

Arunachal Pradesh voted for first time in history of election

Agency
Itanagar April 18,

People of Gyapin, a remote village in Kurung Kumey district, voted for the first time in their own village, in the history of elections in India, during the first phase of polling on April 11.

Electoral officers with the help of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force, which is deployed on India-China border for border security and management duty in the state, helped to ensure voting in the

village. The village is covered with thick undergrowth and subtropical forests and the nearest road connectivity to the village is about 45 kilometres from village panchayat Parsi Parlo.

The only access to the village is available through foot track of around 10 to 15 kilometres, 25 kilometres of hill climb and 10 kilometres of downhill slope through mountainous jungles.

There are only 346 voters in the village, out of which most

of the families have migrated to Itanagar and population mainly consists of floating numbers in the village. The polling party escorted by the ITBP walked for 6 days to cover total 90 kilometres with many motivated ITBP jawans and local youth. And only after 3 days of voting, the polling party was able to reach back to submit the EVM at the village panchayat. However, people casting votes in their village for the first time voted with full enthusiasm.

BJP worker shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Dhubri

Agency
Guwahati April 18,

On Tuesday, a BJP worker was shot dead by two or four unidentified gunmen in lower Assam, Dhubri district. Hundreds of angry villagers took to the streets on Wednesday to stage a massive protest against the killing. The BJP worker was gunned down in front of his residence. He was identified as Ruben Roy and was a homoeopathy practitioner. The attackers fired four bullets, two of which hit Roy killing him on the spot. Though speculations are rife that there is a political angle to the killing, local sources said that it may also be a case of personal vendetta. "We are examining all possible angles," Hazarika added. Dhubri goes to polls on April 23.

BJP criticises Ashok Gehlot for his alleged remarks against President Kovind

Agency
New Delhi April 18,

BJP has criticised Congress leader and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for his alleged remarks against President Ram Nath Kovind. Party spokesperson G V L Narasimha said in New Delhi that Congress should apologize for the reported remarks of Mr Gehlot. The party appealed to Election Commission to give a notice to Mr Gehlot and issue a directive that no political party should make a remark critical of the President.

Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh accompanied by his wife Heiyainu also cast their votes at 216 Srivan High School located at Luwangsangbam Mamang Leikai Imphal East District (2) around 9:15 am.



Former MP of Inner Manipur PC today cast his vote along with his family today morning at 18/7 - Khumbong Maning Leikai Polling station in Konthoujam Assembly Constituency.



Voters irked after CM, Governor allegedly jumped queues to exercise franchise

Source - IANS
Imphal, April 18,

Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh jumped the queues to vote in the election to the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha seat on Thursday. Voters, some of who had lined up even before the polling stations opened at

7 a.m., were not amused. Some pointed out that many other politicians had stood patiently in queues along with the general people. Heptulla's name is registered in the Sagolband Assembly constituency under which the Raj Bhavan falls. "I am very happy to exercise the franchise... I urge all voters to vote to choose their

MPs who will champion their cause," she told the media later. The Chief Minister and his wife voted in a polling booth under the Heingang Assembly constituency. There are 9.28 lakh eligible voters and 11 candidates in this phase. Polling in the Outer Manipur constituency was held on April 11.

Karnataka IAS Officer deputed as poll observer suspended for checking PM Modi's copter

Source TNM
Bangaluru, April 18,

The Election Commission on Wednesday suspended a General Observer belonging to Karnataka IAS cadre for allegedly checking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's helicopter in Odisha's Sambalpur on Tuesday. Mohammed Mohsin was suspended with immediate effect for acting contrary to the instructions of the Commission concerning SPG protectees and will be posted at Sambalpur till further orders, a poll panel letter dated April 16 said.

According to the Election Commission order, he was suspended since "SPG protectees are excluded from checking." However, Congress has alleged that there is no such rule that exempts SPG protectees from being searched. "The rule cited governs the use of official vehicles for campaigning. It does not exempt PM's vehicle from being searched," the Congress stated in a tweet. A Karnataka cadre officer of the Indian Administrative Service, Mohsin was deputed as a General Observer and working under the supervision of the poll panel in Odisha.



"... the Commission has considered the material available before it and prima facie finds it dereliction of duty," said the letter. Sources told the Times of India that when PM Modi reached Sambalpur to address a rally on Tuesday, election officials inspected his convoy, which constituted a violation of protocol. A senior police officer present at Sambalpur airport, speaking on condition of anonymity told ToI, "A team of poll officials led by Mohsin inspected some papers in the chopper carrying the PM. The inspection delayed his arrival at the meeting venue by around 20 minutes which was reported to the ECI." The Prime Minister had visited Odisha on Tuesday and addressed two rallies in Sambalpur and Bhubaneswar. Mohsin is presently secretary in the backward classes department. Karnataka Chief Secretary TM Vijay Bhaskar said he was not aware of the incident and said the state cannot intervene in the matter. On whether the official is barred from carrying out his duties after the elections as a result of the order, Bhaskar said, "Only after we receive further directives from the commission we can consider the next step." Earlier this week, the Karnataka Congress had tweeted a 14-second video clip showing two men carrying a black box allegedly unloaded from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's helicopter to a private Innova parked at a helipad, claiming that the video was filmed soon after Modi landed in Chitradurga last week to address an election rally. The Congress demanded that the EC conduct a probe into the same.

Lok Sabha Election 2019 Phase 2: 11.61 polling recorded in Assam till 9 am

Agency
Guwahati April 18,

An estimated 11.61 per cent of the 69,10,592 electorate exercised their franchise in five parliamentary seats of Assam in the second phase polling on Thursday. Polling is being held in 8,992 polling booths in Karimganj (SC), Silchar, Autonomous District (ST), Nowgong and Mangaldoi constituencies. Reports of EVM glitches have been reported from several booths in all the five constituencies and efforts are on to correct the snags, an

election official said. Silchar recorded the highest polling at 13.29 per cent followed by 12 per cent in Autonomous District (ST), 11.82 per cent in Karimganj (SC), 11.32 per cent in Mangaldoi and 9.62 per cent in Nowgong. Women and first-time voters were seen flocking to the booths even before polling began. Among the prominent persons to vote early in the day are AIUDF sitting MP Radheshyam Biswas from Karimganj, BJP MLA and party candidate from Silchar

Dr Rajdeep Roy, BJP candidates from Mangaldoi Dilip Saikia and Rupak Sharma from Nowgong. Prominent candidates in the fray are Sushmita Dev, Biren Singh Engti, Radheshyam Biswas, Rupak Sharma, Rajdeep Roy, Kripanath Mallah and Prodyut Bordoloi from Nowgong. Fifty candidates are contesting in the five constituencies. Of these, three candidates are women. Among the total electorate of 69,10,592, there are 35,54,460 male, 33,55,95 women and 180 of the third gender.

Cyclonic storm with heavy showers lashes parts of Assam, three injured

Agency
Guwahati April 18,

A severe cyclonic storm accompanied with heavy showers lashed several parts of Assam in the early hours of Wednesday leaving three persons injured and a trail of destruction. The storm swept across central Assam districts of Golaghat, Nagaon and Morigaon as well as lower Assam districts of Kamrup (Metro), Kamrup, Nalbari, Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar and Dhubri from 2.45 am for several hours, officials said. It damaged houses, blew away the tin roofs of a large number of houses, uprooted trees and snapped power lines including in Guwahati, they

said adding many people were left homeless by the storm. The high velocity storm and accompanying heavy rains, called Bordoisila in the state, also damaged pandals erected for the ongoing Rongali Bihu festival forcing dancers and singers to end their programmes. The Bihu pandals at Latasii, Chandmari, Noonmati, Maligaon areas here and at many other places of Assam were badly affected in the storm. Three persons, including a woman, sustained serious injuries during the thunderstorm at Rangolmukh in Nagaon district, official sources said. A tree fell on the Silghat-

Nagaon section of North Eastern Frontier Railway near Salna disrupting train services. Railway sources said adding work is on for early restoration of the line and movement of trains. At Jagiroad in Morigaon district a huge tree fell on Kapili bridge halting traffic for several hours, the sources said. The Met office here said a cyclonic circulation lies over east Assam and neighbourhood and extends upto 1.5 km above mean sea level. It has forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers at a few places in the next 24 hours and warned of thundersquall with maximum wind speed reaching upto 60 to 70 kmph at isolated places.

Two centenarians all set to cast vote in Karimganj

Agency
Guwahati April 18,

A 104-year-old woman, Saraguna Bibi, is all set to cast her vote in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Bibi, a resident of Assam's Hailakandi district, has never missed exercising her right to vote. Her son Badruddin Barbhuiya says, "She casts her vote every time and asks us to do the same. I will be taking her to the polling booth." Bibi will cast her vote in the Karimganj parliamentary constituency. In Karimganj, another centenarian, 116-year-old

Mahamud Ali is also looking forward to exercise his franchise. Ali, who is a freedom fighter, said: "I will definitely go to cast my vote. I also appeal to young voters to come out and vote. A lot of things have changed but there is still a long way to go." "Even after Independence, people living in this area used to die of starvation. But situations have changed now. It is because of this democracy that we do not have hunger and poverty like those times," he said. Karimganj will go to polls in the second phase on Thursday.

Assam police arrest four people from disputed border with Meghalaya

Agency
Shillong, April 18,

The Assam police on Tuesday arrested four people from the dispute areas along inter-state border of Assam and Meghalaya. According to late reports, the four were arrested from Huhupara village while they were putting banner and posters for the event to be held a waterfall which falls in the disputed area where both Meghalaya and Assam are staking claim. The arrested people were identified as Birlman Marak, Purts Sangma, Albert Sangma and Purno A Marak. Three of them were later release falling the intervention of the West Khasi

Hills district administration. West Khasi Hills SP Bhashan Laloo while confirming the arrest informed that the three were later release due to the intervention of the district administration. The SP informed that the Assam police is yet to release Purno A Marak as there is an FIR against him in Boko police station. The local MLA from Meghalaya was invited to be part of the event, but he refused on grounds that the election model code of conduct is in place. The SP was of the view that the local people should have informed the police before deciding to hold the event. It may be mentioned that the people from Assam like to go for picnic near the waterfall.