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➔ **EC begins work on polls in J&K and three states**

- The election commission (EC) has kicked off the preparation of J&K assembly polls and polls in three states .
- The term of existing legislative assembly elections will end on November 3 (Haryana) , November 26 (Maharashtra) and January 5 , 2025 (Jharkhand) .
- The elections has to be conducted before the end of term of the assemblies .
- In Jammu and Kashmir where delimitation exercise has been completed. EC announced that July 1 will be cut off dates for updating electoral rolls .
- SC had directed EC to conduct election in Jammu and Kashmir before September 30 .

➔ **Tamil Nadu hooch tragedy toll touches 50 ; probe begins**

- The number of deaths in Hooch tragedy in Kallakurichi , Tamilnadu has crossed 50 .More than 135 people are still undergoing treatment in different hospitals .

➔ **SC refuses to put off NEET UG counselling set to begin on July 6'**

- The Supreme Court on Friday asked National Testing Agency (NTA) to respond to pleas to conduct fresh exams of NEET 2024 .
- The vacation bench of SC refused to postpone the stay of the counselling process set to begin on July 6 .

➔ **Anti cheating act comes into effect**

- The center has notified the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair means 2024) , that has provisions of five years imprisonment and a fine of upto ₹1 crore and organised cheating in government recruitment exams .

➔ **Peace will return to Manipur in three months : Biren Singh**

- Manipur Chief N Biren Singh said that the state would return to peace in two to three months .
- He said that situation in state is coming to normal .
- He said that recent incident in Jiribam was due to lack of security forces in the region for some time . He said that security forces has arrived I the region .
- Meanwhile , Kuki Zo tribal body from bill district has issued a joint statement on Friday opposing the elections to the autonomous district council . The election is scheduled to be held in September . The joint statement said that the election was an attempt to “ create division among us against each other . “
- The Kuki Zo tribal people has been demanding a separate administration since the ethnic conflict broke out .

➔ **Kejriwal to remain in jail as HC stays bail order of court**

- After rouse Avenue gave regular bail to Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday , ED moved to high Court which has stayed the order of court .
- Delhi High Court has put on hold of trial court's order for two to three days . The court observed that ED was not given proper time to put its case in trial court .
- On Thursday , while giving regular bail to Arvind Kejriwal , the trial court had come heavily on ED for being biased against Arvind Kejriwal .
- The court said that ED had failed to give any direct evidence linking to proceeds of crime against Kejriwal .

➔ **Gupta has not requested consular help , his family is in touch , says MEA**

- Nikhil Gupta , accused by USA to be involved in plotting to kill Pannun was on June 14 extradited to USA from Czech Republic .
- Nikhil Gupta pleaded “ Not guilty “ in New York court .
- On Friday , MEA said that it had received no request for consular access from Mr Gupta . Ministry reiterated that a high level committee was looking at various inputs in US charges against Mr Gupta .
- Reacting to the Canadian. Parliament decision to stand for a moment in silence to mark Nijjar's death anniversary , MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India opposes , “ any moves to giving political space to extremism and those advocating violence “ .
- The minsitry also criticized a documentary by Australian broadcaster ABC . The documetary “ *Spies , secrets and threats : How the Modi regime targets the people overseas* “ . The documentary alleged that four Indian diplomats were expelled from Australia for espionage and spying on Khalistani activists .
- “ The documentary is biased and reflects unprofessional reporting . We obviously oppose any such attempt to condone , justify and even glorify terrorism . “
- said Mr Jaiswal .

→ **From Kashmir ,PM attempts to shed religious connecton with Yoga**

- PM Modi celebrated International Yoga Day (IDY) in Srinagar's Shere Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC) .
- PM said that Muslims globally is adopting Yoga .
- PM cited adoption of Yoga therapy in Turkmenistan Medical Universities , as well as it's inclusion in Saudi Arabia's educational system and Yoga specific schools in Mongolia .
- About 50,000 to 60 ,000 locals participated in Yoga programmes across J&K .

World

→ **Armenia becomes the latest nation to recognise Palestine**

Armenia Announced on friday that it was recognising Palestine .

Yevevan noted that it was “ genuinely interested in establishing long term peace and stability in the middle East “

Armenian amabassodaor was summoned by Israel soon after the announcement .

Norway ,Ireland and Spain were the other three countries which had recognised Palestine recently .

→ **South Korea summons Russian ambassador**

South Korea summoned Russian ambassador to protest the country's new defence pact with North Korea on Friday .

North Korean leader Kim Jong un issued a vague threat to South Korea for playing balloon propaganda . Recently South Korea had sent balloons carrying leaflets to North Korea .

Propaganda war is going on between the two countries . North Korea had sent balloons filled with garbage to South Korea in retaliation to anti North Korea leaflets found in Pyongyang

→ **Mob kills tourist in Pakistan for allegedly desecrating the Koran**

A mob in Pakistan's swat town has gunned down a tourist dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view for allegedly committing desecration of Koran .

The person had burned the pages of Koran .

Police had taken him to custody . But Local people gathered after the incident was announced from Mosque loudspeaker .

The mob torched police station . And fired on the person and later hanged him in public ..

→ **Russia fires deputy defence minister jailed for corruption**

Russian authorities had formally dismissed deputy defence minister Timur Ivanov .

Mr Ivanov was arrested in April on charges of corruption .

Editorial

→ **Testing times**

The National Testing Agency needs an overhaul to regain credibility

The editorial is about the recent claims of irregularities in the NEET UG exam .

Government cancelled the NET exam also . The reason being that the paper was leaked on the dark net . The information was provided by the cybercrime branch of the Home Ministry ..In this case the government did not receive any complaint .

The National Testing Agency (NTA) however has not been right in conducting the NEET EXAM .

The exam was earlier held in online mode which was later put as pen paper mode .

The editorial says that the responsibility need to be fixed and for this NTA needs to be overhauled .

→ **New Cold war**

Russia's pact with North Korea will deepen US ties in East Asia

The editorial is about the recent security pact between Russian leader Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong un. The two leaders signed a pact to come to aid “ in the event of aggression “ , Currently both the countries are facing sanctions by West . This was Putin's first visit in 24 years .

Russia will get ammunition from North Korea that will help its fight in Ukraine while North Korea is expected to get food and fuel supplies . North Korea will also gain Russian technology in defence and critical minerals technology.

In 2023 Kim Jong Un visited Russia . The expected reason was the supply of weapons to Russia . The two countries however reject such claims.

Russia is coming closer to countries which do not have a good relationship with the West , be it China , Iran or North Korea .

The move will strengthen the tripartite struggle between the countries in the region .