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UIDAI reveals 210 govt websites made Aadhaar details public, did not specify when breach took place

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Nov 19, 2017 14:26:25 IST



New Delhi: More than 200 central and state government websites publicly displayed details such as names and addresses of some Aadhaar beneficiaries, the Unique Identification Authority of India has said.



(<https://images.firstpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/AadhaarReuters.jpg>)

Representational image. Reuters

The Aadhaar issuing body added, in response to an RTI query, that it took note of the breach and got the data removed from those websites. It did not specify when the breach took place.

It said Aadhaar details have never been made public from/by UIDAI.

"However, it was found that approximately 210 websites of central government, state government departments including educational institutes were displaying the list of beneficiaries along with their name, address, other details and Aadhaar numbers for information of general public," it said.

The UIDAI took note and got the Aadhaar data removed from the said websites, it said in reply to the RTI application.

UIDAI issues Aadhaar — a 12-digit unique identification number — which acts as a proof of identity and address anywhere in the country.

The central government is in the process of making Aadhaar mandatory for people to avail benefits of various social service schemes.

"UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layer approach robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain highest level of data security and integrity," the RTI reply said.

The architecture of the Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure data security and privacy which is an integral part of the system from the initial design to the final stage, it said.

"Various policies and procedures have been defined, these are reviewed and updated continually thereby appropriately controlling and monitoring any movement of people, material and data in and out of UIDAI premises, particularly the data centres," the UIDAI said.

It said security audits are conducted on a regular basis to further strengthen security and privacy of data. Besides this, all possible steps are taken to make the data safer and protected, the authority said.

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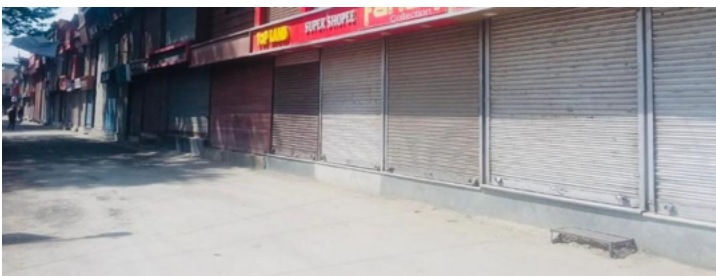
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Elections 2019: Despite Code of Ethics for social media platforms during polls, no way to gauge if it's working

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Sameer Sachdeva (<https://www.firstpost.com/author/sameer-sachdeva>)

Apr 18, 2019 14:11:04 IST



The General Elections 2019 were announced on 10 March 2019 and the Model Code of Conduct came into effect in the country the same day. On 20 March 2019, the social media companies **adopted a code of ethics** (<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189494>) which was presented to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The social media platforms have committed to process any violations reported under **Section 126 of The Representation of the People Act, 1951**, (<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/77688498/>) within three hours. Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) facilitated this code of ethics to be adopted by social media companies and the ECI endorsed it.

According to IAMAI, “The Code of Ethics has been successful in curbing fake news, as reported by our members and the ECI. It may not have been effective 100 percent but has been effective to a large extent. Companies like *Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, ShareChat, Bibo TV*, etc., have adopted it.”

IAMAI also highlighted that there are many challenges, “The timeline is a challenge. All these companies have different business models, so trying to club them in a single timeline will be unfair to them also. To the best of their ability, they are doing it. Some are doing it even faster. They are not waiting for ECI to reach with the complaint. On their own, they are working on it proactively. The platforms have sent their own trainers to designated nodal officers of ECI. Now, the process is whenever ECI receives a complaint, the nodal officer vets those complaints about correctness, this is because a lot of it also depends on interpretation. What I find completely offensive may not be the same for you. These nodal officers vet the genuineness of the complaints and raise it to the platform. Each platform has its own grievance officer available 24x7 who takes immediate action on the complaint.”



It had been reported that **Facebook has removed 687 Pages** (<https://www.firstpost.com/india/facebook-removes-687-pages-and-accounts-most-linked-to-congress-it-cell-for-coordinated-inauthentic-behavior-6365241.html>) and accounts in India. In addition, it had removed 15 Pages, Groups and accounts linked to individuals associated with an Indian IT firm, Silver Touch. It has also removed 321 pages and accounts in India that violated its rules against spam.

According to Nikhil Pahwa, founder of *Medianama*, “Just being able to identify someone does not mean that you will be able to prevent misinformation. Also, keep in mind that incorrect information is not illegal. So there are no legal grounds wherein someone is telling someone some information which is wrong. Platforms are now preventing the automated sign up of individuals.”

With respect to efforts taken by social media platforms, Pahwa mentions, “In case of *Twitter*, it announced a couple of days before that someone **cannot add more than 400 members in a day** (<https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/twitter-follow-limit>). Both *Google* and *Facebook* are putting information on political advertising on their platforms. Honestly, the ECI is doing what it can do. They are able to map the political advertising. They have asked platforms to give them reports on that. In terms of misinformation, they have ensured that the platforms to take down the misinformation the Election Commission tells them about. They have launched an application which allows people to report misinformation. So that EC itself is looking into the matter. In some cases, there are coordinated call centres of political parties and in some cases, there are legitimate people who are voicing their views.”

It is not that the companies are not taking steps to curb fake news. *Facebook* has decided that for any political advertisement to run on its platform, the advertisers have to give their identity and location along with the details for whom the advertisement is being placed. It has also launched an Ad Library where an individual can check the

details of advertisers. Apart from it, *Facebook* has launched a 24x7 centre in Delhi to coordinate with the EC and check fake news. It has also engaged with the independent fact checkers to determine the news is fake or not. It has engaged with *Boom Live*, *AFP*, *India Today Group*, *Vishvas.news*, *Factly*, *Newsmobile* and *Fact Crescendo* in order to verify news in multiple languages.

In the case of *Twitter*, the company has launched its Ad Transparency Centre whereby details of *Twitter* ads along with targeted audience and payment information will be published.

A *Twitter* spokesperson mentioned, “Platform manipulation is a violation of the *Twitter* rules and we take a proactive approach to protect the integrity of the public conversation on our service. *Twitter* is committed to keeping people informed about what’s happening in the world. As such we care deeply about the issues of misinformation as well as disinformation, and their potentially harmful effects on the civic and political discourse that is core to our mission. As a part of the Voluntary Code of Ethics for the 2019 General Election, we have worked with the IMAI and ECI to build a dedicated channel for the Election Commission to send requests to us easily and quickly for the duration of the election period. Everyone has a role to play in ensuring misinformation doesn’t spread on the Internet, and we encourage people who use *Twitter* not to share information unless they can verify that it's credible.”

WhatsApp is launching **educational campaigns** (<https://www.firstpost.com/politics/lok-sabha-elections-2019-heres-everything-whatsapp-is-doing-to-avoid-fake-news-propaganda-during-election-period-6423851.html>) and has also limited the number of messages that can be forwarded to five. It has partnered with *Digital Empowerment Foundation* and *NASSCOM* for educating the target audience. *WhatsApp* limits on how many groups an account can create within a certain time period and bans an account with suspicious group behaviour.



Fake vs Real: Sampit Patra shown in a photoshopped picture eating food. Image: Altnews

Prasanto K Roy, an independent tech expert based in Delhi says, "It varies depending on the platforms. *WhatsApp* is most difficult of the platform because it is encrypted. Removal of news or take-down is not possible in the end-to-end encrypted platforms. *Facebook* can do differently, as it is semi-open, many of the messages are public and so there is a possibility of intercepting that and doing something. *Telegram* has a different structure and it does not do end-to-

end encryption for groups, so groups may be searchable. *WeChat* in China is not encrypted at all and messages are filtered, searched and intercepted. It is not possible to put a blanket rule for all. They should look at the origin of the fake news and see what’s possible.”

For WhatsApp, Roy says, “With WhatsApp, it’s possible to do with meta-data of media images. That means they may not be able to intercept text message but if there is a media file that is uploaded and then gets forwarded, it can be traced. The forwarding of media file on WhatsApp does not happen itself going from user to user. It is an internal link with metadata which is getting updated and moved. So potentially, there is one guy who uploads the media file, it is stored in one place in WhatsApp. This is in theory but in practice, WhatsApp says that it does not store that metadata and therefore can’t share it with law enforcement agencies. Whether they do or not do is a different thing, but if they start doing it, it’s a huge issue because meta-data is abused very badly by the Indian law enforcement agencies. There are very few privacy controls over the metadata. Telephone, for example, if they have to intercept, they need a court order. But metadata of the call is there with them in real time because of the central monitoring system (CMS). CMS gets live metadata from the telecom service providers. The abuse of metadata is a serious concern. Therefore coming back to WhatsApp, though, in theory, it may be possible to use that metadata for images and videos, in practice, it will be very problematic if they began to do it. WhatsApp says that it has not retained or shared metadata with any law enforcement agency. However, I have found one incident where they have handed this metadata of a voice call to the *FBI*.”

Election Commission on a query from *Firstpost* regarding *WhatsApp* replied, “Voluntary Code of Ethics submitted by IAMAI also covers *WhatsApp*. All violations in social media are taken upon complaint basis only. In case of *WhatsApp*, the complainant has to mail the *WhatsApp* number of the offender, along with the screenshot of the offence. The same is taken up with *WhatsApp* for necessary action, citing relevant legal provision being violated.”

Fake	Original
 <p data-bbox="65 2576 892 2611">421 35 Comments 2.6K Shares</p>	 <p data-bbox="1052 2436 1976 2525">Newly-wed Bollywood actors Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh pose for photos on their visit to Siddhivinayak Temple, in Mumbai.</p> <p data-bbox="1052 2555 1163 2599">Full Photo</p>

Fake vs Real: Newly wed Bollywood actors Deepika and Ranbeer Singh posed for photos in their visit to Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai. Image: Altnews

Pahwa says, “In case of WhatsApp they have tried to reduce the velocity of information. They are ensuring that you can only forward a message to five people and not more than that. Earlier you could transfer message to 256 people. So the velocity of transfer of information has come down. They have given powers to users to not to be added in the groups. There is a user control that they would be like to be added in a group or not. “

Roy highlights, “I have always maintained that the most important point is the source of fake news. The real challenge which we are facing now is the political fake news. We can easily know which party is spreading fake news. The parties now have very organised IT Cells wherein BJP is the biggest, Congress trying to catch up. I think it is very important that the source of fake news is cracked down on. The thing is to identify what is fake news and what is not. The social media companies also have tie-ups with fake news buster agencies."

Pahwa adds, “These are IT Cells who are putting content as propaganda. One cannot stop them. You can only stop them from registering thousands of accounts or manipulate trends on *Twitter*. You can prevent them from mass-messaging people whom they don’t know and spamming them. How will a *Twitter* update or a *WhatsApp* update tell you if a piece of information is correct or not. That’s not their job. There are billions of messages on these platform at the global level. They can’t be expected to determine the veracity of a post.”

The Election Commission on its part has launched a mobile application called c-Vigil wherein a complaint filed by a citizen is responded within 100 minutes. Any kind of violation of the Model Code of Conduct like distribution of liquor, distribution of freebies, firearm display, intimidation, paid news, voter transportation and fake news can be reported through this application. Based on the location of the complainant the application transfers the complaint to District Control Room within five minutes. District control room transfers the complaint with five minutes to a flying squad is dispatched. It reaches the location within 15 minutes. The fact-finding is completed in another 30 minutes and returning officer give their decision in 50 minutes which is communicated to the complainant. If found correct an FIR is registered and action is taken.

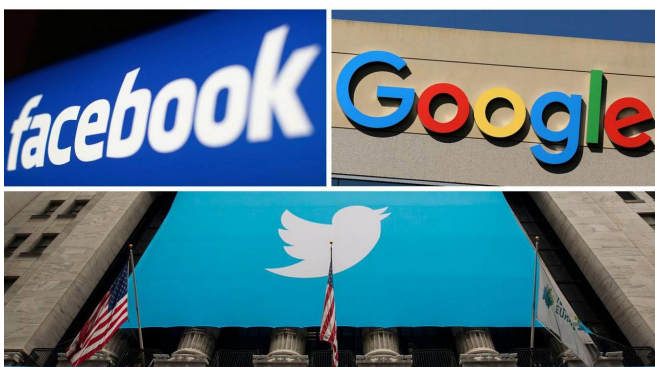
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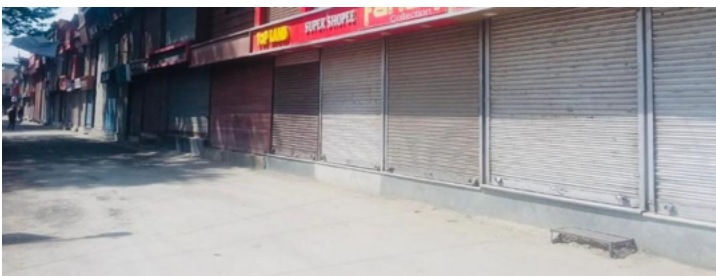
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Sushil Kumar Modi files defamation suit against Rahul Gandhi for claiming that 'all thieves share Modi surname'

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Apr 18, 2019 14:11:58 IST



Bihar Deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Thursday filed a criminal complaint for defamation against Congress president Rahul Gandhi for his "all thieves share the Modi surname" remark.

In his complaint, the deputy chief minister said, "The speech of Rahul Gandhi, wherein he has made sweeping statement about all the persons having the surname 'Modi' to be a thief, has ridiculed them and left a large number of persons having the title 'Modi' hurt as their reputation in the eyes of the public has been lowered."

Criminal Complaint for defamation filed against Rahul Gandhi by
Sri Sushil Kumar Modi [pic.twitter.com/Yt6jJGsesU](https://t.co/Yt6jJGsesU)
(<https://t.co/Yt6jJGsesU>)

— Chowkidar Sushil Kumar Modi (@SushilModi) April 18, 2019
(https://twitter.com/SushilModi/status/1118762882047598592?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

He further alleged that Rahul is liable to be prosecuted and punished for the offence under Section 500 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).



File photo of Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi. ANI

Earlier on Wednesday, the Bihar deputy chief minister had threatened to file a defamation case

(<https://twitter.com/SushilModi/status/1117750307021135872>) against Rahul in Patna High Court.

The BJP leader claimed that Rahul had hurt the sentiments of several people who have 'Modi' as their surnames. "He (Rahul) has referred to crores of people with 'Modi' surname as 'chor' and hurt their sentiments. Is it a crime to have 'Modi' surname?" Sushil asked.

Addressing a rally in Maharashtra on 15 April, Rahul had asked how come all "thieves" have "Modi" as their surname while he sharpened his attack towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue of corruption.

"But tell me one thing...Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Narendra Modi...how come they all have Modi as a common name. How come all the thieves have Modi as the common name?" Rahul had asked.

In a separate case, the Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice to the Congress president on a petition filed against him by BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi for allegedly making contemptuous remarks in connection with its order on the admissibility of the certain document in the Rafale deal.

The contempt petition accused Rahul of misquoting the order when he said the apex court had accepted that "*chowkidar* (a reference to Narendra Modi), is a *chor* (thief)".

With inputs from ANI

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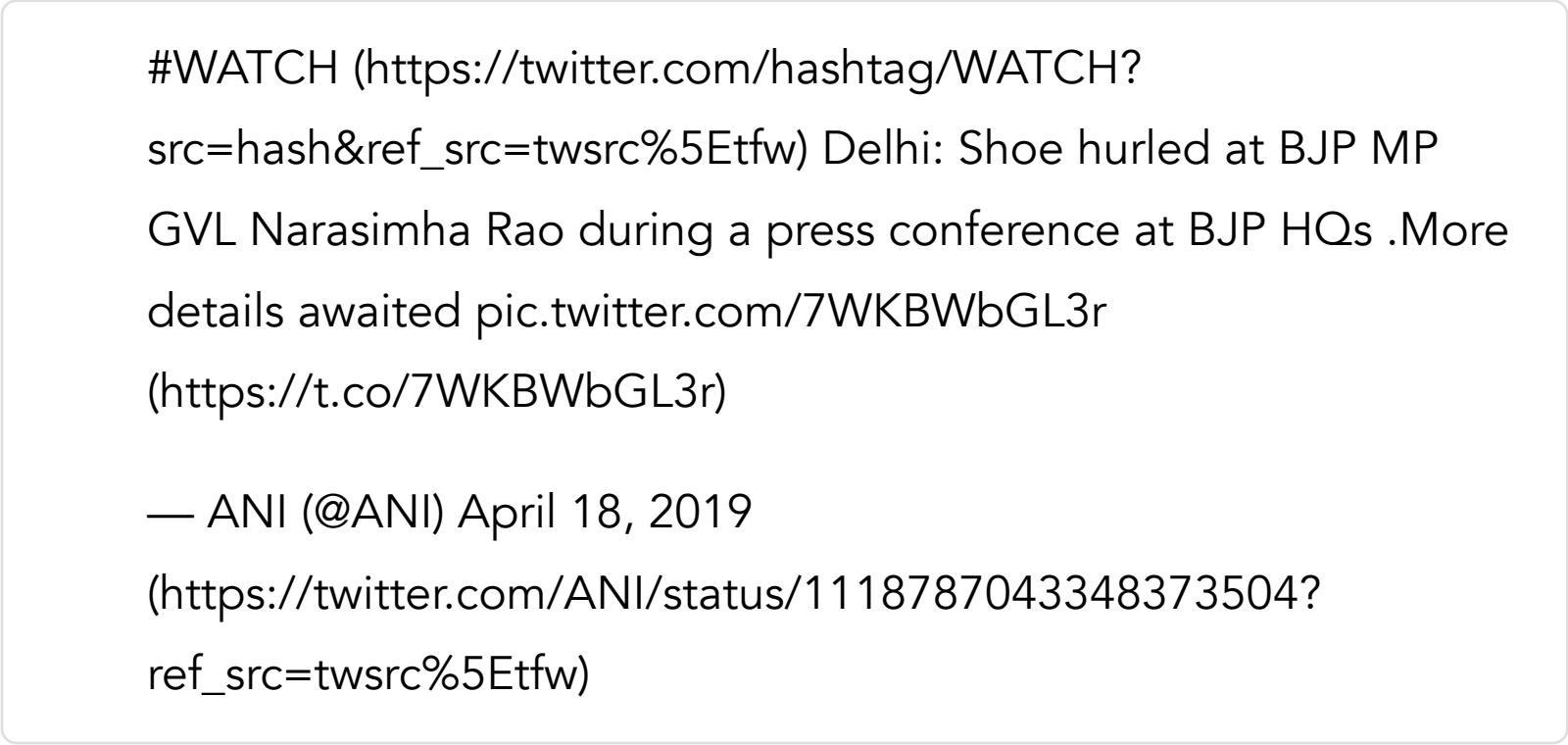
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Man hurls shoes at BJP spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao during press conference at party headquarters in Delhi

Chaos at Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) headquarters in Delhi as a man hurled shoes at BJP national spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao during a press conference on Thursday.



It was not immediately clear why the person, who identified himself as a doctor by profession, threw the shoes. As soon as GVL Narasimha Rao started speaking, the man suddenly stood up and hurled a shoe at him. The BJP workers and security guards immediately took him away from the conference hall.

The man, who hurled the shoe, has been detained. He has been taken to IP State Police Station where cops are interrogating him.

According to *Financial Express* (<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/gvl-narasimha-rao-shoe-attack-press-conference-bjp-headquarters-latest-updates/1552111/>), Rao and Bhupendra Yadav were addressing the media and criticised the Congress for defaming Hindus by foisting "false cases" on Hindutva activists, including Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur.

The BJP had on Wednesday fielded Sadhvi Pragya from Bhopal parliamentary seat against veteran Congress leader Digvijaya Singh.

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North states Lok Sabha Election voting LATEST updates: As the polling was going on, the youth pelted stones at the security forces to disrupt the electoral process in Charari Sharief area of Budgam. The forces retaliated with heavy use of tear smoke shells. A vendor said that his vegetables were scattered on the road and he was robbed of money, too, by the forces. Due to the stone-pelting, the polling percentage was thin. Only 42 votes were cast by 2 pm at Trajbal polling station in Charari Sharief.

The Samajwadi Party-Bahujan Samaj Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal alliance has fielded new SP entrant Poonam Sinha from Lucknow. Sinha filed her nomination papers on Thursday. She is currently leading a roadshow through Lucknow, in which she is joined by her husband, Congress's Patna Sahib candidate Shatrughn Sinha and Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav.

Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav has filed his nomination from Azamgarh. Akhilesh, this time, is contesting from the seat traditionally held by his father Mulayam Singh Yadav.

As the high profile Srinagar Parliamentary constituency goes to polls in the second phase of ongoing Lok Sabha elections, a complete shutdown is being observed across the Kashmir valley after a boycott call given by Hurriyat leaders, leading to a paltry turnout of 4.37 percent at 1 pm.

On Thursday morning, as polling started on a dull note, the streets were deserted and all shops and business establishments remained shut and the traffic was off the roads.

Kanwar Singh Tanwar, the BJP's MP candidate from Amroha said on Thursday that fake voting was taking place and one way to stop it would be to check women in burkhas for their identity. During the first phase of polling, BJP leader Sanjeev Balyan too had made a similar comment.

NC leader Omar Abdullah after casting his vote at a polling station in Munshi Bagh Area in Srinagar constituency talked about Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur. "BJP have given ticket (from Bhopal) to a candidate who is not only an accused in a terror case but is also out on bail on health grounds. If her health condition doesn't permit her to be in jail, how does it permit her to contest polls?" he asked.

Omar's father Farooq is the NC candidate from Srinagar.

The Election Commission has taken cognisance of BJP MP Bhola Singh's entry into a polling booth in Bulandshahr after placing a call to the District Magistrate who reportedly asked a security officer to let Singh and his supporters in. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer's official Twitter handle replied to a video tweeted by a journalist, saying they have asked for more information in this regard.

Protesting against the fact that their polling booth is in Dhampur area, which is far away, villagers of Gajpura which falls under Bijnor have decided to boycott the election. The number of protesters has gone up to nearly 600, prompting officials of the district administration to reach the village in an effort to convince voters otherwise.

Bulandshahr MP Bhola Singh, when stopped by security personnel at the entrance of a polling booth, can be seen in a video as having placed a call to the District Magistrate who then facilitated the BJP leader and his supporters' entry into the polling booth. The security officer fielding the call can be heard saying that he is not allowed to let leaders go near the EVM. However, in the course of the conversation, he agrees and ultimately allows Singh inside.

A polling official deputed at polling booth number 186 in Kanker of Chhattisgarh has died of heart attack while he was on election duty on Phase 2 of the polls. Three constituencies of Chhattisgarh have gone to polls on Thursday, including Kanker.

BSP chief Mayawati took to Twitter early on Thursday, as Phase 2 of the elections got underway. In successive tweets the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are as nervous as the Congress was during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. She had earlier tweeted on the Election Commission's discrimination against non-BJP leaders.

People have begun queuing up outside booth number number 46 in Gantholi village of Govardhan block. Voting is yet to begin here due to EVM malfunction. Problems with EVMs have plagued voting in several stations at Mathura, Hathras and Aligarh across the state.

Not even a single vote has been cast at booth number 166 of Nagla Shadi village in Agra Lok Sabha constituency. The villagers here are boycotting the elections in protest against lack of developmental measures undertaken by the government.

Polling has started amid tight security for the Srinagar Parliamentary seat which will see former chief minister and NC president, Farooq Abdullah, pitted against People's Conference candidate, Irfan Ansari, People's Democratic Party candidate, Aga Mohsin, and BJP's Khalid Jehangir.

A day ago, incidents of stone pelting took place in Beerwah, the Assembly constituency which was represented by former CM and NC vice president, Omar Abdullah. A petrol bomb was also hurled on the residence of an ex NC MLA raising tensions here.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mayawati has questioned the Election Commission as to why no action has been taken against Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath who is allegedly "trying to influence voters by visiting temples." Mayawati also accused him of visiting the houses of dalits and having food there, for the same purpose.

Due to EVM snags voting is yet to start at booth number 201 in Agra and booth number 148 in Mathura. EVMs developing technical snags has posed quite the challenge for the EC in these Lok Sabha elections. More than 100 EVMs had to be changed during polling hours in the first phase of voting in different parliamentary constituencies in Uttar Pradesh. Polling at Rithora in Balapur has reportedly been stopped due to snags in the EVM.

Mobile internet services have been snapped in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley as a precautionary measure, as Srinagar and Udhampur parliamentary constituencies go to vote on Thursday in the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

In the north, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu and Kashmir will go to polls during the second phase of election on Thursday. From the west, only Maharashtra will have polling for ten of its constituencies: Buldhana, Akola, Amravati in Vidarbha and Hingoli, Nanded, Parbhani, Beed, Osmanabad, Latur in Marathwada and Solapur in south-western Maharashtra.

Uttar Pradesh Congress president Raj Babbar and BJP's Hema Malini are among the 85 candidates contesting for eight Lok Sabha seats going to polls on Thursday — Nagina (SC), Amroha, Bulandshahr (SC), Aligarh, Hathras (SC), Fatehpur Sikri, Mathura and Agra (SC).

Fatehpur Sikri will see a triangular battle between Babbar, BJP's Rajkumar Chahar and BSP's Shreebhagwan Sharma, who is a two-time MLA from Debai assembly constituency of Bulandshahr.

In the temple-town constituency of Mathura, Hema Malini is seeking re-election after winning the seat in the 2014 general election. The other candidates in the fray are Kunwar Narendra Singh of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and Mahesh Pathak of the Congress.

In Amroha, sitting BJP MP Kanwar Singh Tanwar will lock horns with Bahujan Samaj Party's Kunwar Danish Al, who recently joined the party after quitting as the general secretary of the Janata Dal-Secular.

The eight Lok Sabha seats were bagged by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2014. This time it faces a tough fight from the Samajwadi Party-BSP-RLD alliance.

Bihar will witness polling in five Lok Sabha seats which are important for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U). The fate of 68 candidates will be decided by 86.01 lakh voters across Bhagalpur, Banka, Kishanganj, Katihar and Purnea Lok Sabha constituencies. Voting will be held from 7 am to 6 pm at all places except Katoria and Belhar Assembly segments under Banka constituency, where it will conclude two hours early.

The Janata Dal (United) is contesting from all the five seats, including Purnea which it had won in 2014 contesting separately from the BJP-led NDA. The BJP had contested all the five seats in the last general elections and lost all of these.

Purnea MP Santosh Kumar Kushwaha of the JD(U) is in a straight fight with Uday Singh of the Congress who had won the seat on BJP ticket in 2004 and 2009 but quit the saffron party in protest that it is giving "too many" seats to the JD(U). Uday Singh is the younger brother of Nand Kishore Singh, a bureaucrat who is currently chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. Their mother Madhuri Singh had won the seat twice in the 1980s as a Congress candidate.

Another major candidate is former Union minister Tariq Anwar who seeks to retain Katihar as a Congress nominee. He had won the seat on an NCP ticket five years ago. A co-founder of the NCP, Anwar returned to the Congress in 2018 after two decades. He had won the seat for the Congress four times in the 1980s and the 1990s. The JD(U) has fielded Dulal Chandra Goswami there.

In Jammu and Kashmir, over 29.81 lakh voters will decide the fate of 24 candidates, including former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah and Union minister Jitendra Singh, contesting the Srinagar and Udhampur seats, which go to polls in the second phase.

Authorities have deployed over 80 companies for election duty in the twin constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir. The twin constituencies have 2,981,083 registered electors. Twelve candidates each are in fray for both Srinagar and Udhampur parliamentary constituencies.

In Chhattisgarh, Kanker, Rajnandgaon and Mahasamund — all with heavy Maoist presence — will go to the polls Thursday amid tight security to decide the fate of 36 candidates. There are 36 candidates in the fray in these seats, but the main fight is likely to be between the ruling Congress and the main Opposition BJP.

The Kanker Lok Sabha constituency has eight Assembly segments and of these, polling in four — Anatgarh, Keshkal, Bhanupratappur and Kanker — will be held from 7 am to 3 pm in view of Maoist threat. In rest of the Assembly segments polling time is from 7 am to 5 pm.

The Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha constituency also consists of eight Assembly segments. One of them — Manpur-Mohla — will witness polling from 7 am to 3 pm, while voters in rest of them can vote from 7 am to 5 pm.

Of the 2,322 polling stations in Rajnandgaon, 279 have been marked as hypersensitive and 302 as sensitive. The polling time in the Mahasamund constituency is from 7 am to 5 pm except in six hypersensitive booths at Odh, Kamabhaundi, Amammora, Badegobra, Sahbinkachhar and Kodomali villages where the voting time is from 7 am to 3 pm.

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