

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

16th May 2024

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Election Commission yesterday reviewed preparedness for the 5th and 6th phase of Lok Sabha polls. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu held video conference meeting with Observers being deployed in 49 Parliamentary Constituencies for 5th phase and 57 Parliamentary Constituencies in sixth phase of the General Elections 2024. The fifth phase of Lok Sabha Polls will be held on 20th of this month and sixth phase will be held on 25th of May.

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A delegation of BJP comprising of party leaders and Union Ministers S Jaishankar, G Kishan Reddy, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Rajeev Chandrasekhar yesterday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission over alleged violation of model code of conduct by Congress and the I.N.D.I.A. block leaders. Speaking to media, Dr Jaishankar said, the delegation placed before the Commission 22 such examples and demanded to take action. He said, the delegations filed complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his alleged objectionable remarks against Indian Armed Forces.

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Congress has demanded repoll in eight booths under Baharampur Lok Sabha constituency in West Bengal. The West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee has written a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer highlighting false and proxy voting by the ruling party.

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Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) has written to the State Election Commissioner (SEC) about their collective decision to abstain from participating in the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) elections scheduled on June 26. In a letter to the SEC, the ENPO said that the people of Eastern Nagaland under its aegis had on March 19, 2024 reaffirmed their commitment to the "Chenmoho Resolution", wherein it was resolved not to participate in any Central and state elections due to the delay to create the Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT) as offered and assured by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on December 7, 2023. The ENPO said the Eastern Nagaland people felt compelled to take the course of action as a means of expressing their collective discontentment, the letter explained. Reminding that their decision to abstain from participating in any Central and state's electoral process should not taken lightly, the ENPO said that it reflected the sentiments and aspirations of the Eastern Nagaland people who had tirelessly advocated for their rights and aspirations within the framework of democratic governance. The ENPO also clarified that their stance should not be misconstrued as opposition to the Nagaland Municipal Act, 2023 with 33 per cent reservation for women. The organisation said it remained hopeful that both the Central and the state government would notice to the concerns and take concrete steps towards addressing the longstanding issue of the FNT. Further, the ENPO requested the chief electoral officer to take note of the decision and make necessary arrangements to accommodate the abstention from the upcoming ULBs elections in the state. The Organisation while expressing its gratitude to the SEC's convey its willingness to provide more details if required without any delay.

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah has lauded the decision to grant citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules 2024. In a social media post, Shah termed it a historic day saying that today the wait of decades has ended. He said, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian brothers and sisters who came to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan due to religious persecution have started getting Indian citizenship.

Mentioned may be made that Centre yesterday issued the first set of citizenship certificates to 14 applicants under Citizenship (Amendment) Rules 2024.

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India's biggest skill competition, The IndiaSkills 2024, has started yesterday in New Delhi. Over the next four days, more than 900 students from 30 states and Union territories will showcase their skills in 61 different areas, from traditional crafts to the latest technologies. Skill development Secretary Atul Kumar Tiwari, who inaugurated the opening ceremony called it a win- win situation for both the youth as well as industries. Winners of IndiaSkills, with the help of the best industry trainers, will prepare for the WorldSkills Competition scheduled to take place in Lyon, France in September this year. The WorldSkills will have One thousand 500 competitors from over 70 countries. The event aims to emphasize the significance of skill development in nation-building.

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