

Popular Front of India joins the grief of Sri Lanka

IT News
Imphal, April 23,

Popular Front of India has strongly condemned the serial blasts on Easter day in Sri Lanka which took away more than 200 lives and left about 500 people injured. Popular Front chairman E Abubacker in statement issued here today expressed solidarity with the people of our

neighbouring nation and joined their grief at this hour of mourning. The details of the serial explosions carried out in churches and hotels are not known. It is hoped that Sri Lankan Government agencies would be able to find out those forces that acted behind these terrorist attacks without any time lapse. Whomsoever be the terrorists master minded

the Colombo mass murders, whatsoever be their motives in acting so heinously, the whole incident is undoubtedly a crime against humanity. E Abubacker hoped that as we have witnessed in the case of recent New Zealand mass firings, the victims of Sri Lankan blasts would receive both domestic and international support by all means.

Manipur Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla pays floral tribute to the Khongjom War heroes

IT News
Imphal, April 23,

Governor of Manipur Dr. Najma Heptulla today paid floral tribute to the martyrs of Khongjom War. Seen in the next waiting for paying floral tribute is the Chief Minister of Manipur followed by deputy Chief Minister Yumnam Joykumar and other Ministers including Th. Bishwajit, Karam Shyam etc. The Governor of Manipur also joined in offering tarpon to the martyrs earlier.



Following is the speech by Dr. Najma Hetulla delivered on the occasion of Khongjom Day

It gives me immense pleasure to be with you all on this solemn occasion and at this place of great reverence. Today is the 23rd of April and we are observing Khongjom Day to remember those Manipuri heroes who fell in the Khongjom War, fighting against the British soldiers. It is also a day to pay our homage and tribute to these patriots who laid down their lives for the sake of their motherland in the war of 1891. In the battle of Khongjom, the Manipuris showed to the world their indomitable courage and spirit of patriotism. The historic and gory battle that took place at Khongjom where the brave sons of Manipur laid down their lives almost to the last man still reverberates and remembered in every home in the State. The Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 is of great historical significance for the people of Manipur as it changed the course of history of the State. From an independent princely State, Manipur became a colonial subject of the British empire after it lost the war. Historical records amply bear out the fact that a handful of Manipuri soldiers with primitive weapons fought ever so valiantly against an overwhelming number of British soldiers with far more superior weapons attacking from different directions. But the brave Manipuri soldiers stood their ground and never gave up even in that hopeless situation. The raw courage and love of their motherland demonstrated by our

forefathers deserve praise and accolades from one and all. Paoma Brajabashi and other freedom fighters like him have found their place in history and their heroic exploits have become over the years stuff of the folklore. The battle of Khongjom is not only a glorious saga of the freedom struggle of Manipur but is truly representative of the spirit of freedom that engulfed the whole country in a later part of history. The Khongjom Day also reminds us of the hard historical reality that the British rule was the result of our own misadventure and misdoing. It was brought upon ourselves by the disunity and enmity among the Manipuri princes who craved for the throne and the British capitalised on this mutual mistrust by applying their 'divide and rule' policy. It is a lesson learnt the hard way that we put our sovereignty at peril whenever the people are disunited and disorganised. In a fast changing global environment, the present generation is confronted everyday by new challenges which are no less formidable. We have to learn from the pages of history and must not repeat our mistakes. All effort should be made to overcome the obstacles and put ourselves on the path of progress. Today, while remembering those who died for the cause of freedom of our motherland, we should also take a resolute stand to work with renewed vigour, dedication and selflessness for a better and brighter

future. Manipur is an integral part of free India which shook off the British shackles after a long drawn out freedom struggle. We are today the proud citizens of this vibrant democracy in the world. We should stand united as one and should not allow our differences come in the way. Let us focus on building a country of our dream where every Indian can live with honour and dignity. India is a vast country with full of diversities, be it geographical, social or cultural but these diversities should not be allowed to transform into adversities. On the contrary, these diversities should be converted into assets for building a robust and prosperous country. Our hard won freedom would only be meaningful when we can build for ourselves a harmonious and prosperous society. We need to remember that India's freedom is not a gift from the colonial rulers but was achieved through countless sacrifices made by our forefathers. Our State is full of potential blessed generously by nature and all concerned need to be focused and work with religious commitment so that the State can actively participate in the developmental race. Let us all work for the common goal of making Manipur a peaceful and developed State and this way, we would be paying our true respect and tribute today to those brave souls who sacrificed their lives for their motherland.

'Voter ID more powerful than IED', says PM Modi after casting vote in Ahmedabad

Agency
New Delhi April 23,

Voters in India are wise and their ID is more powerful than the IED's of terrorists, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday after voting in Gujarat's Ahmedabad on Tuesday. The Prime Minister held a mini-roadshow in an open jeep as he walked down the streets with the BJP's president and candidate Amit Shah as he was greeted by people on the road he walked. "Today, the third phase of polling is under way. I am fortunate that I got the opportunity to fulfil my duty in my home state of Gujarat. Like one feels pure after a holy dip during the Kumbh, I feel pure after casting vote in this festival of democracy," the Prime Minister said while speaking to reporters. He spoke after casting his vote in the polling booth in Nishan Higher Secondary School in Ranip under Gandhinagar parliamentary constituency. "The weapon of terrorism is IED, the strength of democracy is voter's ID. I can say with surety that the voter's ID is much more powerful than an IED, so we should understand the strength of our voter IDs," Modi said. Amid chants of "Modi, Modi", the Prime Minister came out after

casting his ballot, showed his inked finger and acknowledged the people gathered outside the booth. He also walked a little distance as people continued to chant his name. Modi was among the first high-profile voters to exercise their franchise in Gujarat. The Prime Minister arrived at the polling booth in an open jeep as he greeted people gathered on the road. The Bharatiya Janata Party's president Amit Shah, who is up against the Congress' three-term legislator CJ Chavda in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat, received Modi. Before entering the booth, Modi spent some time with Shah's family and lifted the BJP chief's granddaughter in his arms. Before entering the booth, Modi spent some time with Shah's family and lifted the BJP chief's granddaughter in his arms. He cast his vote at Ahmedabad's Nishan High School around 8.20am. Before casting his vote, Modi visited his mother in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar and sought her blessings. Photographs tweeted by news agency ANI showed the Prime Minister touching nearly 99-year-old Heeraben Patel's feet as she blesses him. She gave her blessings by putting a tilak on his forehead and gifting a

coconut and a red scarf. Modi spent 15 minutes with his mother and stopped briefly outside his brother Pankaj Modi's house as he was greeted by the neighbours. He then walked down to reporters who had gathered there and said, "Thank you very much". Later in the day, veteran BJP leader and sitting MP from Gandhinagar LK Advani, Union minister Arun Jaitley, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka governors Anandiben Patel and Vajubhai Vala, respectively, will vote in Gujarat. Meanwhile, voting was delayed by 15 minutes at Moraii booth in Navsari LS segment due to a reported technical glitch in the electronic voting machine (EVM). All the 26 parliamentary constituencies in Prime Minister Modi's home state of Gujarat are polling in the third phase of ongoing general elections and the contest is primarily between the ruling BJP and Congress. The BJP won all 26 seats in 2014. The third phase of the Lok Sabha elections will see as many as 117 seats across 15 states and two Union territories going to vote on April 23. Among the seats will be a solitary seat from Tripura, Tripura East, where elections were delayed by one phase

due to security reasons. Chants of "Modi, Modi" were heard as he came out after casting his ballot and acknowledged the people gathered outside the booth. He also walked a little distance as people continued to chant his name. Earlier, Modi met his mother at her house in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar. Photographs tweeted by news agency ANI showed the Prime Minister touching nearly 99-year-old Heeraben Patel's feet as she blesses him. Modi also met people outside his mother's house in Gandhinagar before getting in the house. All the 26 parliamentary constituencies in Prime Minister Modi's home state of Gujarat are polling in the third phase of ongoing general elections and the contest is primarily between the ruling BJP and Congress. The BJP won all 26 seats in 2014. The third phase of the Lok Sabha elections will see as many as 117 seats across 15 states and two Union territories going to vote on April 23. Among the seats will be a solitary seat from Tripura, Tripura East, where elections were delayed by one phase due to security reasons.

Polling underway for 3rd phase of Lok Sabha elections

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Polling is underway for the third phase of Lok Sabha elections for 116 constituencies spread over 13 states and 2 Union Territories. Single phase polling is being held for 26 parliamentary constituencies of Gujarat and 20 constituencies of Kerala. Voting is also being held for 14 seats each in Maharashtra and Karnataka; 10 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. Besides, by polls for 4 assembly seats in Gujarat and 3 in Goa is also being held simultaneously. Elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure peaceful conduct of polls. In Gujarat, 371 candidates are in the fray for Lok Sabha elections while 45 candidates are contesting assembly by-polls. Prominent candidates whose fate will be decided today are BJP President Amit Shah, former Union Ministers Mansukh Vasava, Mohan Kundiarya and

Bharatsinh Solanki. Kerala is also going for single phase polling today. 227 candidates including 23 women are in the fray. Prominent among them are Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Union Minister KJ Alphonse, Shashi Tharoor, K Rajasekharan, Suresh Gopi and K Surendran. In Maharashtra, 249 candidates, including 19 women are contesting in this phase. High-profile seats going to the polls are Baramati where from NCP leader Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule is seeking re-election. Senior Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil's son Dr. Sujay Vikhe-Patil is contesting on a BJP ticket from Ahmednagar. In Raigad seat, Shiv Sena's Anant Geete and NCP's Sunil Tatkar are pitted against each other. In Goa, 12 candidates are in the fray for Lok Sabha elections, while 18 nominees are contesting for Assembly seats. In Uttar Pradesh, constituencies going to polls in this phase include Moradabad, Rampur, Sambhal, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Bareilly and Pilibhit, 120 candidates including 14 women are in the fray. Prominent among them are

Mulayam Singh Yadav, Santosh Gangwar, Jaya Prada, Varun Gandhi, Shivalp Yadav and Ajam Khan. In Bihar amidst tight security arrangements polling is underway in five constituencies Jhanjharpur, Supaul, Araria, Madhepura and Khagaria. Over 89 lakh electorates will decide political fortune of 82 candidates including five women. In Assam, polling is being held in Guwahati, Barpeta, Dhubri and Kokrajhar Parliamentary constituencies. In Chhattisgarh, Lok Sabha polls will be concluded in the state with this phase. 123 candidates are in the fray for seven constituencies. In Odisha, six Lok Sabha seats and 42 assembly constituencies are going to polls in this phase. In West Bengal peaceful voting is on in five Parliamentary seats amidst tight security. Over 80 lakh electorates will decide the political fates of 61 candidates in three seats. In Jammu & Kashmir, voting is taking place for Anantnag district in the first of the three phase polling in the Anantnag constituency. In an unprecedented scenario, Anantnag Parliamentary

constituency is going to polls in three phases covering 04 districts Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama. The security grid has been tightened to provide fool proof security for the polls. Voting will end at 4 p.m.

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