

Bihar polls 2nd phase today

GAYA, Nov 10 (IANS)

THE stage is set for the second phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, scheduled to be held on November 11. All necessary arrangements have been completed at the dispatch centre in Gaya, from where polling parties will soon depart on Monday for their respective polling stations carrying EVMs and other election materials.

The battle lines have been drawn, positions taken, speeches delivered, and the dice cast—campaigning for the second and final phase of the Assembly elections has officially concluded. As Bihar enters the 48-hour silence period, leaders across party lines are reviewing feedback from the



Officials carry EVMs and polling materials as part of preparations on the eve of the second phase of voting in the Bihar Assembly elections, in Gaya, on Monday.

(PTI)

first phase to refine their strategies and maximise gains in this high-stakes political contest.

A total of 122 constituencies across 20 districts will go to the

polls in this phase. In comparison, 121 seats across 18 districts were contested in the first phase.

This time, 1,302 candidates are

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130th Constitution amendment bill

Trying to ensure representation of all in JPC: LS Speaker

KOHIMA, Nov 10 (PTI)

LOK Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said that he was striving to ensure all parties are represented in the joint parliamentary committee on the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill seeking the removal of a Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and ministers under arrest for 30 days straight on serious charges.

Addressing a press conference here, the Lok Sabha Speaker said parliamentary panels should not be viewed through the prism of politics, as these committees discuss issues rising above political lines. "We are making efforts to ensure all political parties are represented in the committee," Birla told reporters here.

The panel is expected to be constituted soon.

Several Opposition parties, such as the Congress and Trinamool Congress, have decided not to be part of the Joint Committee of Parliament to examine the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill.

This constitution amendment bill and two other proposed leg-



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addresses the inaugural session of the 22nd Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), India Region, Zone-III Conference, at the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, in Kohima on Monday. (PTI)

islations were introduced on the last day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on August 20. A motion was adopted by the Lok Sabha to refer the three bills to a Joint Committee of Parliament.

Breaking ranks with other Opposition parties, NCP-SP has

decided to be part of the 31-member Committee. YRSCP, too, is expected to be a part of it.

"These committees are like mini-Parliament as members discuss issues rising above political lines. These should not be viewed from the prism of politics; we are trying to ensure participation of all political parties," Birla told reporters when questioned on the delay in setting up the panel.

Opposition leaders argue that the Bills violate the fundamental principle of law of a person being innocent until proven guilty and resort to automatic sacking of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and ministers if they fail to get bail within a month of arrest in serious criminal matters.

The Government contends that the draft law was necessary as Arvind Kejriwal refused to quit as Delhi Chief Minister despite his arrest in a criminal case.

The Lok Sabha Speaker is in Kohima to preside over the 22nd annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region Zone III Conference.

ISRO delegation's visit to Mauritius boosts bilateral space cooperation



PORT LOUIS, Nov 10 (IANS)

IN A significant step towards enhancing bilateral cooperation, a delegation from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) paid a three-day visit to Mauritius as part of the India-Mauritius Joint Satellite initiative.

According to the Indian High Commission in Port Louis, the delegation held technical sessions with the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC) and conducted the 4th Joint Working Group meeting for the Satellite.

They also conducted a half-day collaborative workshop focusing on the Joint Satellite, which was attended by the Mauritian Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research, Kaviraj Sukon, the Indian Deputy High Commissioner to Mauritius, Aparna Ganesan and other officials.

Earlier in March, during his visit to Mauritius, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held comprehensive and productive discussions with his Mauritian counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam on the entire gamut of bilateral relations between Mauritius and India.

The two leaders noted that the ongoing space cooperation has immensely benefited both countries and reflected India's commitment to its special ties with Mauritius. Prime Minister Ramgoolam conveyed his appreciation to the Government of India for its support towards the joint development of a satellite for Mauritius and acknowledged that this cooperation is a testament to India's unwavering support for Mauritius on its developmental journey.

In order to further deepen cooperation in the space domain, both leaders agreed to work closely towards the successful development and launch of the India-Mauritius satellite, including requisite training for Mauritian scientists and experts at ISRO. They also committed to support the implementation of weather and climate forecasting systems at different temporal scales.

Mitra Shakti: India-Lanka military exercise begins in Karnataka's Belagavi

■ The Indian contingent of 170 personnel is being represented mainly by troops from the Rajput Regiment. 135 personnel from the Gajaba Regiment, of Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (PTI)

INDIA and Sri Lanka on Monday kick-started a two-week military exercise in Karnataka's Belagavi as part of efforts to enhance interoperability.

The scope of the 11th edition of 'Mitra Shakti' exercise includes synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations,

the Indian Army said.

The Indian contingent of 170 personnel is being represented mainly by troops from the Rajput Regiment, while the Sri Lankan side is being represented by 135 personnel from the Gajaba Regiment, it said.

Twenty personnel from the Indian Air Force and 10 from Sri Lankan Air Force are also participating in the exercise.

"Both sides will practice tactical actions such as raid, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, etc," the Army said.

Exercise Mitra Shakti will also involve employment of drones and counter unmanned aerial systems besides helicopters, it said.

Maldives inaugurates airport built with assistance from India

MALE, Nov 10 (PTI)

MALDIVES President Mohamed Muizzu has inaugurated the Hanimaadhoo International Airport, a project funded under the Indian Government's Line of Credit assistance, calling it a "gateway to prosperity" for the country's north.

Muizzu inaugurated the airport on Sunday and described it as a "catalyst for unlocking the potential of the northern Maldives and enhancing global connectivity", according to a statement by the President's Office. Calling it a "gateway to prosperity" for the north, he said, "This is not just an airport, it is a symbol of economic transformation." Muizzu said that the newly-opened airport would bring further advancement to tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and the economy, as well as social development to the north, the Sun.Mv news portal reported.

The inauguration was attended by Indian Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and senior officials from both nations. Speaking on the occasion, Muizzu said the airport serves as a monument that testifies to the strength of Maldives-India ties as the countries mark 60 years of diplomatic relations this year, news portal Edition.Mv reported.

Indian Army's Spear Corps validates use of drones for high-altitude ops in Arunachal

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (IANS)

TROOPS of the Spear Corps, Indian Army, inducted and validated the use of drones in high-altitude operations like mine-laying and casualty evacuation using modified stretchers in Arunachal Pradesh, an official said on Monday.

"The exercises also included casualty evacuation using modified stretchers, aerial induction of 120 mm mortars and contingency drills integrating unmanned systems with secure communication networks, enhancing operational agility," said an official on X. "Troops of #SpearCorps inducted and deployed specialised drones, val-



Troops of the Indian Army's Spear Corps operate a drone during an exercise in Arunachal Pradesh. (@Spearcorps/X via PTI)

idating their role in high-altitude operations. Mine-laying drills were also conducted in the remote valleys of #Arunachal Pradesh.

In another message on X, an official said, "Under the aegis of

#SpearCorps, Dao Eagles, in collaboration with #ITBP, conducted joint training and capability development exercises, logistics vehicle fleet maintenance and interoperability."

8 killed in blast near Red Fort

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (PTI)

A HIGH-INTENSITY explosion ripped through a car parked near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, gutting several vehicles and killing at least

Blast occurred in a moving Hyundai i20 car in which three people were sitting. We have not found any pellet or puncture in the body of the injured, say police sources

eight people, officials said. Twenty-four people were injured in the blast that took place on a busy evening when the area was milling with people. The injured were taken to the LNJP hospital a few kilome-



Rescue work underway after a blast occurred in a parked car near Red Fort on Monday. (PTI)

tres away.

Videos shared by the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association

showed the magnitude of the blast. A body could be seen lying on a vehicle.

Another video showed a body lying on the road. Eyewitnesses said body parts

could be seen scattered near the blast site.

A high alert has been sounded in Delhi. Ten fire tenders were rushed to the spot with police cordoning off the area, the Delhi Fire Services said. The fire, officials said, was brought under

Car was registered in the name of one Nadeem Khan and bore a Haryana number plate. Six cars, two erickshaws and one autorickshaw were gutted in the fire

control by 7.29 pm.

"Six cars, two erickshaws and one autorickshaw were gutted in the fire," said a fire department official.

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PM Modi takes stock of situation, speaks to Shah

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said he has reviewed with Home Minister Amit Shah and other officials about the situation following the explosion near the Red Fort, and assured people that those affected are being assisted by the authorities.

"Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in the blast in Delhi earlier this evening. May the injured recover at the earliest," PM Modi said on X. "Those affected are being assisted by authorities. Reviewed the situation with Amit Shah Ji and other officials," he added.