

## **REGIONAL ENGLISH NEWS BULLETIN**

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today visited the world's highest battlefield, Siachen, to carry out a first-hand assessment of the security situation. He interacted with the soldiers deployed in the extreme weather and tough terrain conditions. Addressing the soldiers, Singh lauded their contributions and said; nation will remain forever indebted to the Armed Forces personnel and their contributions will forever be an inspiration for future generations. Calling Siachen a symbol of India's sovereignty and determination, he also remembered the success of Operation Meghdoot in 1984 terming it a golden chapter of the country's military history.

In Arunachal Pradesh, fresh polls will be held in 8 polling stations of 4 Assembly constituencies on April 24 for Parliamentary and Assembly elections. The Election Commission declared the polling held on 19<sup>th</sup> of this month in these polling stations void and fixed a new date for fresh poll. The re-polling will be held at Sario polling station under Bameng assembly constituency in East Kameng district and Loth- Longte in Nyapin assembly constituency in Kurung Kumey district, Bogne and Molom assembly constituencies under Rumgong in Siang district and Dingser, Bogiya-Siyum, Jimbari and Lengi assembly constituencies under Nacho in Upper Subansiri district. The timing for the polling has been fixed from morning 6 am to 2 pm on the day. Scrutiny of Form 17A of these polling stations will be done immediately after the poll on the same day.

Today is the last date of withdrawal of candidature for the third phase of Lok Sabha polls. A total of 94 Lok Sabha seats in 10 States and two Union Territories will go to polls in this phase on the 7th of next month. All 26 Parliamentary seats of Gujarat, 14 seats of Karnataka, 11 seats of Maharashtra, ten seats of Uttar Pradesh will go to poll in this phase. Besides, eight seats of Madhya Pradesh, seven seats of Chhattisgarh, five seats of Bihar, four seats each in Assam and West Bengal, two seats each in Goa and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and one seat in Jammu and Kashmir will go to polls in this phase.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds over Northeast India and adjoining regions during the next 3 days. These conditions will prevail over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal till Wednesday.

DG IMD today informed Election Commission that there is no major concern with regard to heat wave for phase 2 of the General Elections scheduled on 26<sup>th</sup> of this month. The weather forecast is normal for the 13 States/UTs going for polls in Phase 2. In view of reports of above normal temperatures and heat waves in certain parts of the country, the Commission today held a meeting with concerned agencies to understand the developing weather situation and discuss measures to mitigate any risk due to hot weather conditions during the period of General Elections.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has announced that four-year bachelor's degree holders can now directly appear for NET and pursue PhD in any subject. The candidates should have a minimum of 75 percentage marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed. Such candidates are allowed to appear in a subject in which they want to pursue a PhD irrespective of the discipline in which they have obtained the four-year bachelor's degree. At present, a NET candidate requires a master's degree with a minimum of 55 percent marks.

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini has returned triumphant to her base port at Goa yesterday after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months duration. The expedition was undertaken in double-handed mode by Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, women officers of the Indian Navy. Their exceptional journey marks a historic milestone as they become the first from India to accomplish such a feat.

Priyanka Goswami and Akashdeep Singh have secured a Paris 2024 Olympic quota for India in the marathon race walk mixed relay event. The Indian duo got the berth after finishing 18th at the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships 2024 in Antalya, Turkiye yesterday.

## **And Now, the Weather Forecast...**

According to the Met Centre, sky will be generally cloudy with a few spells of rain or thundershowers in and around Itanagar during the next 24 hours. The maximum temperature recorded today was 26.5 degree Celsius and a minimum of 22.1 degree Celsius.

**That's all in this news bulletin, Namaskar.**