REGIONAL ENGLISH NEWS BULLETIN

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The polling stage for Lok Sabha elections is reaching its completion as the seventh and final phase of the elections begins tomorrow in 57 Lok Sabha constituencies across eight states and union territories. In this phase, 13 Lok Sabha seats each in Uttar Pradesh & Punjab, nine seats in West Bengal, eight in Bihar, six seats in Odisha, four in Himachal Pradesh, three seats in Jharkhand, and one in Chandigarh will go to polls. The voting will begin at 7 AM. Political fate of prominent leaders including Prime Minister and senior BJP leader Narendra Modi, BJP leader and Union Minister Anurag Thakur and Congress leader Vikramaditya Singh as well as TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee will be sealed in the EVMs.

In Manipur, the flash flood continues to wreak havoc. Imphal City has been badly affected by the flood. Three persons have died in different flood-related incidents so far while one person is missing. Army and central forces have been engaging in rescue works. Affected families have taken shelter in relief camps. The State Water Resources Minister said that more than one lakh eightyeight thousand persons have been affected by the flash flood in Manipur. The low-lying dwelling areas and major roads in Imphal City are submerged in water. The government has opened 56 relief camps for flood-affected families and provided necessary items to them. The repairing of the river bank, and tackling breaches and overflow of key rivers flowing in Imphal Valley is going on.

The Income Tax Department has seized a record 1100 crore rupees in cash and jewellery during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. According to official sources, this marks a 182 per cent increase compared to the 390 crore rupees seized during the 2019 general elections. The Election Commission released the data just after the conclusion of the election campaign for the last and seventh phase. The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh KT Parnaik interacted with the troops of 56 Infantry Division at Military Station, Likabali on Thursday. The Governor said that the people of Arunachal Pradesh have huge regards and respect for the armed forces owing to the goodwill they have cultivated over the years amongst the local population. He advised them to uphold the spirit with proactive welfare measures and a positive mindset. The Governor called upon the troops to help the local people through collaborative endeavours but at the same time instill responsibility amongst them for all Sadbhavana projects. He also suggested they integrate the local civil population in the overall security of the border areas.

The death toll of pilgrims who came from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in a road accident at Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir has increased to 22. The Government today suspended six officials including Motor Vehicle Inspector posted at Regional Transport Officer, Kathua and attached them to the office of Transport Commissioner, Jammu with immediate effect. Sixty-nine others were also injured when the bus they were travelling in fell into a deep gorge near Tanda.

The maximum limit of retirement gratuity and death gratuity has been revised by the Government of India from 20 lakh to 25 lakh rupees. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has issued an official memorandum in this regard. It said, the revised limit will come into effect from 1st January 2024.

A new labour room in the TRIHMS' obstetrics & gynaecology department was inaugurated by TRIHMS Chief Medical Officer Dr Dukhum Raina, in the presence of Deputy MS' Dr Wangsu Sumnayan and Dr Rejum Ronya and the hospital staff, at Naharlagun on Thursday. The new labour room is spacious and equipped with new facilities. It has six delivery tubes, a newborn care centre, a labour ward, and a postnatal ward. TRIHMS is also providing free service to all normal delivery and caesarean section under the CMAAY and the PMJAY insurance.

Two Arunachal girls, Kai Rumi of Leparada and Jambalu Tayang of Lohit district played for Sreebhumi FC, a Kolkata based club shone in the Indian Women League second division qualification matches played this week. Rumi scored a goal in her first match, against Nita Football Academy, on 20th May, while Tayang did brilliant goalkeeping in the match. Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein applauded both Rumi and Tayang for their stellar performance.

In Singapore badminton Open 2024, the Indian women's pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made it into the semi-final after beating Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong of South Korea today. Jolly and Gopichand beat their opponents 18-21, 21-19, 24-22 in the women's doubles quarterfinal match. The game lasted for one hour and 19 minutes.

That's all in this news bulletin, Namaskar.