

## Political parties step-up campaigning for 1st phase of Lok Sabha elections

Agency  
New Delhi April 07,

Political parties across the country step-up campaigning as only four days are left for polling in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls. Campaigning for this phase will end on Tuesday. Ninety-one Parliamentary constituencies spread over 20 states and Union Territories will go to polls in this phase. These include Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, Telangana and Uttarakhand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will again visit North East today and will address a rally at Udaipur in Gombi district of Tripura and hold another

rally in Manipur. Mr. Modi will also address a public meeting in Cooch Behar in West Bengal. BJP President Amit Shah will launch the party's Sankalp Patra for new Odisha at Bhubaneswar this morning. Later he will address a rally at Belgaon in the state. Mr. Shah will also hold public rallies at Gadchiroli and Chandrapur in Maharashtra. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi will address public meetings at Saharanpur, Shamli and Bijnore. BSP Chief Ms Mayawati will address a rally at Deoband in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh in favour of her party candidates. On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held rallies in Balod district of Chhattisgarh, Sundergarh in Odisha and Nanded in Maharashtra. He highlighted the

achievements of his government and charged the Congress of not taking any action against terrorism or naxalism. Making a strong pitch for a stable government at the Centre, he said when the government is strong, the country does not sit quietly after terror attacks. Addressing an election rally at Srinagar in Uttarakhand, Congress President Rahul Gandhi said, his party's first target would be a surgical strike on poverty. He alleged that the BJP government is working on the direction of capitalists. UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi addressing a programme, peoples' agenda 'Jan Sarokar 2019 in Delhi' alleged that NDA government at the Centre is not ready to respect dissent.

## EC bans publication of uncertified ads on polling day and day before

Agency  
New Delhi April 07,

Election Commission has barred the political parties, candidates and other organizations from publishing advertisement in print media on the poll day and one day prior to poll day in all the election phases unless approved by it. The Commission said, to facilitate the process of pre-certification of advertisements, the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee at the state and district levels be immediately ed and

activated to examine and pre-certify all such advertisements received from the political parties. The Election commission has said that such advertisements in the last stage of the election vitiate the entire election process. It has written a letter to all the Chief Electoral Officers of States and has asked to issue directions to all political parties, candidates and newspapers in this regard. The commission said, the affected candidates and parties will not have any opportunity of providing clarification in such cases. The Poll

body said, to ensure that no untoward incident takes place because of any inflammatory or hate advertisements, it is using its constitutional powers to direct that no political party will publish any advertisement in the print media on the day and one day prior to poll day in all the phases. For the first time internet - based firms have also voluntarily adopted the norms for online campaign to ensure free, fair and ethical usage of Social Media Platforms to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

## Tripura State BJP government neglected voters: ADR report

Agency  
New Delhi April 6,

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Tripura has neglected voter priorities and performed "poorly and underwhelmingly" on almost all governance parameters, including agriculture, employment, road infrastructure and law and order, says a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). Released on Friday, the Tripura Survey Report 2018 found that agricultural loan availability, better employment opportunities, and improved law and order were the top three concerns for voters in the state and the performance of the Biplab Kumar Deb government was 'below average' on all three. In the rural areas, the top voter priorities were agricultural loan availability, electricity for agriculture, and better law and order, and the government's performance on all three was 'below average'. On a scale of 5, the state government scored 1.4 on agricultural loan availability, 1.5 on electricity for agriculture and 1.91 on better law and order/policing, the report by the election watchdog said. "In addition, the government performed poorly in providing better employment opportunities (1.43) and availability of water for agriculture (1.71) in rural Tripura," it added. The ADR survey, conducted

between October 2018 and December 2018, also revealed that for urban voters, employment, electricity for domestic use, and better roads were the top priorities. "On urban voter priorities the government was rated 'below average' with a score of 1.77 on

better employment opportunities, 1.77 on electricity for domestic use, and 1.2 on better roads on a scale of 5. In addition, it performed poorly in providing school education (1.43) and drinking water (1.91) in urban Tripura," the report said

## Meghalaya: Anti-incumbency factor will hit Congress, says Sanbor

Agency  
Shillong April 06,

BJP candidate contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Shillong Parliamentary constituency, Sanbor Shullai stated that anti incumbency factor will hit Congress candidate, Vincent Pala in this election. Addressing a public meeting and party meeting held in Byrnhait, Nongpoh, and Ummulog today, Sanbor said due to the anti-incumbency factor, the Congress in the state will be hit badly while claiming that people would not like to send a regional party to the Centre. "So BJP is at upper hand and people will cast their vote considering the Nation's mood," he said. Furthermore, he stated that till date no one has address the issue of farmer. Shullai stated that there is a need to stress on organic farming as



it would give boost to the agriculture sector in Meghalaya. Shullai also highlight the issues of teacher, who are being deprived of their dues. He said that if he gets elected, he would address the problem faced by the farmers and teachers with the Centre. Addressing the crowd, Shullai said that both the congress and the regional parties shake hands with the rich people but the party which only addresses the grievances of the poor is BJP.

## Assam 34 pc of candidates in Phase 1 are matriculates or below

Agency  
Guwahati, April 7,

Fourteen of the 41 candidates in Assam contesting the Lok Sabha election in the first phase on April 11 are either matriculates or not even that, including a sitting BJP MP, according to their poll affidavits. However, the list also has an ex-ITIAN, a retired professor of political science and some law and masters degree holders among others. Polling on five of the 14 seats in Assam will be held on April 11. A total of 75,16,284 people are eligible to vote in Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Tezpur, Kaliaor and Jorhat constituencies. According to a law in Assam, a person needs to be at least Class 6 pass to become a member of a panchayat. The state's BJP government wants that a

minimum educational qualification for people wanting to contest assembly and parliamentary elections should also be fixed. The Supreme Court is hearing a plea seeking to fix educational qualification for poll candidates. In Dibrugarh, BJP's Rameshwar Teli, who is seeking a second successive term, is HSLC pass from Tippling Ghat High School in Dulaijan. Among his rivals are veteran Congress leader and former Union minister Paban Singh Ghatowar, a Bachelor of Arts from St Antony College, Shillong, and Titus Bhengra, a retired professor of political science from DHSK College here. According to Bhengra's affidavit, he holds a PhD from Dibrugarh University. Two other candidates of the seat are matric pass though one of them Israil Nanda holds a diploma in trade union management. In Tezpur, the Congress has fielded retired IAS officer MGVK Bhanu, a Masters of Engineering from IIT Delhi who hails from Andhra Pradesh. He retired last year as Assam's additional chief secretary and was also the chairman of Tea Board. Up against him are Independents Ziabur Rahman Khan, who studied till class 10, and Iqbal Ansari, a higher secondary pass, Mahendra Orang (Voters Party

International), a matriculate, and Mahendra Bhuyan (NCP), Pallab Lochan Das (BJP) and Bijoy Kumar Tiru (Ind), all graduates. Both the Congress (Anil Borgohain) and BJP (Pradan Baruah) candidates in Lakhimpur seat are matriculates though the latter has a diploma in mechanical engineering. Among the other contestants are Ubaidur Rahman (Asom Jana Morcha), who has studied till class 7, Ambaz Uddin (Ind), who is a matriculate, and Probu Lal Vaishnava (Ind), who is a higher secondary pass. There are also two law degree holders Hem Kanta Miri (Socialist Unity Centre of India-Communist) and Arup Kalita (CPI); three master degree holders Anup Pratim Borbaruah (NCP), Amiya Kumar Handique (CPI-M) and Bhupen Narah (Voters Party International), while Dilip Moran (Assam Dristi Party) has mentioned his educational qualification as BSc Part II. In Jorhat, there are three matriculates Kamala Raj Konwar (National People's Party), Raj Kumar Duwara (All India Forward Bloc) and Arbin Kumar Boruah (Ind). Congress's Sushanta Borgohain is a graduate while BJP candidate Topon Kumar Gogoi is an MA, LLB.

Contd. from Page 2

## Bangladesh war: .....

Image caption Indians and Bengali guerrillas fought in support of East Pakistan. Evans remembers him in that meeting as having "the bearing of a military man, square-set and moustached, but appealing, almost soulful eyes and an air of profound melancholy". "He'd been shocked by the Bengali outrages in March, but he maintained that what the army was doing was altogether worse and on a grander scale," Evans wrote. Mascarenhas told him he had been an eyewitness to a huge, systematic killing spree, and had heard army officers describe the killings as a "final solution". Evans promised to run the story, but first Yvonne and the children had to escape Karachi. They had agreed that the signal for them to start preparing for this was a telegram from Mascarenhas saying that "Ann's operation was successful".

Yvonne remembers receiving the message at three the next morning. "I heard the telegram man bang at my window and I woke up my sons and I was: 'Oh my gosh, we have to go to London.' It was terrifying. I had to leave everything behind. "We could only take one suitcase each. We were crying so much it was like a funeral," she says. To avoid suspicion, Mascarenhas had to return to Pakistan before his family could leave. But as Pakistanis were only allowed one foreign flight a year, he then had to sneak out of the country by himself, crossing by land into Afghanistan. The day after the family was reunited in their new home in London, the Sunday Times published his article, under the headline 'Genocide'. 'Betrayal' It is such a powerful piece of reporting because Mascarenhas

was clearly so well trusted by the Pakistani officers he spent time with. *I have witnessed the brutality of 'kill and burn missions' as the army units, after clearing out the rebels, pursued the pogrom in the towns and villages. I have seen whole villages devastated by 'punitive action'. And in the officer's mess at night I have listened incredulously as otherwise brave and honourable men proudly chewed over the day's kill. 'How many did you get?' The answers are seared in my memory.* This was one of the most significant articles written on the war/Mofidul Huq, Liberation War Museum His article was - from Pakistan's point of view - a huge betrayal and he was accused of being an enemy agent. It still denies its forces were behind such atrocities as those described by Mascarenhas, and blames Indian

propaganda. However, he still maintained excellent contacts there, and in 1979 became the first journalist to reveal that Pakistan had developed nuclear weapons. In Bangladesh, of course, he is remembered more fondly, and his article is still displayed in the country's Liberation War Museum. "This was one of the most significant articles written on the war. It came out when our country was cut off, and helped inform the world of what was going on here," says Mofidul Huq, a trustee of the museum. His family, meanwhile, settled into life in a new and colder country. "People were so serious in London and nobody ever talked to us," Yvonne Mascarenhas remembers. "We were used to happy, smiley faces, it was all a bit of a change for us after Karachi. But we never regretted it."

## 117 all women polling stations in Mizoram: CEO

Agency  
New Delhi April 07,

Mizoram Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ashish Kundra has said that there will be 117 all women polling stations, manned by the women polling officials and women security staff for the lone Lok Sabha seat in the state. Polling for the lone Lok Sabha seat in Mizoram and the bypoll to the

Aizawl West Assembly constituency will be held on April 11. Addressing the media in Aizawl, Mr Kundra said 117 all women polling stations were created due to huge positive response in the state assembly polls held late last year. He said all the districts have completed commissioning of electronic voting machines (EVMs).