

## **REGIONAL ENGLISH NEWS BULLETIN**

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As the voting day for the third phase approaches, leaders from various political parties are leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters. Prominent faces of BJP, Congress, Left, TMC, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Shiv Sena, NCP, JDU, RJD and others are engaged in hectic campaigning in different parts of the country.

The Election Commission has issued notification for the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections 2024. Elections will be held in 57 Lok Sabha seats in six States and one Union Territory in this phase. All seven seats of Delhi, all 10 seats of Haryana, 14 seats of Uttar Pradesh, eight seats each of Bihar and West Bengal, six seats of Odisha, and four seats of Jharkhand, will go to polls in this phase. 6th May is the last date for candidates to submit their nominations. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on 7th and the last date of withdrawal of candidature is 9th May. Polling will be held on 25th May. The counting of votes for all the phases will be done on 4th June. Meanwhile, today was the last date of withdrawal of candidature for the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections. A total of 96 Lok Sabha seats spread over nine States and a Union Territory will go to polls in this phase on the 13th of next month.

Prime Minister and Senior BJP leader Narendra Modi has emphasised that he is working 24X7 with a vision to make India a developed nation by 2047. Addressing a public rally at Bagalkote in Karnataka today, he said that BJP works for the development and Congress works for its vote bank. Mr. Modi accused the Congress Government in Karnataka of doing appeasement politics. He said, the Congress government has changed the image of Bengaluru from IT hub to Tanker hub due to water woes. Mr. Modi called upon people to be careful about fake social media posts spreading rumours against the BJP.

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi criticized the BJP government for the surge in inflation and unemployment across the country. Speaking at the election rally in Patan in North Gujarat, today, he accused the NDA government of writing off substantial amounts of corporate loans and doing injustice to farmers, tribals and small labourers. He said one per cent of people in the country

control 40 per cent of the wealth. Mr. Gandhi said that once Congress comes to power, it will conduct a caste-based census to assess the representation of each community in the country and waive off the farmers' loans.

Centre is closely monitoring seasonal influenza across states through real-time surveillance. Union Health Ministry held a review meeting with states and UTs to assess the present situation in the country amid reports regarding detection of avian influenza virus in cattle and milk in various States of USA. However, as of now there has been no abnormal alarming rise in cases of seasonal flu in any part of the country.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that heat wave to severe heat wave conditions will continue to prevail over parts of Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand for the next three days. On the other hand, the weather department has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura from Wednesday.

Mizoram has recorded 438 alcohol-related deaths from April 1, 2023 till January 31, 2024. The data has been released by the state's Health and Family Welfare department. According to it among the alcohol related deaths in the state during the 10 months, 361 are male and 77 are females. The department said that the alcohol-related deaths have been increasing even after the implementation of the stringent Mizoram Liquor Prohibition Act since 2019.

The National Testing Agency has decided to postpone the UGC-NET examinations 2024 from June 16 to June 18. This has been informed by UGC Chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar.

In Women's skeet, Maheshwari Chauhan secured a Paris 2024 quota for India with a Silver medal in the shotgun Olympic qualification championship at Doha in Qatar. It was the 21st Olympic quota for India in shooting and the fifth in shotgun.

In Nagaland, Security forces have recovered a huge quantity of heavy calibre military grade weapons, equipment and war like stores close to Indo Myanmar Border in Mon District. Recoveries include Mortar tubes, Pistols, 198 Hand Held Radio Sets, one Satellite Phone, one Kenbo bike, one Bolero vehicle and other war like stores. One individual was apprehended during the operation and has been handed over to the police for interrogation. The operation by the Assam Rifles was a part of Border Sealing along the international border.

**That's all in this news bulletin, Namaskar.**