

Criticised over graduation row, Smriti Irani brings up Amethi in her response

**Courtesy- The Hindustan Times
New Delhi, April 13,**

Union minister Smriti Irani on Friday hit back at the Congress following its attack on the BJP candidate from Amethi Lok Sabha seat over her qualification as mentioned in the affidavit filed along with the nomination papers for elections. "They have attacked me in every possible way in the last five years. There is no abuse that they have not hurled at me for being a woman. I only have one message for them, the more you will insult me, the more you attack me, the harder I will work against the Congress in Amethi," said Irani. The Union minister was responding to the remarks made by Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi, who targeted Irani drawing an analogy with a TV serial - Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, in which she played the lead character before entering politics. Chaturvedi said, "A new serial is going to come - Kyunki Mantri Bhi Kabhi Graduate

Thi. Its opening line will be 'qualifications ke bhi roop badalte hain, naye-naye sanche mein dhalte hain, ek degree aati hai, ek degree jaati hai, bante affidavit naye hain (qualification changes with time, gets moulded in new forms, one degree comes and the other goes, new affidavits are signed)." The Congress leader was referring to the affidavit that Irani has submitted while filing her papers for the Amethi Lok Sabha seat on Thursday. In her affidavit, Irani said she did not complete her Bachelor of Commerce (Part-I) - a three-year degree course - from Delhi University's School of Open Learning in 1994. In her affidavit for 2014 polls, Irani had reportedly mentioned her highest qualification as graduate from the Delhi University in 1994. This had led to a row with the Opposition parties contesting her claim. Chaturvedi on Friday said, "Union Minister Smriti Irani, who had been rubbishing Opposition's claim that she is not a graduate, yesterday accepted that she enrolled for an undergraduate course in

Delhi University but did not complete it." "We have no issue with the fact that Smriti Irani is not a graduate. The issue here is that she has lied repeatedly on oath and to the courts," the Congress spokesperson said. Irani is fighting against Congress president Rahul Gandhi at Amethi Lok Sabha seat. She has been campaigning against Gandhi accusing him of neglecting the development-related issues in his constituency. Gandhi had defeated Irani in 2014 Lok Sabha election in a closely contested fight by a margin of 1.07 lakh which was considerably lower than his victory margin of 2009 when he secured 3.70 lakh more votes than his nearest challenger. Irani has stepped her attack on Gandhi after he decided to contest from a second Lok Sabha seat in Kerala's Wayanad parliamentary constituency. While Gandhi said he chose Wayanad to send a "message of unity" to the people of south India, Irani said the Congress president was filed nomination from a "safe seat" out of the fear of losing in Amethi.

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Chaturvedi, who targeted Irani drawing an analogy with a TV serial - Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, in which she played the lead character before entering politics. Chaturvedi said, "A new serial is going to come - Kyunki Mantri Bhi Kabhi Graduate Thi. Its opening line will be 'qualifications ke bhi roop badalte hain, naye-naye sanche mein dhalte hain, ek degree aati hai, ek degree jaati hai, bante affidavit naye hain (qualification changes with time, gets moulded in new forms, one degree comes and the other goes, new affidavits are signed)." The Congress leader was referring to the affidavit that Irani has submitted while filing her papers for the Amethi Lok Sabha seat on Thursday. In her affidavit, Irani said she did not complete her Bachelor of Commerce (Part-I) - a three-

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Assam Rifles Prompt Action Saves Village From Wild Fire

**IT News
Imphal, April 13,**

On 11 April 2019, at around 1700 hrs a vigil sentry in one of the duty post of Pallel Garrison of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under IGAR(South) spotted a wild fire approaching the parameter of the garrison and a nearby village Meipou. Swift wind and already spread out dried leaves/haystack further caused the fire to spread quickly beyond the control of villagers.

Responding promptly to the situation, two teams led by Officers rushed and reached both the locations simultaneously. The team cordoned the area immediately to ensure the safety of civilians followed by controlling the wild fire with all available firefighting



equipments. Three water bowlers with pumps and pipes were quickly pressed into service and were stationed near the garrison parameter to control the wild fire. By 2230 hrs in the night,

troops were able to control the situation. Timely and prompt action of the troops of Assam Rifles saved the village from getting engulfed by wild fire. The fire rescue mission received an overwhelming

response from the villagers and gratitude from the village chief. The action will further augment the bonhomie and positive relationship between the Security Forces and local populous.

App to generate awareness among young voters

**Agency
Guwahati April 13,**

The Bongaigaon district administration in Assam has developed an exclusive mobile phone application to motivate voters, especially first-time electors, to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha polls. The mobile app, "Sankalp" (resolve) has a tutorial video on how to use an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). The users can also check their electoral roll details in the app. "It is our resolve to increase voter awareness among the youth in Bongaigaon by making them take a pledge through this app that they will be voting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," Bongaigaon Deputy Commissioner Adil Khan said. Conceptualised, designed and developed completely by an in-house team of NIC engineers under the direct supervision of the deputy commissioner, the mobile app will work as an interactive tool between the users and the election machinery. "We developed the app with

the objective of reaching out to the maximum number of people. The app is attractive and it will serve as a two-way communication tool. We are targeting one lakh downloads," the official said. "When our engineers designed this exclusive app, it was already linked with the digitised electoral roll of the district. "Not a single penny was spent in developing the "Sankalp" app as it was done by the district's NIC team and two Assistant Commissioners under my guidance," the DC said. The app has a two-way communication system. "We keep informing the voters about the electoral initiatives, while the users can also send their feedback," he said. The District Election Officer is also personally sending a message to all first-time voters appealing to them to exercise their franchise. The Bongaigaon election district has 1.7 lakh voters, including 11,000 first-timers. It falls under Barpeta Lok Sabha constituency, which is going to polls in the third phase on April 23.

EC seizes unaccounted cash, gold and narcotics worth over Rs 2,464 crore

**Agency
New Delhi April 13,**

Election Commission has seized unaccounted cash, illicit liquor, drugs, gold and freebies worth over 2,464 crore rupees since the Model Code of Conduct came into effect. Gujarat is on top of the list with total seizures worth around 516 crore rupees, followed by Tamil Nadu around 476 crore rupees, Delhi 389 crore rupees, Andhra Pradesh 216 crore rupees and Punjab with over 194 crore rupees. In a statement, the Commission said, it has seized over 628 crore rupees cash from all over the country. It has also seized drugs and narcotics worth one thousand 97 crore rupees, precious metals worth 490 crore rupees, liquor worth over 204 crore rupees and freebies worth 43 crore rupees.

Sweep Activity On Ethical And Informed Voting

**DIPR
Bishnupur, April 12,**

The District Election Officer, in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra of Bishnupur organized stand-up comedy show on Ethical and Informed Voting and Mass Electoral Participation as a part of SVEEP activity at Thanga Public Ground today. On the occasion, the general

public formed a human chain in the form of India map with the words 'VOTE' and 'LSE 2019' with ECI logo inside the map. The participants were entertained by comedians from "NOKPHADE". The group highlighted the importance of ethical and informed voting in a comical way for better understanding. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Salam Dhana Singh, Nodal

Officer for SVEEP urged the people to participate in the election by casting their votes. He also informed the people that arrangements for people with disability (PWD) are also made and no one should be left behind in this election. District Level Officers, staffs and hundreds of general public participated in the event.

CNESPR held its 9th NE Annual day

**IT News
Imphal April 13,**

Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, JMI (CNESPR) held its 9th NE Annual day on 11th April 2019. The event was organized by the Centre in collaboration with Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation Initiative (NCHCI) and hosted by North East Students Association (NESA) in the Engineering Auditorium, JMI. Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation Initiative (NCHCI) is an independent not-for-profit organization based in Delhi and operating across the country. NCHCI is committed to preserving cultural and natural heritage.

The welcome remark was delivered by Prof. Simi Malhotra, the Director, CNESPR. The event was funded by North Eastern Council. The NE Annual Day is one of the major highlights of the University's Cultural calendar. It is part of the Centre's Cultural extension activities with the aim to bridge the existing cultural gap between the NE and the rest of the country. Many renowned personalities in the field of culture, music and traditional art forms have performed in



the past events such Soulmate, Alobo Naga, Lou Mojaw, Reuben Mashangva, Mangka and others. She also acknowledged and thanked the North Eastern Council (NEC) particularly MR. Ram Muivah, IAS, Secretary, for his constant support and encouragement to all the Centre's activities. The rich cultural heritage of the NE was showcased by displaying the beautiful creation of Tangkhul Naga traditional attires by Tangkhul Models Team, Delhi. The Tangkhul delhi Models Team is a group of models who worked in different profession such as

air hostel, corporate employees etc. The event was also marked by the mesmerizing performance Medley dance by the Northeast Society: Gargi College depicts the unique and diversified culture of the NE. The musical bands Red Light Passengers and the Frisky Pints enthralled the full packed auditorium music lovers from the NE. Abhinav Mishra pulled off an spell bound performance incorporating rich content which was not only make us lough but in way take through the recent socio-political issues around the country.

Especially his take on the issues of north east, allow audience to enter into the larger understanding of the region. His unique way of presentation and engagement with the audience make it smoother to pass on the narrative. The purpose of the festival is to connect the unique way of life of north eastern people with the rest of the country. The performance showed the diverse culture and dance forms of Northeast India. The event concludes with the votes of thanks from North East Students Association (NESA).