

HEADLINES:-

- **Notification issued for first phase of Lok Sabha elections which sets process for filing of nominations by contesting candidates.**
- **Women surpass men in electoral enrolment of Nagaland; out of 13.17 lakh electorates, female voters constitute 6.60 lakhs and 6.56 lakhs male voters.**
- **Office of Chief Electoral Officer of Arunachal Pradesh issues notification for holding elections to 60 seats of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.**
- **Sikkim Chief Electoral Officer issues notification for holding elections to 32 seats of Sikkim Legislative Assembly and one Lok Sabha seat.**
- **Assam will witness its first election after delimitation of constituencies; filing of nomination papers begins for first phase of Lok Sabha polls in Kaziranga, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh and Jorhat Lok Sabha seats.**
- **Election Commission of India notifies category of electors for voting through postal ballot as absentee voters in the category of persons employed on essential services in view of Lok Sabha elections and Assembly polls in four states.**

NOTIFICATION:

The notification for the first phase of Lok Sabha elections was issued yesterday which set the process for the filing of nominations by the contesting candidates. The seats going to polls in the first phase include 39 seats in Tamil Nadu, 12 seats in Rajasthan, eight seats in Uttar Pradesh, six seats in Madhya Pradesh, five seats each in Uttarakhand, Assam and Maharashtra, four seats in Bihar, three seats in West Bengal, two seats each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and one seat each in Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. Voting for these seats will be held on April 19. With the issuing of the notification, the process for filing nominations began yesterday till the 27th of this month. Nomination papers will be taken up for scrutiny on the 28th of this month while withdrawal of candidature is on or before the 30th of this month.

WOMEN:

In Nagaland, women have surpassed men in the electoral enrolment of the state. Out of 13.17 lakh electorates in the state, female voters constitute 6.60 lakhs and 6.56 lakhs voters are male. Addressing media persons at Kohima yesterday, Chief Electoral Officer of Nagaland, Vyas R said, there are over 2 lakh 74 thousand voters in the age group between 20 and 29 years, and around 19,000 first time voters between 18 and 19 years. Over 17,000 voters have been registered under 80 plus category. The CEO appealed to all the first-time voters and the youth of the state to come out and cast their vote to ensure steep increase in the percentages of parliamentary elections. Out of 2342 polling stations, 750 polling stations have been identified as critical or vulnerable so far. About 16,000 security personnel will be involved in the polling exercise. State Police Nodal Officer and IGP, Limasunep Jamir said, all security measures are in place for the smooth conduct of the elections. Five companies of Central Armed Police Forces have already arrived in the state and being deployed at Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung, Wokha and Mokokchung to carry out pre-poll duties, and 43 additional companies of CAPF will arrive in the next few days.

Flying squads and static surveillance teams are made operational in all the districts. Jamir appealed to all citizens to cooperate with the law enforcing agencies.

ARUNACHAL:

In Arunachal Pradesh, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer yesterday issued a notification for holding the elections to 60 seats of the state legislative assembly. The Assembly elections will be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections. The elections for the two Parliamentary constituencies of the state and the 60 Assembly seats will be held on April 19 next month, in the first phase. The last date for filing of nominations is 27th of this month and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is 30th of this month. Counting of votes for Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections will be held on June 2, two days ahead of the result for the Lok Sabha elections.

SIKKIM:

In Sikkim, the Chief Electoral Officer yesterday issued a notification for holding the elections to the 32 seats of the state legislative assembly and one Lok Sabha seat. With this, the filing of nomination has started and the last date for filing of nominations is 27th of this month, and scrutiny of nominations will be held on the 28th of this month. The voting will be held on April 19 and counting of votes for the Sikkim Legislative Assembly polls will be held on June 2 and for Lok Sabha polls on June 4.

ASSAM:

Assam will witness its first election after the delimitation of constituencies. Filing of nomination papers for the first phase of polls began yesterday as the notification was issued for the first phase of polling in Kaziranga, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh and Jorhat Lok Sabha seats. Meanwhile, the district administrations have started the training process for presiding and polling officers to be engaged in the election process.

BALLOT:

In view of the Lok Sabha elections and Assembly polls in four states, the Election Commission of India has notified the category of electors mentioned for the purpose of voting through postal ballot as absentee voters in the category of persons employed on essential services. The Commission notified that the persons employed in the essential services as a class of persons to cast vote by postal ballot on being on duty on the polling day in the current general elections and legislative assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, and bye-elections in 26 assembly constituencies in 13 States.
