

## Seven NPF legislators suspended for extending support to NDPP

Agency  
Kohima, April 17,

The opposition Naga People's Front (NPF) of Nagaland on Tuesday suspended seven of its legislators from both primary and active membership for extending support to outgoing Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) MP Tokheho Yephthomi in the April 11 Lok Sabha polls.

The seven rebel NPF legislators — Kejong Chang, E.E. Pangteang, Eshak Konyak, C.L. John, B.S. Nganlang, N. Thongwang Konyak and Toyang Chang — had campaigned for Yephthomi despite show-cause notices issued to them. NPF Supremo Shurhohelie Liezietsu said the rebel legislators will be bound by the whip of the NPF on the floor of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly as per the existing law and judicial decisions of the Supreme Court. Though the seven legislators

demanded withdrawal of the show-cause notices, Liezietsu said the legislators instead of expressing remorse for not adhering to the party's collective decision and directive, they continuously associated themselves with the ruling People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) government and NDPP nominee in the just-concluded elections, which is a clear proof beyond reasonable doubt that amounts to voluntarily giving up their NPF's membership.

Yephthomi — who was the joint candidate of the ruling NDPP-led PDA, which comprises the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Janata Dal (United) and an Independent — is seeking re-election from the lone Lok Sabha seat in Nagaland. The NPF, which did not field its candidate, had supported former Chief Minister and Congress candidate K.L. Chishi. Nagaland recorded an overall 83.12 per cent voter turnout.

## CSDS researchers detained for conducting post-poll survey in state

Agency  
Gangtok April 17,

For conducting a post poll survey in Sikkim, the researchers from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) have been detained by the state police over night. One, Mukund Giri, a member of the research team, who was involved in the exercise along with another researcher remained under

detention at Gangtok Sadar police station since Tuesday evening. A police official said that the researchers were detained after a complaint was received by the Sub Divisional Magistrate on Wednesday. "There was some protests by locals about the survey and two people have been taken under preventive detention," the officer said. Later in the

day, they are likely to be questioned by senior administrative officials. Giri said that they have been conducting the survey in the state since Sunday but the problem started early on Tuesday. "Earlier in the day when our students were conducting survey at Aithrang in East Sikkim, a group of people surrounded them. We have been brought to a police station in Gangtok where we are being detained," Giri said over telephone. CSDS is one of the country's leading social science research institutes. While he maintained that the team has not sought any permission for the

survey, Giri said similar exercises are being carried in other northeastern states like Mizoram. "We have carried out such surveys in past. We do not require any permission. The authorities are alleging that we are violating the norms of secrecy of elections," he said. The authorities maintain that any exit poll, opinion poll or political survey is not allowed during this period when model code of conduct is in place without proper permission. Sikkim's Chief Electoral Officer, R. Telang said that they have sought a report from East Sikkim district returning officer on the issue.

## Bihar: All arrangements in place for 2nd phase of polling to be held tomorrow

Agency  
New Delhi April 17,

In Bihar, all arrangements are in place for polling in five parliamentary constituencies Purnia, Kishanganj, Katihar, Bhagalpur and Banka tomorrow. Our correspondent reports that more than 86 lakh voters

would decide the electoral future of 68 candidates in the five constituencies

In this phase over 3200 polling stations out of total 8644 booths are critical and would remain under direct surveillance of micro observers. A helicopter would remain stationed at Purnia air base besides a standby air

ambulance at Patna to meet any eventuality. In Seemanchal region of Bihar in Kishanganj around 85 Kilo Meters stretch along with Indo-Nepal border is under strict vigil and 105 Kilo Meters long border of the poll bound constituency with neighbouring West Bengal state has been sealed. Alert has been sounded at all border

outposts of SSB in view of polling. Around 37, 000 polling personnel are reaching their respective polling stations. To ensure free and fair poll live webcasting would be done from 160 polling stations in this phase. A control room has been set up at Chief Electoral Office in Patna to entertain poll related complaints and informations on the day of polling. Around 170 polling stations of Banka and some of Bhagalpur Lok Sabha Constituency are Naxal affected. Due to security reasons polling time has been curtailed in Katoria and Belhar area till 4.00PM in Banka parliamentary constituency.

## Will TMC, BJD rethink strategy to stave off BJP poll challenge?

Agency  
New Delhi April 17,

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is eyeing big gains in West Bengal and Odisha in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Its expectations are not without reason. In 2014, the BJP won one Lok Sabha seat in Odisha and two in West Bengal. This was the first time the party won a Lok Sabha seat on its

own in these two states. Sure, the BJP did win Darjeeling on its own in West Bengal in the 2009 Lok Sabha election, but this was with the support of the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM). Also, significant parts of the Darjeeling parliamentary constituency (PC) have a demography which is very different from the rest of the state.

## PM approves ex-gratia for next of kin of those killed in unseasonal rain

Agency  
New Delhi April 17,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved an ex-gratia of two lakh rupees each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to unseasonal rain and storms in various parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan,

Manipur and other parts of the country. 50 thousand rupees each for the injured has also been approved. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, the government is doing its best to provide all possible assistance to those affected and the situation is being monitored closely. The Prime Minister also expressed grief at the loss of lives due to unseasonal rains and storms.

## AAP-Congress coalition likely to fare well in Delhi than Haryana, suggests data

Agency  
New Delhi April 17,

Alliance negotiations between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress in Delhi took a dramatic turn after Congress President Rahul Gandhi put out a tweet on 15 April. "An alliance between the Congress & AAP in Delhi would mean the rout of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Congress is willing to give up 4 Delhi seats to the AAP to ensure this. But, Mr Kejriwal has done yet another U turn! Our doors are still open, but the clock is running out," Gandhi said. AAP has responded to Gandhi by saying that it wants an alliance not just in Delhi but Haryana and Chandigarh as well. Gopal Rai, a minister in the Delhi government, put out a tweet on Monday saying that the Congress wants to defeat the BJP in Delhi but it wants the BJP to win all 11 seats in Haryana and Chandigarh (by not allying with the AAP). These statements suggest that the Congress is not willing to offer seats to the AAP in Haryana and Chandigarh in return for an alliance in Delhi. An HT analysis suggests that gains from an AAP-Congress alliance are not as straightforward in Haryana

as they are in Delhi. The combined vote share of the AAP and the Congress was more than that of the BJP in six out of seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won all seven seats in Delhi in 2014. However, the BJP and its ally Haryana Janhit Congress would not have lost any seat even if the AAP and the Congress were together in Haryana in 2014. Combined vote share of the AAP and Congress was more than that of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in only Rohtak and Sirsa. Rohtak went to the Congress, while the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) won the Sirsa seat. The AAP and Congress would have been able to defeat the BJP in Chandigarh if their votes were to be added together. These statistics suggest that while an AAP-Congress alliance in Haryana might not yield tangible gains to either of the parties, the latter might end up ceding space to the former. Unlike in Delhi and Punjab, the AAP has not been successful in establishing itself as a political force in Haryana. In Delhi AAP's growth has come at the cost of the Congress. While not having an alliance with the AAP might make sense from a 'preserving political turf'

viewpoint for the Congress, neither the AAP nor the Congress can expect to make major gains in Haryana if they contest on their own. Assembly elections were held in Haryana months after the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Both the Congress and the BJP contested these elections alone. Extrapolating the assembly results at the parliamentary constituency (PC) level shows that the Congress would have got just one Lok Sabha seat in these elections. Congress's PC-wise vote share also came down in six out of the 10 PCs in Haryana between the Lok Sabha and assembly elections. The AAP did not contest the Haryana assembly elections after its shock defeat in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. To be sure, the AAP might have complicated the alliance talks in Haryana by going ahead and announcing an alliance with the newly formed Jananayak Janata Party (JJP), which is a splinter group of the INLD. The JJP candidate Digvijay Singh Chautala, who contested as an independent, polled much more votes (28.8%) than the Congress (17.3%) and official INLD (2.6%) in the January 2019 by-election in the Jind assembly

constituency in Haryana. The BJP won the seat with a 38.7% vote share. The AAP is yet to come clean on whether it will break its pact with the JJP or ask the Congress to accommodate the JJP in the alliance it wants to form in Haryana. If the JJP is able to replace the INLD like it did in the Jind bypoll, and it ties up with the Congress and the AAP, it could lead to a complete consolidation of Jat votes in the state; Jats make up the main social base of the INLD. On paper this could be an extremely formidable coalition. However, this will entail a significant sacrifice on part of the Congress in terms of Lok Sabha seats. The reward for this sacrifice in Haryana could be a lifeline for the Congress in Delhi, where the party has finished third in all assembly, Lok Sabha and municipal elections since AAP came into the fray in 2013. That the AAP is interested in forging an alliance with the Congress in Delhi also shows that it is unsure about its prospects if it contests alone. As of now the Congress and the AAP seem to be trying to safeguard against upsets at the hands of the BJP without letting the other side have a better bargain. It will be interesting to see how or whether they can resolve this contradiction in the next few days.

## West Bengal: BJP demands EC to transfer DM, SP of Siliguri

Agency  
New Delhi April 17,

BJP has demanded the Election Commission to transfer District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Siliguri in West Bengal following alleged killing of its party worker in the area. A party delegation led by BJP

leader Bhupendra Yadav met the Commission in New Delhi over the issue. Talking to reporters, Mr Yadav alleged that the ruling TMC is behind the political killing of BJP worker in the State. He demanded deployment of paramilitary forces to ensure free and fair Lok Sabha polls.

## BJP cannot prevent my success, says Kanimozhi after I-T raids

Agency  
New Delhi April 17,

Unfazed by the Income Tax raids at her house, DMK leader Kanimozhi on Wednesday said the BJP cannot stop her from winning the Lok Sabha elections. "BJP cannot prevent my success through this income tax raid. The raid is anti-democratic, deliberately planned and tested and no documents have been seized", the DMK's

candidate from Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi said, reports ANI. The DMK leader, who is the daughter of late Karunanidhi, added that the BJP was trying to intimidate her. On Tuesday, officials from the income tax department and the Election Commission (EC) searched Kanimozhi's residence and office, two days before the state votes. According to I-T department officials who refused to be named, the raids were

conducted on the basis of a complaint by the returning officer and district magistrate Sandeep Nanduri. "The raids were conducted in Kurinj Nagar at Thoothukkudi. As we received information about cash movement, we launched the raids. About 10 officials from the EC and I-T department have conducted the raids," said an official in the I-T department on condition of anonymity. Attempts to contact Nanduri were unsuccessful.

## Srinagar constituency in Jammu and Kashmir witnessing third election in five years

Agency  
New Delhi April 17,

The Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, one of the six in Jammu and Kashmir, is witnessing the third general election since 2014. Tariq Ahmed Karra of the BJP won the 2014 Lok Sabha polls defeating Farooq Abdullah of the National Congress Party. But, Karra defected to Congress in 2017 forcing a by-poll, which Abdullah won. Defeating Nazir Ahmad Khan of the PDP. Jammu and Kashmir will go to polls in five phases from April 11 to May 6. The counting of votes will take place on May 23. Here are the facts about the Srinagar constituency in Jammu and Kashmir: State : Jammu and Kashmir Name of the Lok Sabha constituency: Srinagar

Day of polling: April 18  
2019 candidates: Khalid Jahangir (BJP), Farooq Abdullah (NC), Agha Syed Mohsin (PDP)  
Sitting MP, Party: Tariq Ahmed Karra, PDP (Farooq Abdullah of the National Congress Party won in a bypoll in 2017 necessitated by Karra defecting to the Congress)  
Winning margin in 2014:

42,280 (10,776 in 2017)  
Runner up name, party: Farooq Abdullah, National Congress (in 2014)  
Nazir Ahmad Khan of PDP (in 2017)  
Number of voters in 2014: 312,245  
Percentage of votes polled in 2014: 26%  
Number of polling booths in 2014: 1,546  
Number of women voters: 133,658

### Name changed

I, the undersigned, Lalvarmanwi, daughter of Lalthangkung Rengkai, Churachandpur, Manipur, do hereby declared that, my name in my passport No. E7636854, File No. GUWC 00056704 which was issued on 16/04/2004 and expired on 15/04/2009 Hmar Lalvarmoi have been changed to my certificate name Lalvarmanwi.  
Sd/-  
Lalvarmanwi  
D/o. Lalthangkung Rengkai, Churachandpur