

TRAVEL BAN: Indian citizens asked not to visit Israel, Iran

NEW DELHI, Apr 12 (PTI)

INDIA on Friday asked its citizens not to travel to Iran and Israel amid increasing fears that Tehran may launch an attack on Israeli soil in retaliation to a strike on the Iranian consulate in Syria 11 days ago.

People familiar with the latest developments said no more Indians will be allowed to go to Israel to work in the construction sector. The first batch of 64 Indian workers had left for Israel earlier this month and over 6,000 construction workers from India were to leave for Israel in April and May. There have been mounting tensions in West

Asia following the attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. Iran blamed Israel for the strike and there have been media reports from Tel Aviv that the Israeli forces are preparing for any eventualities. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also urged the Indians residing in Iran and Israel to exercise utmost precautions about their safety and restrict their movements to minimum.

The Indian embassy in Israel on Friday also issued an advisory for its nationals in the country, urging them to avoid unnecessary travel, amid fears of a retaliatory attack by Iran.

"In view of the prevailing situation in the region, all Indians are advised not to travel to Iran or Israel till further notice," it said.

"All those who are currently residing in Iran or Israel are requested to get in touch with Indian Embassies there and register themselves," the MEA said. "They are also requested to observe utmost precautions about their safety and restrict their movements to the minimum," it added.

Israel has been on high alert following threats from Iran as well as intelligence reports suggesting that Tehran was preparing to attack targets in Israel.

Nominations begin for LS polls in third phase in Assam

GUWAHATI, Apr 12 (PTI)

THE nomination process for four Lok Sabha constituencies, including Guwahati, in Assam going to polls in the third phase began on Friday, the Election Commission said. The process started with issuance of the notification for the third phase across the country.

Voting in Guwahati, Barpeta, Dhubri and Kokrajhar (ST) constituencies will take place in the third phase on May 7.

After decades, J&K will go to polls with



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public rally ahead of the Lok Sabha election in Udhampur on Friday. (PTI)

PM Modi challenges Congress and other Opp parties to bring back Article 370 of the Constitution.

Ram temple not a poll issue, says PM Modi.

UDHAMPUR (J&K), Apr 12 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the upcoming Lok Sabha election will take place in Jammu and Kashmir without the fear of terrorism, strikes, stone-pelting and cross-border firing, indicating that the "poll-boycott" campaigns run by the separatists in the last three decades are history now.

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NO FEAR

Of terrorism, strikes, stone-pelting and cross-border firing

Assembly polls in J&K soon: PM Modi

UDHAMPUR, Apr 12 (PTI)

ASSERTING that the time is not far when the Assembly polls will be held in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the people of the Union Territory will soon be able to share their issues with Ministers and legislators.

The Prime Minister said the development projects undertaken by the BJP-led Centre in the erstwhile State are just a "trailer", adding that he has to work for the creation of a fabulous picture of a new Jammu and Kashmir in the days to come.

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NCPCR moots uniform syllabus, evaluation methods across schools under RTE Act

NEW DELHI, Apr 12 (PTI)

THE National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has written to all principal secretaries and secretaries of school education across India asking them to ensure uniformity in the syllabus, textbooks, and evaluation methods across all schools falling under the Right To Education Act.

The apex child rights body, in its letter, underscored the importance of adhering to Section 29 of the RTE Act, 2009, which specifically outlines the curriculum and evaluation pro-

cedures for elementary education. The recommendations, detailed in a letter dated April 9, emphasise the need for strict enforcement of curriculum guidelines laid down by academic authorities, particularly the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) at the Central level and respective State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) at the State level.

This directive seeks to ensure uniformity in syllabus, textbooks, and evaluation methods across all schools, including Central schools and insti-

tutions affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), falling under the Act.

The NCPCR expresses concern over reports of certain schools prescribing textbooks published by private entities, a practice deemed inconsistent with children's entitlement to quality education under the RTE Act. Violations of the Act's Section 29 (1), which designates academic authorities for curriculum specification, have prompted this urgent call for action. The implementation of the RTE Act's curriculum standards is anticipated to yield

several benefits for students and families nationwide, including uniformity in educational content across all RTE-compliant institutions, reduction of education costs by limiting prescribed materials to those approved by NCERT/SCERT, and mitigation of physical strain on students through lighter school bags, achieved by adhering strictly to designated textbooks.

The NCPCR reiterates that any deviation from the prescribed curriculum, especially the use of non-approved textbooks, constitutes a violation of the Act.

Army conducts anti-tank guided missile firing at 17,000-foot-high altitude

GUWAHATI, Apr 12 (ANI)

TRISHAKTI Corps of the Indian Army conducted a training exercise, involving the firing of anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) at a super high-altitude area of 17,000 feet in Sikkim on Thursday, Defence PRO, Guwahati informed through a press release. Missile-firing detachments from mechanised and infantry units of the entire Eastern Command participated in the training exercise.

The exercise encompassed comprehensive



Trishakti Corps, Indian Army conducted a training exercise at a Super High-Altitude Area of 17000 Feet on Thursday. (ANI)

continuity training and live firing from different

platforms on moving as well as static targets

depicting battlefield conditions, the release stated. The ATGM detachments demonstrated the capability to neutralise armoured threats with unparalleled lethality, ensuring mission success on treacherous mountains, it added.

The ATGM system's performance in high-altitude environments reaffirms the aim of 'Ek Missile Ek Tank', and showcases the accuracy and effectiveness of the ATGM system in super-high-altitude terrain, the release stated further.