

Vote to choose a govt that keeps you happy, tweets Mayawati

Agency
New Delhi April 23,

Bahujan Samajwadi Party leader Mayawati on Tuesday appealed to voters to exercise their "invaluable constitutional right" to choose a government that will work in their favour as polling started for the third phase of Lok Sabha election. "Voting for the third phase of election is underway to elect the 17th Lok Sabha. I appeal to all voters to participate in the polling in large numbers. Voting is your invaluable constitutional right and which will help you choose a government of your choice and welfare to make your life

happy," Mayawati tweeted in Hindi. Follow LIVE updates here. "The country's 130 crore people, and especially the crores of educated youth and unemployed, do not want a BJP government that forces them to sell pakodas and tea and become a security guard rather than giving them jobs and deploys harmful anti-people policies," she wrote. Polling is being held in 117 parliamentary constituencies in 15 states and Union Territories on Tuesday in the biggest of the seven-phase Lok Sabha election 2019. In 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) finished ahead of the

Congress in the seats which went to polls in the first and second phase, but was behind non-Congress, non-BJP parties. Voting will take place for all the 26 constituencies in Gujarat, all the 20 seats in Kerala, 14 each in Maharashtra and Karnataka, ten in Uttar Pradesh, seven in Chhattisgarh, six in Odisha, five each in Bihar and West Bengal, four in Assam, two in Goa, one each in Jammu and Kashmir, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Tripura. Mayawati's BSP has formed an alliance with Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party and Ajit Singh's Rashtriya Lok Dal, to challenge the BJP, which won 71 out of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2014.

From a Correspondent
Itanagar April 23,

The 18th Rangali Bihu Celebration of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) was held recently at the Main Auditorium of Rajiv Gandhi University with much fanfare and gaiety. The main programme of the celebration started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and paying homage and floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika followed by a welcome address by Prof. Hirendra Nath Sharma, the President of the 18th Rangali Bihu Celebration Committee RGU.

The Chief Guest on the occasion, Vice Chancellor of RGU, Prof. Saket Kushwaha was accorded a warm welcome and felicitated with the



traditional Assamese Phulan Gamosa, Jaapi, and Xofura. Prof. Kushwaha declared the programme to be open and wished everyone a very happy and prosperous Assamese New Year and Rangali Bihu. In his message, Prof. Kushwaha expressed that Rangali Bihu is a colorful festival celebrated by the vibrant Assamese community wherever they reside and how it continues to be the lifeline of the socio-cultural life of the greater Assamese community.

The organizers also felicitated the Registrar of Rajiv Gandhi University, Prof. Tomo Riba who has been associated with the Bihu Celebrations at RGU from its very inception. Prof Riba highlighted that Rangali Bihu has come to fill the vacuum in

Rono Hills after the Nyokum, Losar, Holi and Mopin celebrations and to rejuvenate the festive minds of the residents of Rono to dance again to the tune of the Bihu. Prof. Riba also sang a Bihu song and thus marked the close communion between the Assamese and Arunachali communities. RONGILEE RONO, a Bihu Souvenir of Rajiv Gandhi University Bihu Celebration Committee, 2019 was also released. A number of Xusori and Bihu dances were performed by the RGU Assam Community, RGU Assam Students Forum and other invited Bihu troupes. Several other songs and dances celebrating the vibrant colours and diverse cultures of different communities were also presented. A musical presentation by the students

of the Bihpuria Blind School remained the highlight and most pleasant part of the entire programme. Their performance enthralled and humbled the audience. The prizes for the painting and essay competitions held in the morning were also distributed. Earlier in the morning, the day-long Bihu celebration started with the hoisting of the Bihu flag in front of the RGU main Auditorium by Prof. H.N. Sharma, the President of the Bihu Celebration Committee. Speaking at the event, Prof. Sharma highlighted the journey of the Bihu Celebration at RGU that started eighteen years ago and how it has bridged the hills and the plains by celebrating different hues and colours of life and the diversity among the different cultures.

Campaigning for remaining phases gain momentum

Agency
New Delhi April 23,

Campaigning for the remaining phases of Lok Sabha elections has gained momentum. Top leaders of various political parties are addressing multiple rallies across the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address three rallies in Odisha and West Bengal today. Congress President Rahul Gandhi will campaign in Rajasthan in Madhya Pradesh today. BSP Chief Mayawati will address rallies in Farukhabad and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh.

EC bans Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu from campaigning

Agency
New Delhi April 23,

Election Commission has banned Congress leader and Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu from election campaign for 72 hours for

violating model code of conduct. The ban will be effective from 10 AM today. Earlier the Commission issued notice to Mr. Sidhu for seeking votes on religion lines at a rally in Katihar district of Bihar.

Governor Meets With Sehlon Villagers

IT News
Imphal April 23,

The unheard voice of tribal villagers echoed at Raj Bhawan, Imphal in the presence of Hon'ble Governor of Manipur on 22 Apr 2019. In yet another initiative of Assam Rifles under aegis of IGAR (South), a 24 member delegation of tribal villagers of Sehlon region had an interaction with Hon'ble Governor. During this historic meeting, various issues pertaining to civil administration were brought into notice of the government. The delegation conveyed that the lack of basic amenities such as electricity, communication and education exists in the extremely remote region surrounding Sehlon. Lack of employment opportunities was also flagged in the isolated



region contiguous to the Indo-Myanmar border. The Governor was also briefed by officers of Assam Rifles on additional initiatives taken by Assam Rifles under aegis of 28 Sector to encourage the

locals in terms of commercial crop cultivation, export of exotic spices like cinnamon, creation of arts and crafts centre for employment generation and to provide alternatives to the locals for

timber trade. The Governor lauded the efforts of Assam Rifles and vowed uninhibited support to the villagers for bringing development in possibly the remotest region of the state.

Assam Rifles Celebrates World Earth Day

IT News
Imphal April 23,

Under the theme of this year's World Earth Day "Protect Our Species", 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised various activities on 22 April to acknowledge the role of earth which sustains and nurtures all living beings. Keithelmanbi Battalion celebrated the Earth Day with the students of Lilong Higher Secondary Madrasa. An attempt was made by Lilong Company Operating Base (COB) of the Battalion to create awareness and motivate the young minds to contribute significantly towards nature preservation. As part of the awareness capsule, the COB organised an interactive lecture for the students to highlight the significance of "World Earth Day" and importance of pollution control and environment friendly measures. Subsequently a cleanliness drive was undertaken in the



area of Lilong by the students of the Madrasa along with locals of the area. Over 300 locals including the students from the Madrasa as well as Police personnel from Lilong Police Station avidly participated in the event. Mantripukhri Battalion celebrated the World Earth Day at Sawombung High School wherein over 60 students and teachers of the

school enthusiastically participated in the event. An interactive lecture was delivered by teachers and personnel from Assam Rifles on "Environment Upkeep, Maintenance and Upgradation". The lecture was a progressive step towards spreading awareness and an initiative to educate the future generation of the State. The event concluded with tea and refreshments for all.

The series of activities by the units of the Sector received an overwhelming response from the local populace. The staff of both the schools expressed profound gratitude and further appreciated the righteous gesture of the Assam Rifles in putting the environmental issues in spotlight and recurrently taking initiatives to foster the environment friendly measures in the state.

Congress faces test of popularity in 11 Lok Sabha strongholds

Agency
New Delhi April 23,

Debutant Nakul Nath is seeking votes in the name his father, Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath in Chhindwara. Every message of his on social media mentions his kinship with the Congress veteran who has represented the constituency in the last nine Lok Sabhas.

Interestingly, Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh has always been represented by a Congress candidate since the country's first parliamentary election in 1951-52. It is also only one of the 11 Lok Sabha constituencies that the Congress has won at least 12 times (in 16 attempts). That translates into a 75% strike rate.

These seats are: Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh, Koraput in Odisha, Guntur and Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, Dibrugarh in Assam, Ernakulum in Kerala, Sangli and Nandurbar in Maharashtra, Rae Bareilly in UP and Punjab's Jalandhar. The party has also won

Malda 12 out of 14 times (Malda was not a separate constituency in the first two polls) but the traditional stronghold of the Congress has since been bifurcated into North Malda and South Malda seats. These seats spread across nine states and also serve as a barometer of the Congress' popularity among the voters. In the 2014 elections, when the Congress slipped to its lowest ever tally of 44 seats, the party faced defeat in as many as six of this prestigious bloc of constituencies. Three of them—Nandurbar, Dibrugarh and Sangli—were won by the BJP, the other three—Koraput, Guntur, Nellore—went to regional outfits.

UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's seat Rae Bareilly has been loyal to the Congress except in 1996 and 1998 when the BJP won the seat. The two elections also marked the rise of the BJP in the UP as well as at the national stage. In 1996, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led BJP won 161 seats and formed the union government but for

just 13 days. In the next election, the BJP increased its tally to 182, and formed a government for 13 months. After Sonia Gandhi, then Congress president, joined the electoral fray, Rae Bareilly returned to the Congress fold. The neighbouring Amethi, the seat of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, came into existence in 1967. Out of the 13 elections held in the seat, the Congress has won 11 times. Eight out of the twelve (including the twin seats of Malda) will be up for grabs in the remaining phases of the ongoing national election. For the Congress, unseating the BJP is the main goal, but winning these seats can add to the glory of the party.

SC to hear today petition filed by Meenakshi Lekhi against Rahul Gandhi

Agency
New Delhi April 23,

Supreme Court will hear today a petition filed by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi seeking criminal contempt action against Congress President Rahul Gandhi for his remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection with Rafale judgement of the Apex Court. Congress President yesterday filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court expressing regret over his remarks that incorrectly attributed the Apex Court Judgement.

SC directs Madras HC to decide plea of TikTok app on Apr 24

Agency
New Delhi April 23,

The Supreme Court has directed the Madras High Court to decide on 24th April a plea of TikTok app seeking to vacate of its ban order. A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said, if

the Madras High Court fails to decide on the plea then it's ban order will stand vacated. The apex court had earlier refused to stay the High Court order that directed the Centre to ban the Tiktok app over concerns about access to pornographic content through it.