

FROM PAGE ONE

India, its borders totally secure: Rajnath Singh

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.

India-China hold 29th round of diplomatic talks

grammes and infrastructure projects.

The Chinese defence ministry recently reiterated its claim over Arunachal Pradesh, terming the Indian State as "Zangnan- an inherent part of China's territory". "Zangnan is China's inherent territory, and China never recognizes and firmly opposes India's illegal establishment of the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh'," said spokesperson of the Ministry of National Defence Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang on March 15.

The Chinese military's comments came a few days after India sent out a strong rebuttal to China for the latter's comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh.

To browbeat others vintage Congress culture: Modi

tactics are damaging to our courts and threaten our democratic fabric," their letter, dated March 26, addressed to CJJDY Chandrachud, said.

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.

This interest group creates false narratives of a supposed better past and golden period of courts, contrasting them with the happenings in the present, the letter said, claiming that their comments are aimed at influencing courts and embarrassing them for political gains.

The group of lawyers, who are behind the letter titled "Judiciary Under Threat-Safeguarding Judiciary from Political and Professional Pressure," number around 600 and also include Adish Aggarwala, Chetan Mittal, Pinky Anand, Hitesh Jain, Ujjwala Pawar, Uday Holla and Swarupama Chaturvedi, the official sources said.

Though the lawyers behind the letter have mentioned no specific cases, the development comes at a time when courts are dealing with several high-profile criminal cases of corruption involving opposition leaders.

Mukhtar Ansari passes away

brought in after he complained of vomiting and fell unconscious at 8.25 pm. "A team of nine doctors gave him immediate medical assistance. But despite the best efforts, he died due to cardiac arrest," read the statement.

In Premium | The Ansaris of Ghazipur: The other gangster-politician family in Yogi's crosshairs

Ansari had been convicted in eight cases in the last two years, and was lodged in Banda jail.

This was the second time he had been rushed to the hospital in a span of two days.

An earlier statement released by the hospital had stated that Ansari complained of "pain in abdomen" on Tuesday and was "admitted and conservative treatment (was) started". "Patient is stable currently," Tuesday's statement read. However, he was shifted back to the prison on Tuesday evening, after doctors said his condition had improved.

Mukhtar's brother Afzal Ansari, who had met him in the hospital, had alleged on Tuesday, "The medical college has formed a team and treatment is ongoing. He has been admitted to the ICU and I met him for five minutes. He is conscious. He told me that he has been given some poisonous substance in his food. And that this has happened for the second time. The same had happened 40 days ago, and then a few days ago too, the same happened... In this condition, at least he was sent to hospital. I am thankful for it... If the hospital in Banda can't provide proper treatment, then he should be referred in time."

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

goal. I am sure that I will definitely be successful in this," Gadkari said.

"Bharatmala-2 is a project of about 8500 km, Bharatmala-1 included 34 thousand km. Many schemes have been approved and many are to be done," he added.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to be a five trillion dollar economy, Gadkari said, "Our department's contribution will be important in creating the five trillion-dollar economy. We will build world standard national highways. That is our goal and we have worked for it."

Admitting his failure to stop road accidents during his tenure, the Union Minister said, "It is a matter of sorrow for me that I could not stop accidents. It is related to human behavior. But I am sure that in the coming time, we bring about behavioural change and create awareness about road safety. This will definitely give us results."

Notification issued for Jammu LS seat

The last date to file nominations is April 4 while the papers will be scrutinised on April 6. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is April 8, the official said.

While the BJP has announced the name of its sitting MP Jugal Kishore as the party's candidate for Jammu seat, the Congress has announced the name of its working J&K president Raman Bhalla.

JKBOSE reschedules 11th class annual exams

UT of J&K.

JKBOSE said that the National Testing Agency was conducting Joint Entrance Examination (Main) 2024, session-2 from April-04 to 15.

It said that the JKBOSE had received scores of representations from students for rescheduling of board exams in this regard.

"In view of the issue, all the concerned are informed that the upcoming examination of class 11th annual regular 2024 in Soft Zone and Annual Regular 2024 examinations of classes 10th, 11th, and 12th in Hard Zone Areas have been rescheduled and that said examination shall be now held on rescheduled dates in two Sessions that is morning and evening shift," it reads.

Transporters' strike disrupts normal life

wards their destinations along with their luggage in the absence of minibuses and other vehicles.

Transport union president Vijay Chib said that they had reached an agreement with the administration to run e-buses in areas which were least connected.

"But now e-buses are plying on the busy city routes as well which is putting our livelihood to risk. Administration must think about it as well and take a favour decision," he added.

Ex-Army chief sabotaged AFSPA revocation: Omar

members AFSPA now. I fought for it (revocation of AFSPA) since 2011 when I was the chief minister. Where from did its opposition come from? It was Gen V K Singh, who was his ministerial colleague, and who was the chief of armed staff when I was the chief minister," he said.

"Shah sahab, ask him (Singh) why did he stop the process to revoke AFSPA? Why did he sabotage it then? Why did he say that the Army will not accept it? Today, you are befooling the people that you will revoke AFSPA," Abdullah said, addressing party workers here in Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The NC leader said the Union home minister should first ease the public movement on Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

"We will see about the AFSPA later, but at least ease the movement of people on highway and we will be grateful to you for that. As for now, stop the armymen from stopping our vehicles, harassing us on the highway when convoys passes through. Then we will accept that you can revoke AFSPA," he added.

The former chief minister also said the Union home minister should start by releasing prisoners from J&K who are languishing in different jails across the country.

"Many of our youth are in jails outside the state. Release them first. They have started a new process now of forcing the children and grandchildren of separatists to publish advertisements in newspapers. You are repeating the era of which we have faced the brunt when our and Congress workers were forced to quit politics by announcing in newspapers," he said.

Abdullah was referring to the public notices published in the newspapers recently in which Ruwa Shah, granddaughter of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, and Sama Shabir, the elder daughter of Shabir Shah, owed an allegiance to the sovereignty of the country.

Later, speaking to reporters, Abdullah said it was regretful that the Union home minister remembered about AFSPA now.

"We have apprehensions that the way the people of Ladakh were befooled on Sixth Schedule, the same will happen with us. When the parliamentary polls conclude and the BJP loses all the five seats, they will forget about AFSPA," he said.

Cong leaders grabbed land from landless: Jitendra

Minister Narendra Modi gave land to the landless, besides pucca houses.

"For more than six decades, Congress leaders, including their elected representatives like MLAs and MPs, had made it a norm to threaten the poor and encroach their properties. Under Congress rule, this culture became a countrywide phenomena and did not spare even this region of Kathua, where people are innocent and dignified," he said while addressing election meetings in the district.

Soon after taking over as Prime Minister, Narendra Modi said, "Na Khaunga Na Khane Doonga" and all the wealth and land looted from the poor by the Congress leaders and their families will be recovered and deposited in State exchequer to be 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, one after the other, all the criminals, encroachers and land grabbers in the Congress Party were on their way to jail. 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, Dr Singh said.

The entire Kathua 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, he said.

In the last 10 years, 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 pc reservation for youth along International Border, bor-

der 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, he said.

Palestinians have been denied their homeland: EAM

issue of the rights of the Palestinians and the fact that they have been denied their homeland," he added.

Hamas launched a horrific terror attack in Israel on October 7, killing more than 1200 people and holding more than 250 people as hostages, out of which over 100 are still in captivity.

In response, Israel launched a strong counteroffensive in the Gaza Strip, targeting the Hamas units. However, the operation has also resulted in massive civilian casualties, leading to a severe humanitarian crisis. According to the Gaza health ministry, more than 32,000 people have been killed, mostly women and children.

Notably, PM Modi was one of the first global leaders to condemn the horrific terror attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7.

However, India has also continued with its weight behind the 'two-state solution' to the long-running Israel-Palestine conflict.

Meanwhile, Jaishankar is on an official visit to Malaysia, followed by his visits to Singapore and the Philippines.

Earlier in the day, he called on Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and expressed admiration for his vision aimed at fostering stronger ties between India and Malaysia. He also emphasised that this vision will serve as a catalyst for crafting a more ambitious agenda to advance the relationship between the two nations.

He also held a round-table meeting with CEOs in Malaysia and appreciated their growing interest in partnering with Indian industries.

"A productive round-table meeting with CEOs in Malaysia. Glad to hear about growing interest in partnering with Indian industries. Encouraged them to join in India's growth story. Discussed geopolitical developments that can provide more opportunities in business interactions," the EAM posted on X.

Kejriwal's ED custody extended till April 1

The ED said in its fresh remand plea that during his custodial interrogation, his statements were recorded on five days and that he was "giving evasive replies".

It said the statements of three other persons have also been recorded during the remand.

No change in trade policy with India: Pakistan

ties with India after the Indian Parliament suspended Article 370 on August 5, 2019, a decision that Islamabad believed undermined the environment for holding talks between the neighbours.

Pakistan has been insisting that the onus of improving the ties was on India and urging it to undo its "unilateral" steps in Kashmir as a sort of pre-condition to start the talks.

India has dismissed the suggestion and made it clear to Pakistan that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were integral and inalienable parts of the country.

New Delhi has also asserted that the constitutional measures taken by the Indian government to ensure socio-economic development and good governance in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are matters internal to India.

It has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment that is free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

Ukraine minister arrives, says talks to include Zelenskyy's peace formula

Minister in which they will go over a gamut of issues that lie in the domain of bilateral relations".

And, they will also "review the Inter-governmental Commission that was held earlier," he said.

The two leaders will also discuss regional and global issues of common concern, Jaiswal said, adding there are several other engagements also lined up for the Ukrainian foreign minister.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the government of India recognised the Republic of Ukraine as a sovereign independent country in December 1991. India and Ukraine enjoy warm and friendly relations, according to a 2013 statement on India-Ukraine relations available on the MEA website.

During his visit, Kuleba will have "a number of engagements, including official meetings with External Affairs Minister and Deputy NSA to discuss matters pertaining to the bilateral partnership and cooperation on regional and global issues of mutual interest," the MEA said in a statement on Wednesday.

He is also expected to interact with the business community, it said.

Prime Minister Modi on March 20 had held separate conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and asserted that dialogue and diplomacy were the way forward for the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Modi had spoken to Putin over telephone to congratulate him for winning a fifth term in office in the recent elections, and followed it up with a phone call to Zelenskyy to convey India's "consistent support" for all efforts for peace and bringing an early end to the ongoing conflict.

During the telephone conversation, the Ukrainian President had thanked India for its support for his country's sovereignty and said that it would be important for Kyiv to see

New Delhi attend the inaugural Peace Summit in Switzerland.

Zelenskyy had hailed India's continued humanitarian assistance for the people of Ukraine as the two leaders had discussed ways to further strengthen their bilateral partnership in various spheres.

Cong meet on Mar 31 to finalise LS poll candidates

that would be discussed during Sunday's CECs meeting would include those to be fielded from Delhi and Maharashtra.

The Congress has so far announced a total of 208 candidates for the Lok Sabha polls that are scheduled to be held in seven phases starting April 19. The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

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

statement of repeating 1977 poll performance in J&K, Gupta asked Omar to stop daydreaming, saying that people of J&K and rest of the country, had grown wise to the NC's 'deceiving' tactics.

Therefore, the NC's paramount focus should be on safeguarding the security deposits of its candidates, given its dwindling relevance after the transformative measures initiated by the Modi government, particularly the abrogation of Article 370, he said.

"Concerted efforts towards colossal development are underway to enhance the quality of life of J&K people, ensuring their convenience and meaningful progress," he added while addressing a series of meetings here.

Gupta emphasised that the people were discerning enough to evaluate the prevailing situation and criticised NC and other valley-based parties, alleging that they had divided people along communal lines and hindered the progress of the youth, deterring them from pursuing education and career opportunities. Instead of fostering educational and infrastructural development, the NC promoted a culture of stone pelting and strikes in Kashmir, he alleged and accused NC of exploiting Article 370 which deprived several communities of their rights for nearly 70 years.

"Wishing everything for NC party is a right of its leadership but deep inside their hearts they know it well that getting a double digit figure in Assembly polls is a herculean task for them because BJP is bound to win in J&K purely on merit while NC and its ilk are relying on conventional regional and communal planks which are not going to work this time as voters today is wise enough to differentiate between their well-wishers and those who had hoodwinked them," he said.

Gupta asserted that BJP was bound to come out with flying colours in Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

PCCC shuts shop in Pak after killing of 5 Chinese nationals

ISLAMABAD, MAR 28: Two days after five Chinese nationals were killed in a suicide attack at a hydropower project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, a Chinese company has suspended civil works and laid off hundreds of workers at another hydropower project in the same restive province, according to reports.

At least five Chinese nationals, working on the Dasu hydropower project, were among the six persons killed on Tuesday when an explosives-packed vehicle rammed into their bus in Bisham district, in the second suicide attack on the personnel working on the China-backed hydropower project since 2021.

No terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing.

The Chinese company, Power Construction Corporation of China (PCCC), has suspended civil works at the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project in the Swabi district of KP province and laid off over 2,000 workers after the killing of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack in Shangla district, reports said.

The suspension of work on the 1,530 megawatts Tarbela extension project (T5) was notified by the manager (administration) of the PCCC. The notification also revealed that the project's site workers and office staff members had been laid off until further orders due to security reasons, the reports said.

It also lays off 2,000 workers for 'security reasons,' the reports added.

However, the manager said only the staff members called by the heads of their respective sections would come to work.

General secretary of the Awami Labour Union at the Tarbela project Aslam Adil confirmed the development but insisted that under labour laws, the workers laid off hadn't lost jobs and were entitled to receive half of their salaries until they resumed duties.

"Authorities are going to enhance the security of project employees on their demand," he said.

The union leader said the suspension of work won't cause a "long delay" in T-5's completion, which is slated for May 2026 with the assistance of the World Bank (USD 390 million) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (USD 300 million).

The Chinese were working on the Dasu hydropower project, which is about 300 km to the north of Islamabad. The 4,320 MW project is being constructed by China Gezhouba with funding from the World Bank.

The first such attack involving Chinese nationals was carried out on July 14, 2021, a few kilometres from Dasu dam's site in Kohistan, leaving nine Chinese engineers and four Pakistani workers dead while over 23 sustained injuries.

On Wednesday, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered a thorough joint investigation into the deadly terrorist attack on Chinese nationals after Beijing pressed Islamabad to speed up the hunt for the perpetrators and take effective steps to protect Chinese personnel working in the country.

Thousands of Chinese personnel are working in Pakistan on several projects under the aegis of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

der 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, he said.

der 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, he said.

Palestinians have been denied their homeland: EAM

issue of the rights of the Palestinians and the fact that they have been denied their homeland," he added.

Hamas launched a horrific terror attack in Israel on October 7, killing more than 1200 people and holding more than 250 people as hostages, out of which over 100 are still in captivity.

In response, Israel launched a strong counteroffensive in the Gaza Strip, targeting the Hamas units. However, the operation has also resulted in massive civilian casualties, leading to a severe humanitarian crisis. According to the Gaza health ministry, more than 32,000 people have been killed, mostly women and children.

Notably, PM Modi was one of the first global leaders to condemn the horrific terror attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7.

However, India has also continued with its weight behind the 'two-state solution' to the long-running Israel-Palestine conflict.

Meanwhile, Jaishankar is on an official visit to Malaysia, followed by his visits to Singapore and the Philippines.

Earlier in the day, he called on Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and expressed admiration for his vision aimed at fostering stronger ties between India and Malaysia. He also emphasised that this vision will serve as a catalyst for crafting a more ambitious agenda to advance the relationship between the two nations.

He also held a round-table meeting with CEOs in Malaysia and appreciated their growing interest in partnering with Indian industries.

"A productive round-table meeting with CEOs in Malaysia. Glad to hear about growing interest in partnering with Indian industries. Encouraged them to join in India's growth story. Discussed geopolitical developments that can provide more opportunities in business interactions," the EAM posted on X.

Kejriwal's ED custody extended till April 1

The ED said in its fresh remand plea that during his custodial interrogation, his statements were recorded on five days and that he was "giving evasive replies".

It said the statements of three other persons have also been recorded during the remand.

No change in trade policy with India: Pakistan

ties with India after the Indian Parliament suspended Article 370 on August 5, 2019, a decision that Islamabad believed undermined the environment for holding talks between the neighbours.

Pakistan has been insisting that the onus of improving the ties was on India and urging it to undo its "unilateral" steps in Kashmir as a sort of pre-condition to start the talks.

India has dismissed the suggestion and made it clear to Pakistan that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were integral and inalienable parts of the country.

New Delhi has also asserted that the constitutional measures taken by the Indian government to ensure socio-economic development and good governance in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are matters internal to India.

It has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment that is free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

Ukraine minister arrives, says talks to include Zelenskyy's peace formula

Minister in which they will go over a gamut of issues that lie in the domain of bilateral relations".

And, they will also "review the Inter-governmental Commission that was held earlier," he said.

The two leaders will also discuss regional and global issues of common concern, Jaiswal said, adding there are several other engagements also lined up for the Ukrainian foreign minister.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the government of India recognised the Republic of Ukraine as a sovereign independent country in December 1991. India and Ukraine enjoy warm and friendly relations, according to a 2013 statement on India-Ukraine relations available on the MEA website.

During his visit, Kuleba will have "a number of engagements, including official meetings with External Affairs Minister and Deputy NSA to discuss matters pertaining to the bilateral partnership and cooperation on regional and global issues of mutual interest," the MEA said in a statement on Wednesday.

He is also expected to interact with the business community, it said.

Prime Minister Modi on March 20 had held separate conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and asserted that dialogue and diplomacy were the way forward for the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Modi had spoken to Putin over telephone to congratulate him for winning a fifth term in office in the recent elections, and followed it up with a phone call to Zelenskyy to convey India's "consistent support" for all efforts for peace and bringing an early end to the ongoing conflict.

During the telephone conversation, the Ukrainian President had thanked India for its support for his country's sovereignty and said that it would be important for Kyiv to see

organisation as conservative. He said: "We are sitting on a 'ticking bomb' of joblessness! But Modi government's chief economic adviser protects the dear leader."

Kharge said the latest ILO report says "83 per cent of jobless Indians are youth, only 17.5 per cent of youth in rural areas are engaged in regular work, the share of people employed in industry and manufacturing has remained the same since 2012 at 26 per cent of the total workforce, the percentage of youth involved in economic activities decreased from 42 per cent in 2012 to 37 per cent by 2022 and the youth unemployment has tripled under the Modi government. Modi promised 20

crore jobs in 10 years, but snatched more than 12 crore jobs from the youth! That is why the Congress has brought in Yuva Nyay."

Party's communications chief Jairam Ramesh too weighed in, saying: "The India Employment Report 2024, released by the International Labour Organisation and the Institute for Human Development, presents some extremely concerning facts on India's labour market over the last 10 years of Anyay Kaal. Each year, around 70-80 lakh youths are added to the labour force, but between 2012 and 2019, there was almost zero growth in employment - just 0.01%!"

