

All arrangements in place for counting for Lok Sabha & 4 state assemblies tomorrow

Agency
New Delhi May 22,

All arrangements have been put in place for counting of votes for Lok Sabha and four state assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh tomorrow. The counting will begin at 8 AM and trends are likely to start coming in by afternoon, while results are expected by the evening.

Counting of Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) and Postal Ballots will be taken up first. Counting personnel will randomly select five EVMs from each Assembly segments for matching with VVPAT slips as directed by the Supreme Court. The Apex Court had on April 8 asked the Election Commission to increase the random matching of VVPAT

slips with EVMs from one to five polling booths per assembly segments in Lok Sabha polls. The Supreme Court yesterday rejected a PIL seeking 100 per cent matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure smooth and hassle-free counting. There will be three-tier security in place with the outer cordon

beginning 100 metres away from the counting centre. The middle layer at the entrance will be followed by the inner layer. Prohibitory orders under section 144 CrPC will be promulgated within 100 metres of the counting centres. No one will be permitted to carry mobile phones inside the counting centres.

PM Modi describes NDA as a grouping which represents the aspiration of the people of India

Agency
New Delhi May 22,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the National Democratic Alliance, NDA as a grouping which represents the aspirations of people of India. Addressing the meeting of NDA leaders in New Delhi today, Mr Modi said, NDA has now become a strong pillar for fulfilling regional aspirations. The Prime Minister said, aim of NDA was not vote or power but to build a New India. Briefing media after the meeting of NDA, Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Rajnath Singh quoting the Prime Minister said, the aim of NDA is to serve the poor and solve the issue of poverty. Mr Singh said, the NDA has stood firm on the issue of national security and it has been successful in leaving its mark. He said, Shiromani Akali Dal



Chief Parkash Singh Badal presided the meeting of 36 allies of NDA. Mr Singh said, three allies were absent but they have sent their support. The NDA also passed a resolution lauding the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The resolution was proposed by Lok Jan Shakti party leader Ram Vilas Paswan. The allies lauded the Prime Minister for taking historical decisions

during the tenure. The leaders of National Democratic Alliance met over dinner in New Delhi this evening. During the meeting they chalked out strategy on possible outcome of General elections. Prime Minister Modi was present in the meeting besides Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) President Nitish Kumar, Shiromani Akali Dal Chief Parkash Singh Badal, Shiv

Sena Chief Uddhav Thackeray, Lok Janshakti Party head Ram Vilas Paswan and AIADMK leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami. Earlier, BJP President Amit Shah held a meeting with Union Council of Ministers. The meeting held at party headquarters in New Delhi was called to thank them for their service to the nation. It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministers including Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Smriti Irani, Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Ram Vilas Paswan. The two meetings took place ahead of declaration of Lok Sabha poll results and in the backdrop of exit polls which have predicted a return of BJP led NDA government at the Centre.

PM Modi says 'concerned over needless controversy' as Oppn ups EVM row

Agency
New Delhi May 22,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday expressed concern over the "needless controversy" created by the Opposition over EVMs at a meeting of NDA leaders, even as the ruling alliance laid out its agenda for the next five years if it is elected to power again. At the BJP-led ruling alliance meeting, which was attended by 36 parties, a resolution was passed, terming the 2019 general election decisive for the country and pledging to make India "strong, developed, prosperous and inclusive" by 2022, when India completes 75 years of its independence, party leader and Union minister Rajnath Singh told reporters. The BJP-led NDA meeting is being seen as its show of strength and projection of a united front by the ruling alliance ahead of counting of votes on May 23, following which a new government will assume charge. In his address, Modi stressed on the need to change the narrative from caste lines and orient it for the poor, Singh said. The prime minister expressed concern over the Opposition making "needless controversy" over electronic

voting machines, the home minister said. Earlier Tuesday, leaders of 22 opposition parties met the Election Commission and demanded verification of VVPAT slips of randomly-selected polling stations before the counting of the votes. The opposition representation to the EC came barely two days before the counting of votes and after exit poll projections that the BJP-led NDA is likely to return to power. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister E K Palaniswami were among the BJP allies who attended the dinner-meeting hosted by BJP chief Amit Shah. Union minister and BJP ally Ram Vilas Paswan proposed the resolution. Paswan, who joined Singh in the media briefing, too dismissed Opposition's protest over EVMs as a case of collective frustration over their impending defeat and also warned them of "tit for tat". He did not elaborate what he meant by that. The Lok Janshakti Party chief said Modi turned emotional when he mentioned the political violence, "targeting" BJP workers, in states of Kerala and West Bengal.

Shah had hosted another meeting for Union ministers earlier Tuesday. The BJP described the meeting as an occasion to thank ministers for their service to the nation. The NDA resolution also expressed its concern over the "systematic assault by the Opposition on institutions ranging from the CAG, Election Commission and judiciary to police and armed forces". Modi described the NDA as an alliance of India's hope and aspirations, saying it has become an "organic entity" like a family and is representative of the country's regional aspirations. The NDA leaders at the meeting, which was presided by Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, felicitated the prime minister and praised his council of ministers for their work. The resolution expressed confidence that the NDA will come back to power under Modi and said its government planned a capital investment of Rs 100 lakh crore in infrastructure while Rs 25 lakh crore will be devoted to farm and rural sectors. Hailing Modi's leadership and expressing faith in him, the resolution adopted by NDA leaders said their alliance is a true representative of India's diversity and dynamism. "It is the alliance that manifests the dreams and aspirations of 130 crore Indians. Today, the

NDA has become the principal pole in Indian politics. "Under the leadership of PM Modi, the NDA government has future-proofed India, which means the creation of next-generation roads, railways, highways, i-ways and ports infrastructure that caters to the needs of the present and coming generations," it said. The NDA, the resolution added, stands as a bulwark against the "vote-bank politics and old-school political thinking of the Opposition" whose 20th-century politics has not cut ice with the young voters of the 21st century. "The last five years were about fulfilling the basic needs of the people; now is the time to further increase the pace of progress and meet the aspirations of the people," it said. It also praised the outgoing government's development and welfare initiatives. Singh said its work on the security and diplomatic fronts have ensured that India is no longer seen as a "soft state" by the world. "We resolved that once again under the leadership of PM Modi, by 2022, when India marks 75 years of freedom, it is our endeavour to fulfil the dreams of our great freedom fighters and give shape to the strong, prosperous, developed and inclusive India they dreamt of," it said. Besides representatives of 36 NDA constituents, Singh said leaders of three other parties also sent their letters of support at the alliance meeting.

Sushma Swaraj attends SCO Foreign Ministers meet in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan today



Agency
New Delhi May 22,

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has attended the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan today. Ms Swaraj reached Bishkek yesterday afternoon. She had a productive

discussion with Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Aidarbekov on all aspects of bilateral relations, including in political and defence, trade and investment, health, capacity building and people-to-people ties. The Council of Foreign Ministers meeting will review the preparations for the forthcoming SCO Summit which will be held in

Bishkek next month and also exchange views on topical issues of international and regional importance. The participating Foreign Ministers will call on Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov. This is the second Council of Foreign Ministers meeting that India is attending as a full member of SCO.

Assam Rifles Conducts Friendly Volleyball Matches

IT News
Imphal May 22,

Kakching Battalion and Mantripukhri Battalion of 28 Sector and 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised friendly volleyball matches on Yesterday. While the first match was played by team of Kakching Battalion Assam Rifles and Volleyball team of Kaithalmambi Youth Club, the second volleyball match was played between the teams of Khamran Village Youth Club and troops of Koireng COB. All the four teams played with great zeal and enthusiasm and displayed great sportsmanship during the course of the match.



The match was followed by tea and refreshments for all. The players and the locals appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for organising the sports event and recurrently taking such initiatives for maintaining healthy environment. They also requested to conduct more such events for promoting sports in future as well.

DFI Condemns allegations against the Father of Catholic School Canchipur

The Diocesan Fraternity of Imphal (DFI), the fraternity of diocesan priests working in the Archdiocese of Imphal, is shocked to learn of the allegations of child abuse levelled by the armed outfit KCP-MC against the Father (priest) of Catholic School, Canchipur through some local dailies namely, Imphal Times (evening daily, 15 May edition), Pandam (Manipuri edition, May 15), etc. The allegations are of very serious nature and the DFI takes very strong exception to this issue. If the accusation is found to be true, as claimed in the news item, befitting punishment as per the law of the land should be meted out to the culprit in the interest of justice. However, the DFI is surprised that the allegations have

surfaced from the revolutionary armed outfit KCP-MC, with no specific complaint from the part of the alleged victims- either written or verbal- to the school authorities or before a lawful authority. The DFI on its internal and independent enquiry found no rational basis to believe in this allegation. It believes that such rumours without any rational justification is aimed at tarnishing not just the name and reputation of the individual alleged, but also the institution at large. The DFI appeals to those concerned to desist from such propaganda. It also reiterates its commitment to cooperate with any lawful investigation on the matter and to stand for justice at all times.

Pass Book lost

I, the undersigned, have lost my bank pass book issued by State Bank of India (SBI), Paona Bazaar Branch, Account number 33605429111 on the way between Sagolband Bijoy Govinda to Paona Bazar on May 20, 2019. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned. Sd/- Yumnam Santarani Devi Sagolband Bijoy Govinda Lairenjam Leirak Contact No - 9612510026

Admit Card Lost

I have Lost my Admit Card of BOSEM bearing Roll no. 30997 of 2017 on the way from Keishampat to Yaikul on 18-5- 2019 . Finder are requested to handover the same to the undersigned. Sd/- Heisnam Amarjit Singh Thanga Heisnam Leikai