

## NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN

DATED:- 19.04.2024

### HEADLINES:-

- Voting for first phase of Lok Sabha elections in 102 constituencies spread over 17 states and four Union Territories is underway today.
- As voting for first phase of Lok Sabha elections begins, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar appeals to voters to realize their democratic responsibility saying elections belong to people and choices belong to them.
- Over 86 lakh voters in Assam are exercising their franchise in first phase of Lok Sabha polls at Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur and Kaziranga Lok Sabha seats.
- Polling for simultaneous elections in Sikkim for lone Lok Sabha seat and 32 seats of the State Legislative Assembly begins amid huge turnout of voters in various polling booths.
- All preparations are in place in Manipur for smooth, free and fair Lok Sabha polls in first phase amid heavy deployment of security forces due to ongoing unrest in state.

### **VOTING:**

Voting for the first phase of Lok Sabha elections in 102 constituencies spread over 17 states and four Union Territories began at 7am today. It was witnessed that people have already started standing in long queues in many polling booths since 6 am. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma cast his vote at Walbakgre polling station under Tura Lok Sabha constituency and he reached the polling booth at 6.30 am. Tura MP and candidate of the National People's Party, Agatha K Sangma cast her vote at Walbakgre polling station along with the Chief Minister who is her brother. Shillong MP and Congress candidate, Vincent H Pala cast his vote at Lamyrsiang polling station in his village falling under Sutnga Assembly constituency of the Shillong Parliamentary seat. One thousand 625 candidates are in the fray for the first phase of Lok Sabha polls. All parliamentary constituencies of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu go to polls in this phase. Besides, voting for the first phase of Lok Sabha elections, polling is also being held to elect new Legislative Assemblies in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in a single phase today.

### **APPEAL:**

As the voting for first phase of Lok Sabha elections began today, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has appealed to the voters to realize their democratic responsibility saying elections belong to the people and the choices belong to them. He added that they do it for their sake, for their families, children, villages, towns, and for the country. Kumar emphasised that countrymen should never underestimate the power of one vote as there are many instances, when one vote has mattered in a critical contest. He added that India's track record of smooth, regular, and high-quality elections owes to people's judicious and enthusiastic participation.

**ASSAM:**

In Assam, over 86 lakh voters are exercising their franchise in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls today at Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur and Kaziranga Lok Sabha seats. All the seats are likely to witness a straight contest between the Congress and the United Opposition Forum, Assam. The political fate of several heavyweight candidates will be sealed in the first phase. Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, BJP MP Pradan Baruah, Topon Kumar Gogoi and Kamakhya Prasad Tasha, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi and President of Asom Jatiya Parishad Lurinjyoti Gogoi are in the fray in this phase. Central armed police forces and micro-observers have been deployed in all the critical polling booths. Web casting is being done at over 5 thousand 500 polling booths.

**SIKKIM:**

In Sikkim, polling for the simultaneous elections for the lone Lok Sabha seat and 32 seats of the State Legislative Assembly has begun from seven this morning. More than four lakh sixty six thousand voters including two lakh thirty one thousand female voters from 32 assembly constituencies across six districts of the state will decide the electoral fortune of 146 candidates including 12 female candidates for the state assembly election and 14 candidates including one female candidate for the lone Lok Sabha seat. With fine weather condition, the voter turnout in almost all the polling stations of the 32 assembly constituencies is expected to be very high. At many polling stations in the State capital, Gangtok, voters in large numbers were standing in queues waiting for their turn to cast their vote even before the polling starts. Reports from other districts – Gyalshing, Mangan, Namchi, Soren and Pakyong also indicated similar turn out of voters.

**MANIPUR:**

In Manipur, all preparations are in place for the smooth, free and fair polls today amid heavy deployment of security forces due to ongoing unrest in the state. The voting in the first phase in Manipur is being conducted at two thousand one hundred and seven polling stations spread across 47 assembly segments of the State. In the second phase, the voting will be held in 13 assembly segments on the 26th of this month. Manipur has two Lok Sabha seats and ten candidates are in the fray. The total voters in the first phase polls is fifteen lakh forty four six hundred fifty two including eight lakh two thousand five hundred fifty seven women voters.

\*\*\*\*\*