental schemes to enhance coverage and encourage participatory governance through direct government-citizen contact.

It was informed that the IT Department will act as the nodal Department and will continue to add new departmental services towards achieving saturation in a time-bound manner.

Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department, Administrative Secretary Public Grievances Department, CEO JaKeGA, besides officials from JaKeGA, SeMT, and Information Technology Department were present on the occasion.

J&K logs 25...

28,296, officials said.

The new cases were detected in Leh, they said.

On the bright side, two more patients recovered from the infection, the officials said.

The death toll remained unchanged at 228 -- 168 deaths from Leh and 60 from Kargil.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in Ladakh has climbed to 22 -- 20 in Leh district and two in Kargil district.

So far, 28,043 patients have recovered from coronavirus in Ladakh, the officials said.

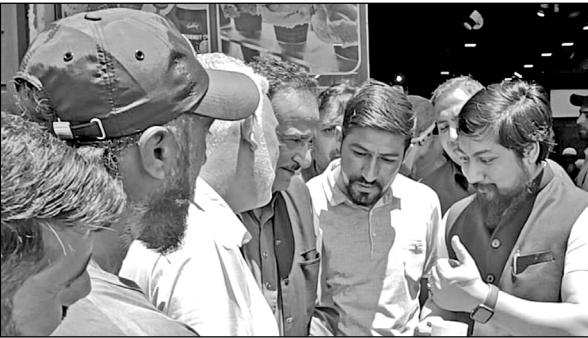
While a total of 201 sample reports were tested in Ladakh, 169 sample reports in Leh and 27 sample reports in Kargil were found to be negative.

Union MoS Home inspects Kashmiri Migrants Transit Accommodation Camp at Baramulla

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Asserting that Kashmiri migrants constitute part and parcel of Kashmir's composite culture, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Youth Affairs and Sports, Nisith Pramanik on Wednesday affirmed that union government led by the Prime Minister is keen towards the peaceful and prosperous welfare of Kashmiri migrants. He said that several concrete measures have been taken in order to ensure their rehabilitation so that they live in their homeland with peace and harmony.

The Minister made these remarks during inspection of Transit Accommodation Camp at Khawjabagh Baramulla where he took first hand appraisal of its construction work. He was accompanied by DIG North Kashmir Uday Baskar, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar, SSP Baramulla Rayees Mohammad and other senior functionaries of the



Union MoS Home Nisith Pramanik interacting with KPs.

administration.

The transit camp, having the accommodation facility for about 320 families, shall be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 40.32 Crores in which 192 flats will be completed in December of this year while rest flats will be completed in March next year.

While terming the people of Kashmir having loving and accommodative nature, the Minister said that time has come when the people of different faiths and beliefs live with peace and prosperity. He said that unity in diversity as envisaged in 'Azadi ka Amrut

Mahotsav' initiative, is the only unifying factor for a strong nation.

Pertinent to mention that Union MoS was on a two day's visit to Baramulla district as part of Union Government's special public outreach programme which aims to evoke feedback from different stakeholders besides listening to their developmental aspirations and other concerns.

Earlier, the Minister also presided over a special Yoga Demonstration at Showkat Ali Indoor Sports Stadium Baramulla where-in students from different educational institutions

participated. He also inaugurated the U-19 Cricket Tournament in which about 20 cricket teams from across the district will participate.

After carrying out the sports activities, the Minister asserted that the mission of 'New India' as conceptualized by the Prime Minister, can be achieved through the nation wide movement of Fit India, besides urging youth to join hands in order to realise the ambition. He said that youth of Kashmir have immense potential to contribute in nation building and there is a need to provide appropriate platforms for harnessing it in a right and constructive way.

Reiterating upon the government's commitment of empowering youth by means of various youth engagement activities, the minister said that various programmes are in pipeline which will enable our youth to perform progressively. He also said that future of every nation rests on its youth and they need to

identify their role for the upliftment of the nation.

While enlisting various interventions taken by the present dispensation, Pramanik said that the government is committed to provide all facilities including sophisticated infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir for sports related activities so that the youth are engaged in sports and build their careers in it. Later, the MoS laid foundation stone of Residential Apartments (2BHK) for BDCs at Veerwan Baramulla being established at an estimated cost of Rs. 633.44 lacs which has been highly applauded by PRIs and other concerned stakeholders.

The Minister also paid surprise visit to a local tea shop where he took a cup of tea along with some senior officers. The move was taken as an austerity measure in order to foster and promote the friendly interaction between Govt and general public besides bridging gap between the two.

Op effectiveness of armed forces will enhance with rollout of Agnipath scheme: Officials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The operational effectiveness of the armed forces will enhance with the rollout of the "Agnipath" scheme as the risk-taking capability of the personnel to be recruited under it would be higher because of their younger age profile, officials said on Wednesday.

The government unveiled the scheme on Tuesday for the recruitment of soldiers in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, largely on a four-year short-term contractual basis, in a major overhaul of the decades-old selection process.

Under the scheme, youngsters between the ages of 17 and a half and 21 years will be inducted into the three services. After the completion of the four-year tenure, the scheme provides for retaining 25 per cent of the recruits for regular service.

"The operational effectiveness of the armed forces will be enhanced by this scheme. By having a younger profile, which is more fighting fit with less encumbrances, it is expected that the risk-taking capability of these personnel

will be higher," a senior official said.

Lieutenant General Anil Puri, Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs, on Tuesday said the new recruitment scheme is set to bring down the average age of a soldier from the current 32 years to 24-26 years in six to seven years.

The officials said the present pattern of selection in the armed forces is not being changed with the introduction of the scheme.

They said the only change that is happening is in the terms and conditions of the service.

"As all of you are aware, the three services have well-established selection centres spread over the country, which have enabled them to recruit people from even the remotest part of the nation," an official said.

"Since these very selection centres would continue to undertake the responsibility of recruiting personnel, we expect that the all-India representation would not be affected by the introduction of the scheme," he added.

The officials said the Indian

Army will retain the regimental system, as the new scheme envisages selecting the best of the "Agniveers".

"We shall be retaining the regimental system since the scheme envisages selecting the best of the "Agniveers" and only those who proved their mettle, the cohesiveness of the unit would be ensured by these personnel," the official said.

"Further, these aspects would be focussed upon and accentuated by the training received once the Agniveer reaches the unit," he said.

The officials said with the infusion of technology and revamping of the training programme, the armed forces would ensure that the personnel inducted under the scheme have the same skill sets that are required to meet the operational challenges.

"Since the training standards are clearly defined, and monitored by the highest authorities in the armed forces, it would be ensured that the 'Agniveers' meet the highest professional standards," said the official cited above.