

PIB NEWS ANALYSIS

IAF EFFORT: GENERAL ELECTIONS-2024

The Transport and Helicopter fleets of Indian Air Force (IAF) undertake varied war and peacetime tasks. In addition to the peacetime role of sustaining our troops by air maintenance, airlift of combat troops during domestic and international exercises, etc, a number of tasks towards nation building are undertaken. IAF has particularly been on the forefront in aid to civil power. During the General Elections-2024, substantial flying effort has taken place over the last few months by the medium lift helicopters (Mi-17 Variants), light utility helicopters (Chetaks) and the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Dhruv.

IAF has been actively involved with the task of airlifting electronic voting machines and deploying Election Commission of India (ECI) personnel on election duties, as has been carried out during previous General/ Assembly elections. During General Elections 2024, IAF played a pivotal role in extending the reach of ECI into remote corners of the country and to places where movement by road was a security concern. The task was time bound as polling officers had to be positioned at each remote polling station within two days prior to the election date and de-inducted on the day of polling.

IAF played a vital role in five of the seven phases of General Election-2024, flying over 1000 hours in over 1750 sorties. This herculean task was achieved through close coordination with ECI and Chief Election Commissioners (CECs) of various States through nodal officers in order to optimize utilisation of assets factoring security, weather, road connectivity, etc. Helicopter assets of Indian Army (IA) and BSF were also dovetailed into the overall plan towards smooth conduct of General Elections-2024.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman assumes charge as the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman assumed charge today as the Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs in New Delhi.

Smt. Sitharaman was greeted at the office in North Block by Finance Secretary Dr. T.V. Somanathan and other Secretaries of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs.

She expressed her sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for giving her the opportunity to work as the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister again and serve India and its people under his guidance.

Smt. Sitharaman acknowledged the strong leadership and development-oriented governance in the last 10 years, which have driven transformative changes across various sectors and created a robust and resilient economy.

After assuming charge, the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs was briefed on the ongoing policy issues by the Secretaries of the different departments of the Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs.

She noted that the government is fully committed to ensuring 'Ease of Living' for its citizens and will continue to take further steps in this regard.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman also stated that the reforms undertaken since 2014 will continue, which will further provide macroeconomic stability and growth for India. She also highlighted India's commendable growth story in recent years amidst global challenges and noted that there is an optimistic economic outlook for the coming years.

She urged the departments to advance the NDA government's development agenda with renewed vigour and ensure responsive policymaking to achieve the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Union Finance Minister also said that the government believes in '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*' and called for the continued support and cooperation of all stakeholders, including industry leaders, regulators, and the citizens, to ensure a strong and vibrant economy.