



Notification issued for Jammu LS seat

Notification for the Jammu Lok Sabha seat going to polls on April 26 was issued here today, an election official said.

The Jammu Lok Sabha constituency is one of the 88 segments across the country going to the polls in the second phase on April 26.

Jammu district magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who is also the returning officer for the constituency, issued the notification for filing nominations.

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JKBOSE reschedules 11th class annual exams

The J&K Board of School Education (JKBOSE) today rescheduled annual regular exams of class 11th in soft zone areas and examinations of classes 10th, 11th and 12th in hard zone areas.

BOSE Director (Academics) in a notification said that it received directions from the Joint Chief Electoral Officer of J&K (Jammu) regarding the schedule for conduct of Lok Sabha Elections, requesting therein to ensure that no date of examination clashes with the dates of election with respect to the

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Transporters' strike disrupts normal life

As the strike call given by transporters today evoked a complete response, minibuses remained off the roads, bringing life to a standstill.

The one-day strike call was given by the transporters' union in Jammu against the frequent use of e-buses in the busy areas of the city.

Even as e-buses plied as usual on the city roads, people were seen walking on foot. Outside the railway station and general bus stand, many were seen moving to

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Ex-Army chief sabotaged AFSPA revocation: Omar



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, MAR 28

NC vice-president Omar Abdullah today accused BJP leader Gen (ret'd) V K Singh of sabotaging the revocation of AFSPA during the UPA-2 government when he was Army chief.

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Cong leaders grabbed land from landless: Jitendra



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, MAR 28

Jitendra Singh, Union Minister and BJP candidate from Kathua-Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency, today said that while the Congress leaders grabbed land from the poor, Prime

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Varun Gandhi pens note for people of Pilibhit after BJP denies him LS poll ticket

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Pushpa 2, Chhava and more: Rashmika Mandanna's masterplan to dominate box office with her line-up

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India, its borders totally secure: Rajnath Singh

Says govt open to change in Agniveer scheme if needed

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: *Stating that the government was open to change in Agniveer scheme if needed, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said that India and its borders are totally secure and the people of the country should have full faith in the armed forces.*

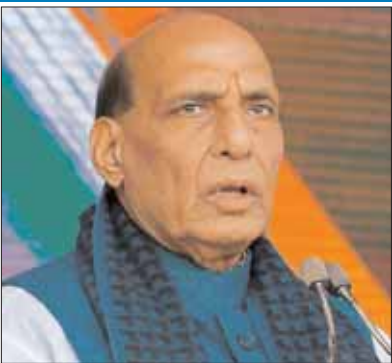
During a fireside chat on the concluding day of a summit here, while responding to a question on the criticism of the Agniveer scheme, the minister said such questions have "no standing" and underlined that everyone will accept that the armed forces should have a young profile.

"The government has ensured that the future of Agniveers is secure," he added.

During the event, the Union minister also shared anecdotes from his nearly 50-year-long political journey.

Asked how he reacted to questions raised by many, including members of the opposition, on the India-China border issue, Singh said they never made him uncomfortable.

"In keeping with the country's interests, I tell them (opposition) whatever I can. But in defence, there are many things which have strategic importance and we cannot tell them publicly. We try to steer clear of



telling those things, whether it is (about) northern, western or eastern sector," he said.

"I want to assure the people of the country... they should have full faith in our Army and security personnel," the Union minister said.

Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-and-half-year-long confrontation at certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

"Having been the defence minister for five years and home minister before that, I want to assure the people of the country based on what I have seen, understood and assessed that our borders and our country are to-

tally secure," he added.

The eastern Ladakh border stand-off erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

The ties between India and China nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in 2021 on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Singh defended the Agniveer scheme, 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

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To browbeat others vintage Congress culture: Modi

Slams party for lawyers' letter to CJI

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today attacked the Congress party after hundreds of lawyers and several bar associations across the country wrote to CJI DY Chandrachud alleging that a "vested interest group" is trying to pressure the judiciary and defame courts "on the basis of frivolous logic and stale political agendas."

They expressed their concerns about attempts to undermine the integrity of the judiciary through political and professional pressures.

"To browbeat and bully



others is vintage Congress culture. Five decades ago, they itself had called for a 'committed judiciary' - they shamelessly want commitment from others for their selfish interests, but desist from any commitment towards the nation," PM Modi said in a post on X formerly

known as Twitter.

A group of lawyers, including senior advocate Harish Salve and Bar Council of India chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra, have written to the Chief Justice of India, alleging that a "vested interest group" is trying to pressure the judiciary and defame courts "on the basis of frivolous logic and stale political agendas."

"Their pressure tactics are most obvious in political cases, particularly those involving political figures accused of corruption. These

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Mukhtar Ansari passes away



NEW DELHI, MAR 28: Jailed gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari died on Thursday night after suffering a cardiac arrest in Uttar Pradesh's Banda prison. He was 60.

A statement issued by the Banda Medical College (BMC), where the five-time MLA was taken on Thursday, said that he was

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Kejriwal's ED custody extended till April 1

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: A court here today extended the Enforcement Directorate custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal till April 1 in the excise policy case.

The agency had sought seven-day custody of the AAP chief, but the court said he has to be produced before the court on April 1 at 11 am.

The ED had produced him before Rouse Avenue court Special Judge Kaveri Baweja as his current custody was ending on Thursday.

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Cong meet on Mar 31 to finalise LS poll candidates

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: The top Congress leadership is likely to hold a meeting of its Central Election Committee (CEC) here on March 31 to discuss and finalise the remaining candidates for the Lok Sabha polls starting April 19.

Sources said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Sonia Gandhi and AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, besides other senior leaders and members of the CEC, are likely to attend the meet.

The sources said the names of the candidates

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India-China hold 29th round of diplomatic talks

Discuss disengagement in border areas

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: Amid border tensions, India and China exchanged views on ways of achieving complete disengagement and resolving the issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of India-China border areas.

This comes as India-China held its 29th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) in the Chinese capital, Beijing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said today.

According to the MEA release, the meeting was co-chaired by the MEA Joint Secretary who led the Indian delegation and the Director General of the Boundary & Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the Chinese delegation.

"The 29th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held on 27 March 2024 in Beijing, Joint Secretary (East

Asia) from the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation. The Chinese delegation was led by Director General of the Boundary & Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs," the release read.

"The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on how to achieve complete disengagement and resolve the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of India-China border areas," it added.

After the meeting, both sides agreed to open diplomatic and military channels open to uphold peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas.

"In the interim, both sides agreed to maintain regular contact through diplomatic and military channels and on the need to uphold peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and protocols," Ministry said.

The 28th meeting of the WMCC was held in Novem-

ber last year, in which two sides reviewed the situation along the LAC in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas and engaged in an open, constructive, and in-depth discussion of proposals to resolve the remaining issues and achieve complete disengagement in Eastern Ladakh, MEA said in a press release.

They further agreed on the need to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border areas, ensure a stable situation on the ground and avoid any untoward incidents.

Meanwhile, India has again rejected the "absurd claims" and "baseless arguments" made by China on Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that the northeast State is an "integral and inalienable part of India."

"The Ministry of External Affairs in an official statement on March 19 noted that the people of Arunachal Pradesh will "continue to benefit" from India's development pro

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Satellite-based toll collection system to replace toll plazas: Gadkari

NAGPUR, MAR 27: Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said that a satellite-based toll collection system will be introduced in place of the current system of toll collection under which money will be deducted directly from one's bank accounts based on the distance they have travelled.

"We are putting an end to the present toll system. Now there will be satellite based toll collection system. Money will be deducted from your bank account. You will be charged based on the total distance you have travelled. Time



will be saved and fuel will be saved," Gadkari said on Wednesday.

Speaking on complaints of exorbitant toll taxes, the Minister pointed out that highways save time and thereby fuel usage as well.

Explaining his point through an example, Gadkari said, "Earlier, it used to take nine hours to travel

from Mumbai to Pune. Now it is a 2-hour journey. Seven hours of diesel get saved. Naturally, we have to pay some money in return. We are doing it through public-private investment. So we will have to return the money too."

The Union Minister said that by 2024, the road network of National Highways will be same as that of the United States of America.

"The fate of the country will change by the end of 2024. This is because the road network of National Highways will be equal to that of America. That is my

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No change in trade policy with India: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, MAR 28: Pakistan today clarified that it had no plan to resume trade relations with India which had been "non-existent" since 2019 after the Indian government abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

The clarification from Pakistan's Foreign Office comes days after the new Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said in London that Pakistan would seriously consider restoring trade ties with India that have re-

mained suspended since August 2019.

In August 2019, India suspended Article 370 giving special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into centrally-administered Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

At the weekly briefing here, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was asked to comment on reports about the possibility of resumption of trade ties with India.

"Pakistan-India trade re-

lations have been non-existent since 2019 when India took illegal steps in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir ... There is no change in Pakistan's position on it," Baloch said.

Foreign minister Dar, during a press conference in London on March 23, highlighted the eagerness of Pakistan's business community to resume trade activities with India, indicating a potential shift in diplomatic stance towards its neighbouring nation.

Pakistan downgraded its

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NC deprived people of development; promoted stone-pelting: Kavinder



Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, MAR 28

Alleging that NC had deprived people of development during its rule in the erstwhile state, senior BJP

leader and ex-deputy CM Kavinder Gupta today said that the party had only promoted stone-pelting and strike culture in the valley.

"There seems to be a good amount of desperation in NC leader Omar Abdullah

as, despite chaos and confusion going full throttle among its so-called India-bloc partners, he is dreaming of trouncing BJP in upcoming polls," he said.

In response to Omar's

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