

# Notification issued for 3rd phase of Lok Sabha polls

**AIR News**  
New Delhi, March 28

Notification for five Lok Sabha seats in Bihar and four seats in Assam going to polls in the third phase of elections was issued today. 115 constituencies, spread over 14 States and Union Territories, will go to polls in this phase on the 23rd of next month. Elections will be held in all 26 seats of Gujarat; all 20 in Kerala; 14 seats each in Karnataka and

Maharashtra; ten in Uttar Pradesh; seven in Chhattisgarh; six in Odisha; five each in Bihar and West Bengal; four in Assam; two in Goa; and one each in Jammu and Kashmir, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. In Bihar, the five Lok Sabha seats going to polls in this phase are Jhunjharpur, Supaul, Araria, Madhepura and Khagaria. In Assam, the Lok Sabha

seats going to polls are Guwahati, Barpeta, Kokrajhar and Dhubri. Over 74 lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes. Social Welfare Minister and Bodoland People's Front leader Pramila Rani Brahma, AIUDF Chief Badruddin Ajmal and BJP leader Queen Ojha are among the prominent candidates in this phase. Along with the Lok Sabha polls, 42 seats of the Odisha Assembly will go

to polls in this phase. The last date for filing nominations is the 4th of next month. Scrutiny will take place the next day, with 8th being the last day for withdrawal of candidature. Today is also the last day for withdrawal of nominations for the first phase of elections on 11th April. Ninety-one constituencies, across 20 States and Union Territories, will go to polls in this phase.

# CPJ's India Correspondent distributes Safety Kit for Journalists Covering the Elections

**From a Correspondent**  
Guwahati, March 28,



The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) representative met local journalists and distributed copies of 'Safety Kit for journalists covering the elections' at the Guwahati Press Club yesterday. CPJ's Emergency Response Team (ERT) has compiled the Safety Kit based on best international practices. It contains information for editors, reporters, and photojournalists on how to prepare for elections, and how to mitigate digital, physical and psychological risk. CPJ's India Correspondent Kunal Majumder spoke on

various aspects of Digital Safety including Basic device preparedness, Identifying bots, Online harassment and trolling and Securing and storing materials. He also touched on Physical Safety issues like Reporting safely on rallies and protests and Reporting safely in a hostile community. Soft copy of the Safety kit is also available on CPJ

website: <https://cpj.org/2019/03/india-elections-journalists-safety-kit.php> and can be freely used, distributed and republished. CPJ is also organising such events in Imphal (on Dec 29th) and Agartala (On Dec 31st) in their respective press clubs. **About Committee to Protect Journalists:** The Committee to Protect

Journalists is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide. We defend the right of journalists to report the news without fear of reprisal. Every year, hundreds of journalists are attacked, imprisoned, or killed. For more than 30 years, CPJ has been there to defend them and fight for press freedom. CPJ is made up of about 40 experts around the world, with headquarters in New York City. CPJ's work is based on its research, which provides a global snapshot of obstructions to a free press worldwide. CPJ's research staff documents hundreds of attack on the press each year.

# Speech of Dr. Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur at the inaugural function of the Manipur International Symposium on Dance & Music On 28th March, 2019 At Manipur University, Canchipur, Imphal.

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to inaugurate this 'Manipur International Symposium of Dance and Music: Traditional Art Forms and World Today' organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, North-Eastern Region in collaboration with Manipur University and Manipur University of Culture. As Governor of the host State in the North-Eastern region, I would like to thank the organizers for holding such an International Symposium at Imphal. Additionally, it is gratifying to know that eminent artists of Indian classical dance forms including a few foreign artistes will be joining the Symposium in panel discussion, lecture-cum-demonstration and performances. This will create an interdisciplinary cultural exchange and mutual understanding amongst the artistes belonging to the fraternity. I also strongly believe that this Symposium will be of great help to the local students in gaining knowledge and sharing of ideas with artistes from other States and abroad.

Indian culture and traditions are something which have now become renowned all across the world. Manipuri Dance is again amongst the few of the recognized classical dance forms of India. The State has a rich cultural heritage and its traditional art forms are widely acclaimed. The topic of today's symposium is of much contemporary relevance especially in the context of Manipur as its rich and variegated traditional art forms need to be invigorated and kept in proper perspective. The symposium is also unique in the sense that through it an effort is being made for cultural ties with our neighbouring countries Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan. I extend a warm welcome to all the participating artistes from the neighbouring countries and other parts of India. I am hopeful that the symposium will go a long way in bringing about overall personality development of our local artistes, enabling them to connect around the globe to promote the rich cultural heritage of Manipur and India as a whole.

Many of you here would know that ICCR was founded in the year, 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of Independent India and my great grand uncle. It was created with a clear mandate to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people, to establish and develop relations with National and International organizations in the field of culture. I had an opportunity of associating with this iconic cultural Institution in the capacity of its President during 2002 to 2005 and I am familiar with its various initiatives for the development of cultural ties with other countries. I have no doubt that the present symposium

will become an important and prestigious event in the cultural calendar of the region. The North-Eastern region has fascinating natural beauty and to add to that the ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity of the region is awesome. The rich tapestry of cultures of the North-East, whether it is the highly developed classical dance forms and visual arts or the vibrant and rhythmic folk dances and songs of the hills of the entire region or the crafts of artisans showing rich creative expressions has been marvellous with its unique identity. However, owing to its long isolation till the recent past, the region's culture has not received its due exposure or recognition that it truly deserves. This International Symposium is significant not only because it will focus on the vibrant culture of a very beautiful part of our country but because it will also bring out the beauty of our unity in diversity. This platform for holding discourses on Dance and Music of the North-Eastern Region will serve for the study, practice, documentation, preservation, and dissemination of the traditional music and dance of all North-Eastern States and their people. The symposium will encourage both archival research and fieldwork, seeking for advantages from different methodological approaches and using diverse source materials such as written chronicles, daily reports, letters, treatises on music, transcriptions, sound recordings and films that will contribute to the understanding of traditional Dance and Music of the North-Eastern Region people. The region has been and is still going through social, cultural and political transitions which are reflected in its music and dance traditions. The demographic structure of its population provokes an interest to research not only by scholars within the region, but also by scholars from other parts of the country. The symposium, I am sure, will see brain storming sessions for achieving the set goals in the field of arts and culture. In our march towards progress and prosperity, our cultural riches are our assets that make us proud and beautiful and to remain connected with our glorious past. We must ensure the survival of our traditional art, our dance forms and our Music. We should encourage our youth to keep these skills and creativity alive and robust.

With these words, I am hopeful that people assembled here from the North-East and various parts of the country and overseas will experience the vibrancy in the different forms of art and culture in the region and I wish the Symposium all success. I once again compliment the organizers for this initiative.

# 'PM Modi's real surgical strike': Kumaraswamy on IT raid at minister's home

**Agency**  
Bengaluru, March 28

Hours after Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy said he had information that the Income Tax department was set to conduct searches on leaders of the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) alliance, minor irrigation minister CS Puttaraju confirmed that the raids had begun at his residences from the early hours of Thursday. Puttaraju said his family home in Mandya district had been raided and that there were similar searches that were being conducted in Mysuru and elsewhere. "My house in Chinakurali village has been raided, mine is a joint family so it is a raid on me," he said. Kumaraswamy took to Twitter to hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that he is playing

a "revenge game". Karnataka Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao said the IT department has become "a political wing of the BJP." "It's now clearly established that the IT Dept is now a political wing of the BJP. Congress & JDS leaders/supporters are and will be wilfully targeted. Abuse of power & position for political gain is the norm for #ModiShahGoondaRaj," Rao wrote on Twitter. No confirmation was given by the I-T department about the number of locations raided even as unconfirmed news reports filtered in of raids in Hassan and Mysuru districts as well. Kumaraswamy had said on Wednesday that he had information that the I-T department had sought the support of Central Reserve Police

Force personnel, rather than the state police as was the practice. "Around 300-350 Central CRPF personnel have been brought here from different states to conduct raids. Are we indulging in vengeance politics or is the Bharatiya Janata Party?" Kumaraswamy had asked. Kumaraswamy said he had information that 300 taxis had been readied to pick up the personnel. "To stoop so low to scare us, we haven't done anything we haven't committed any crime. At this late stage, during elections, the games being played by the I-T department... we know what they are playing at. If they think they can work as the agents of a political party they will have to face the consequences," he said. Kumaraswamy said that

usually, the I-T tax utilised the state police force for raids. "Getting the CRPF personnel from outside to conduct raids... This will not continue for long and they should realise it," he said. "I am not protecting anybody and I will not allow vengeance politics of any kind here. If they continue in this manner I will have to protest like West Bengal chief minister [Mamata Banerjee]." State BJP spokesperson S Prakash condemned the statements by the chief minister. "This is Kumaraswamy's style, which is to not allow officials to do their duty. The I-T department is an independent authority," he said. "The department's raid means they will check the books of some persons. So, there is no need for alarm if there is no wrongdoing involved," he said.

# Trump meets Sunder Pichai, says Google committed to US military, not China

**Agency**  
Washington, March 28,

President Donald Trump has said that Google is totally committed to the US military as he met the internet giant's Indian-American CEO Sunder Pichai at the White House, days after he accused the tech company of helping China and its army. Trump, who has been at loggerheads with several big companies, earlier this month said, "Google is helping China and their military, but not the US". On Wednesday, after a meeting with Pichai at the White House, the US

President said: "Meeting ended very well." "Just met with @SunderPichai, President of @Google, who is obviously doing quite well," he said. Pichai "stated strongly that he is totally committed to the US military and not the Chinese military", Trump said. "Also discussed political fairness and various things that @Google does for our country. Meeting ended very well!" said the President. There was no immediate tweet from Pichai. However, a Google spokesperson said that

the company is pleased to have productive conversations with the President. "We were pleased to have productive conversations with the President about investing in the future of the American workforce, the growth of emerging technologies and our ongoing commitment to working with the US government," said the Google spokesperson. Trump's tweet criticising Google earlier last month came after Acting Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan and General Joseph Dunford, chairman joint chiefs of staff, said during a Congressional

hearing that "Google was partnering with China... but the Internet search engine giant has shown a lack of willingness to work with the US Department of Defence". During his trip to Washington DC, Pichai also met India's Ambassador to the US Harsh V Shringla. "A thoroughly enriching experience to meet and interact with" Pichai on Google's positive engagement in India and elsewhere in the world, privacy laws, internet governance and a host of other issues, the ambassador said in a tweet.

# ASAT missile project went into 'mission mode' 6 months ago, says DRDO chief

**ANI**  
New Delhi, March 28,

After successfully conducting an A-SAT or anti-satellite missile test yesterday, the chairman of the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) revealed in an interview with ANI that the project to develop this rare missile capability was green-lit two years ago. "The NSA (Ajit Doval) whom we report to on strategic matters gave the direction to go ahead with the test and he had the concurrence from the Prime Minister. The development started a few years back and we went into mission mode in the last 6 months," said DRDO's Chairman G Satheesh Reddy in an exclusive interview to ANI. Reddy also added that in the last 6 months when

the A-SAT missile programme entered "mission mode" level, about 100 scientists worked round-the-clock to reach the intended launch date target that was set. The A-SAT missile was launched at approximately 11:16 AM on Tuesday from Odisha's Balasore and within three minutes of launch, it successfully hit the intended target, a de-commissioned Indian satellite, in a "Low-Earth Orbit" at roughly 300 km from the Earth's surface. "Some time ago, our scientists shot down a live satellite 300 kilometres away in space, in Low-Earth Orbit... It was conducted under Mission Shakti, which was completed in three minutes," PM Modi said in his 10-minute televised address.

When asked the reason behind choosing a 300 km-altitude range for the target, Reddy said that protecting nearby space assets had to be considered. "As a responsible nation we wanted to be sure all space assets were safe and all the debris decayed fast," added DRDO Chairman Reddy. Shortly after PM Modi's televised address announcing the success of "Mission Shakti", India's Ministry of External Affairs released a detailed note informing the World that India's actions were only to augment its deterrence capabilities and did not intend to trigger an arms race in space. The Chinese Foreign Ministry released a statement responding to India's A-SAT test which read, "We have noticed reports and hope that each country

will uphold peace and tranquillity in outer space." With the success of "Mission Shakti", India has now entered an elite club of three nations - United States, Russia and China, with similar missile technology. This sort of missile application enables a country to attack and disrupt enemy satellites, thereby affecting communication networks. India's A-SAT missile was an indigenous build. "We have hit the target by 'Kinetic kill' - that means by directly hitting the satellite. This calls for many technologies which we have developed completely indigenously in the country and we have achieved accuracy within a few centimetres... a very high level of accuracy," said Reddy in an exclusive interview to ANI.