

## Maharashtra Re-polling being held in 4 centres of Gadchiroli- Chimur constituency

Agency  
New Delhi April 15,

In Maharashtra, re-polling is being held today in four polling centres of Naxal-infested Gadchiroli-Chimur Lok Sabha constituency. Voting, which began at 7 AM, will continue till 3 PM. An Election Commission official said repoll is taking place at

Watali, Garadewada, Garadewada (Pusotri) and Garadewada (Wangeturi). Gadchiroli-Chimur was among the seven Lok Sabha constituencies in Maharashtra where polling took place in the first phase on Thursday. An encounter took place between security forces and Naxals in Gadchiroli when a polling

party was returning. The district also witnessed IED blasts at two other places on the polling day. The state Election Commission had ordered re-polling in these four polling centres as polling parties could not reach the centres due to Naxal attack threat. An encounter took place between security forces and

Naxals in Gadchiroli when a polling party was returning on polling day on Thursday evening. The Naxal-affected district also witnessed IED blasts at two other places since April 11 morning. But today elaborate security arrangements have been made and the polling process will continue till 3 in the afternoon.

## Campaigning for the second phase of Lok Sabha elections in full swing

Agency  
New Delhi April 15,

Electioneering has reached its peak for the second phase of Lok Sabha elections as only two days are left for the campaigning to end. Ninety-seven constituencies, spread over 12 States and one Union Territory, will go to polls in the second phase on Thursday. Top leaders of various political parties are leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters.

Senior BJP leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed rallies at Kathua in

Jammu and Aligarh and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh yesterday. Mr Modi said, his government is committed to eradicating terrorism, corruption and poverty, while the Opposition parties want to remove him.

Today, BJP President Amit Shah will address a public meeting at Gir Somnath in Gujarat. He will also hold a roadshow at Banaskantha in the state. Congress President Rahul Gandhi will address a rally at Fatehpur Sikri constituency in Agra, Uttar Pradesh today. "BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, Dr

Mahendra Nath Pandey, Mahesh Sharma including others will participate in rallies and meetings at Mathura, Fatehpur Sikri, Badayun, Rampur and other places. BSP Supremo Mayawati is slated to address meetings at Aligarh and Amroha. Samajwadi President Akhilesh Yadav will campaign in Kasganj and Moradabad today.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra held a roadshow at Silchar in Assam yesterday. She said, Congress granted special status to Assam but the BJP removed it after assuming power.

In the second phase, voting will be held in all 39 constituencies of Tamil Nadu. Other Parliamentary constituencies are 14 in Karnataka; 10 in Maharashtra; 8 in Uttar Pradesh; five each in Assam, Bihar and Odisha; 3 each in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal; two in Jammu and Kashmir and one each in Manipur, Tripura and Puducherry.

Seven-phase polling was announced for the 543-member Lok Sabha. A voter turnout of 69.43 per cent was recorded in the first phase. Counting of votes for all the phases will be taken up on 23rd May.

## Priyanka Gandhi holds road show in Silchar, says policy & intent of current govt faulty

Agency  
Guwahati April 15,

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday led her first election campaign outside UP in Assam's Silchar.

Launching an attack on the government, Priyanka said that both the policy and intention of the government is faulty.

Gandhi said that in the last five years the type of government the country has seen is known to people, people are the best judge, she said.

"As soon they (BJP) came to power they took away the special category state status of the Northeast India. Under the Look East policy, Silchar was developing as a trade



hub however the process stopped once this government came in power," Priyanka said. "Thousands are unemployed and are without wages..." she added.

In a veiled attack on Modi, she said: "If you see the campaign you will find him everywhere. You will open tiffin in railway,

you will find him. I have been touring UP for last two months, farmers are in distress owing to loan, youths are facing acute unemployment problem."

This was Gandhi's first campaign for election in the state. Silchar will go to the polls in the second phase on April 18.

## Medziphema youth org declares it will not allow immigrants to reside in the town

Agency  
Kohima, April 15,

A youth organisation in Medziphema subdivision, in Dimapur district, has declared that it will not allow illegal immigrants to reside in the area.

A general meeting of the Medziphema Town Youth Organisation (MTYO) was conducted on April 14 at Medziphema town. Youths from the area's wards and colonies attended the meeting, the updates stated. The organisation issued a press release on Monday informing about the meeting and a number of resolutions the group was stated to have taken during it. The organisation stated in

its first resolution that illegal immigrants would not be allowed to reside in Medziphema.

"Illegal immigrants will not be allowed to reside in the jurisdiction of Medziphema town which is in reference to the resolution passed earlier in Sept. 2006," the group stated.

Another resolution the group took was that "no outsiders" would be allowed to "interfere or mediate" in the "internal affairs of the youths" that "pertain to Medziphema town." Further, the MTYO stated to check "liquor outlets, drug peddlers etc.," in "accordance to its rules and regulations." The organisation also assured to sternly deal with anyone "who

create disturbances under the influence of intoxicants."

During discussions in the meeting, the press release stated, "Many shared their views and opinions during the open discussion of agendas." The organisation has requested youth leaders of the various wards to communicate and to implement the resolutions. The organisation also appealed to the citizens of the area to cooperate and "sacrifice for the welfare of the town."

Further, the organisation acknowledged the contribution of well-wishers who are said to have helped the youths throughout the years in various ways, the updates added.

## Social Democrats party wins general elections in Finland

Agency  
New Delhi April 15,

Finland's leftist Social Democrats have recorded a razor-thin victory in yesterday's general elections, holding off the far-right Finns Party. With 100 per cent of ballots counted, the Social Democrats, led by Antti Rinne, bagged 40 seats in the 200-member Parliament, while the Finns Party picked up 39 seats. The National Coalition Party claimed 38 seats, with the ruling Centre Party

winning 31 seats. The remaining seats were won by other parties.

Outgoing Prime Minister Juha Sipilä said, his Centre party was the election's biggest loser, blaming the difficult economic decisions his administration made in an attempt to rebalance the economy. The Social Democrats will head a government for the first time in 16 years, though it has been a junior coalition member since then.

## PM Modi' Biopic: SC to hear today plea challenging EC's ban on release of film

Agency  
New Delhi April 15,

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear today a plea challenging the Election Commission's ban on the release of a biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi till the general elections are over. A bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, had on Friday agreed to hear the plea which has been filed by the biopic's

producers. The poll panel had, on Wednesday, banned the screening of the biopic during the current poll period, saying that any such film that subverts the purpose of any political entity or individual should not be displayed in the electronic media. The Commission's order came a day before it was to be released, coinciding with the first phase of Lok Sabha elections.

## Couple in police net for assaulting 13-year-old minor domestic helper

Agency  
Kohima April 14,

The state police recently arrested a couple for allegedly assaulting a 13-year-old girl, who was employed as a domestic worker by the former in Kohima.

The arrest came after a complaint was filed by the Komyak Students' Union, Kohima (KSUK).

According to *The Morning Express*, the victim is currently in the custody of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Kohima. It was informed that the victim has injury marks on the head, ears, eyes, legs and body. According to the statement taken by the CWC, Lohbe said that the victim was beaten with a curtain rod.

The Kohima police stated that the victim was employed by the couple, who were identified as Rulanthung Ezung and Mhalo Ezung. They were booked under IPC section 523 and section 75 of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act and investigation into the incident is ongoing.

## Left, Congress allege rigging in state; BJP rubbishes charge

Agency  
Agartala April 15,

The opposition Left Front and the Congress on Sunday alleged "blatant rigging" during the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls in Tripura, and appealed to voters to resist any such attempt in the next phase on April 18.

Around 77.6 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the election to the West Tripura Lok Sabha seat on April 11.

"We have witnessed that the first phase of elections was blatantly rigged by the BJP and it is apprehended that the second phase would be no different," Left Front Convener and CPI(M) central committee member, Bijan Dahar told reporters.

The BJP termed the charges as baseless, and instead, claimed its supporters are being attacked in different parts of the state by CPI(M) and Congress activists.

"The opposition parties have failed to put up election agents.

They have become alienated from the people. Their appeal to resist is actually an attempt to spread violence and a verbal tonic to estranged supporters," BJP spokesperson Nabendu Bhattacharya said.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Tripura Left Front Committee on Sunday met Chief Electoral Officer Srimam Taranikanti, and complained of gross violation of the model code of conduct during first phase of elections.

The Left Front will organise a mass sit-in demonstration in Agartala on April 16 to protest against alleged attacks, violence and rigging in the Lok Sabha polls.

Tripura Congress spokesperson Harekrishna Bhowmik said party representatives met Election Commission officials in New Delhi on Saturday, demanding central forces in all the 1,645 polling booths of East Tripura constituency on April 18.

## NIA arrests fifth accused in 2017 Lethpora terror case

Agency  
New Delhi April 15,

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested the fifth accused Irshad Ahmad Reshi in connection with a terror attack on the CRPF group in 2017 at Lethpora village in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The attack was carried out by three terrorists belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammad. Five CRPF personnel were martyred

in the attack and all the three terrorists were killed in the encounter.

In a statement, NIA said, Reshi has been found to be a key conspirator who provided logistic support in form of sheltering and transport for the terrorists and conducting reconnaissance of the CRPF Group centre before the attack.

It said the arrested accused is an active worker of proscribed terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad.

## Only 42 more women in Parliament since first Lok Sabha elections

Agency  
New Delhi, April,

Slogans of various political parties about empowering Indian women in politics seem to have remained just lip service, if one goes by the statistics.

The case in point is that in the outgoing 16th Lok Sabha, there were only 66 women members out of the total House strength of 543, which makes it just 12 per cent.

This is the situation 67 years after the first general elections. Had the long-pending legislative proposal to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha been passed, it could have ensured at least 179 female members in the Lower House of Parliament. In the first Lok Sabha formed in 1952, there were 24 women. The

number did not change in the second Lok Sabha formed in 1957.

The number increased when the third Lok Sabha (1962-67) was formed with 37 women, according to data available on the Lok Sabha website.

There was a decrease in the numbers in the fourth, fifth and sixth Lok Sabha where 33, 28 and 21 women were elected respectively.

The number again increased to 32 women in the seventh Lok Sabha (1980-84) and in the eighth (1984-89) with 45 women members being elected.

When the Lok Sabha was elected in 1989 for the ninth time, the number of women dropped to 28.

Since then, there has been a minor but constant increase in the number of females.

The 10th Lok Sabha (1991-96)

had 42 female members and the 11th was one less.

The 12th had 44 female MPs, while the 13th and 14th saw equal numbers at 52 females of the total 543 members.

The 15th Lok Sabha (2009-14) saw

The 16th—the outgoing—Lok Sabha had 66 female MPs, two more than the previous term. Since the beginning in 1952, there had been no female Speaker in the House until the 15th Lok Sabha.

Congress' Meira Kumar was elected unopposed as the first woman Speaker of Lok Sabha in 2009 and served till 2014. Then, Sumitra Mahajan of BJP became the second female to preside over the 16th Lok Sabha.

The political parties have been promising 33 per cent reservation to females in legislatures a number of times. The Congress made the pledge in its manifestos in 2019, 2014 and 2009. The BJP too made the promise in 2014 and now. The Communist Party of India-Marxist also promised the reservation in its manifestos in 1999, 2009 and 2019.

But none of the political parties could implement the promise and the number of women MPs was not even able to reach one-fourth members in the House.