

REGIONAL ENGLISH NEWS BULLETIN

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Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission today removed the Home Secretaries in six states and West Bengal Director General of Police. Sources said that the Home Secretaries have been removed in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Secretaries of the General Administrative Department in Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh have also been shifted. Besides, the Poll Body has ordered the removal of Brihanmumbai Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal as well as Additional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners.

The three-day Startup Mahakumbh, one of the biggest events showcasing the startup ecosystem began at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi today. This startup event aims at connecting startups with a spectrum of inventors including venture capitalists, investors and potential corporate partners. The event will have sector-focused pavilions including pavilions on AI, B2B, agritech, deeptech, climate tech, gaming, esports, fintech, incubators and accelerators. More than two thousand startups, thirty thousand future entrepreneurs, fifty thousand business visitors, thousands of investors and over five hundred incubators and delegations from ten countries are taking part in this mega event.

The Supreme Court today directed the State Bank of India to make a complete disclosure of all details related to electoral bonds, including the unique bond numbers that would disclose the link between the buyer and the recipient political party, by March 21st. It directed the SBI chairman to file an affidavit before it by 5PM in the evening on March 21 indicating that the bank has disclosed all the details. Introduced in the 2017 Union budget, the electoral bonds scheme allowed citizens and companies to anonymously donate any amount to political parties. While the government argued that donors' anonymity was meant to prevent retribution, critics said it violated citizens' right to know how political parties were being funded.

Following a 40-hour-long operation in the Arabian Sea, the Indian Navy warship INS Kolkata is set to bring 35 apprehended pirates to India. Navy officials informed that the Indian Navy warship INS Kolkata has taken 35 sea pirates into custody and is

being brought to India along with the 17 crew members rescued after the major operation. The merchant vessel is also being brought to India. The vessel is carrying approximately 37 thousand 800 tonnes of cargo estimated to be worth around one million dollars.

The Indian army has invited online applications from unmarried Arunachalee male candidates for selection as Agniveers for the recruiting year 2024-25 under the Agnipath scheme. The last date for online registration is 22nd March 2024. The aspiring candidates can apply through the official website.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct CUET-UG exam between 15th and 31st of May as announced earlier. In this period, two dates overlap with the general election dates on 20th and 25th of May. UGC Chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar in a social media post said that after the last date for filling out applications on 26th March, the number of students registered for CUET-UG and their geographical distribution will be known. He added that based on this data and the election dates, NTA will announce the date sheet for CUET-UG exam between 15th and 31st May.

Chief Electoral Officer Pawan Kumar Sain today held a joint review meeting with all the State Nodal Officers and state Police Nodal Officers at the CEO's office, Nirvachan Bhawan, Itanagar. The review meeting was held keeping in view the upcoming simultaneous election. The CEO highlighted the broad responsibilities of the State Nodal Officers and State Police Nodal Officers by requesting all stakeholders to take up their assigned roles diligently and seek full coordination with all the DEOs and SPs in the district with immediate effect.

New India Literacy Program Assessment Test 2023-24, under Padhna Likhna Abhiyan was conducted on Sunday at OJU Welfare Association and Arunachal Pradesh Women Welfare Society (APWWS) centre, Naharlagun. The Padhna Likhna Abhiyan mainly focuses on complete eradication of illiteracy from India by providing basic literacy. Officials informed that most of the adult learners are women vendors who have missed their formal education earlier. Altogether, 26 candidates from OWA Naharlagun and 12 from APWWS Naharlagun centre appeared for the assessment test.

That's all in this news bulletin, Namaskar