

Dr. Rangitabali Waikhom takes charge as DC Kangpokpi

DIPR Kangpokpi, May 22,

Dr. Rangitabali Waikhom, IAS has taken charge of office as the new Deputy Commissioner of Kangpokpi district yesterday. In a programme held at the conference hall of DC Kangpokpi, her predecessor M.J Pradip Chandren, IAS handed over the charge to the new DC. The District level officers of the district bid farewell to the former DC who served for around four months. Dr. Rangitabali expressed her desire to work with full devotion to take the district forward from all other districts. She added that she will directly take visit and take notice of various developmental works taken up in the district.

SEACO Sangaitheh Branch

IT News Imphal, May 22, South East Asia Cultural Organisation (SEACO) had opened its Sangaitheh Branch on Sunday. A total of 9 executive members have been elected with Ningthoujam Rajchom as the President and Leichenbam Ingocha as the General Secretary.

International Day of Biodiversity observed at Thoubal



IT News Thoubal, May 22,

As observed in other part of the world Divisional Forest Officer, Thoubal Forest Division today observed the day at its conference Hall today. This year theme is "Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity". The observance was attended by Vahneichong Singson Assistant Conservator of Forests Thoubal Division, N.Munal Meitei Range Officer of Kakching Range, Laishram Subhash Social Worker and N.Tombi Raj Advisor

AMWJU as Presidium Members respectively. N.Munal said, "We need to save the biodiversity. However, it would not be intelligent on the part of the humans to depend too much on it." "People are depending too much on biodiversity in order to survive by way of deforestation, pollution as it is negatively affecting the bio-diversity," he added. He further said, Manipur also houses several endangered species of animals and plants, and it is time for both the local public and the government to understand the issue."

"People should also cooperate with the forest department in its effort to save the endangered species. People should find alternative ways and avoid cutting of woods which leads to deforestation," he added.

Congress will not file candidate in Nagaland Lok Sabha Election; says will support NPF Candidate

IT News Imphal, May 22,

Congress party in Nagaland have decided to bridge good relation with the one time partner of BJP and now a strong opposition to NDPP + BJP government, the Nagaland Peoples' Front (NPF). The NPF is a partner of the BJP led government in Manipur. 4 of its MLA supports the N Biren Singh Government among which two hold cabinet portfolio. President of the Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC), K. Therie said that the Congress in Nagaland has decided to support C. Apok Jamir in the forthcoming Lok Sabha bye-election. The NPCC said the congress has agreed in principle to support NPF candidate C. Apok Jamir in this bye-election in order to save Nagaland from communal forces. Therie yesterday shared a common platform with Apok along with a host of other NPF leaders at Phtusero under Phek district. In his speech, Therie expressed hope that the Congress will live up to the expectations of the party to uphold the principles of secularism and liberal democracy. He informed that Congress has decided not to set up a candidate in this Lok Sabha election.

Roots of Parliamentary democracy

By: VK Bahuguna (Courtesy: The Pioneer)

The BS Yeddyurappa-led BJP Government in Karnataka could not survive the trust vote in the Assembly on May 19. After an emotional speech, BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa announced his resignation on the floor of the House. Within seconds, the country's political twitterati, led by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, took over the social media and started predicting the formation of an effective coalition for the 2019 Parliamentary election. However, the general public is not amused to see the behaviour of the political class. The Indian democracy is ruled by a majority public opinion and the Constitution has made adequate provisions to ensure who will win; in what manner; and who (Constitutional functionary) should do what and in what manner.

Britain has no written Constitution and the country goes by precedents. Governance, hence, smooth over there. However, despite a written Constitution, political parties of all hues in India have failed to adhere to the best of norms of democratic functioning. Since 1971 (when Indira Gandhi returned to power in the aftermath of Bangladesh victory), umpteen precedents have existed where norms of true democratic functioning have been circumvented for political gains. Though the roots of democracy in India have been firmly rooted as far as elected Government formation is concerned, the true spirit of cooperative democratic federalism is missing. Gradually, value system among our politicians became more focused on capturing power, by hook or crook. This gained momentum ever since regional parties, largely family and caste-based political fiefdoms, gained undue powers and indulged in corruption. Undue leverage of powers enjoyed by these regional parties and the Left during the last three decades has put several road blocks to the country's developmental goals. A full majority Government coming to power in 2014 under the charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who successfully implemented with iron hands people-oriented policies and programmes, has driven these powers to desperation. The Congress itself has been seething under humiliating

defeats in one State after the other. Lapped on this desperation, after a small success in Gujarat, smelling revival, it saw an opportunity to form an Opposition front of non-BJP parties to defeat the NDA Government in the 2019 General Election. This is the conglomerate of hotchpotch. While political parties are fighting with each other tooth and nail to survive at the State level, they want to rule at the Centre to return to a coalition era. Already, Parliament became a victim to this competitive politics — it has seen unruly disruptions, thereby preventing the smooth functioning of this institution and, hence, governance suffered. Wise citizens of the country are now brooding if they are living in a democratic country or in a country of democratic facade. Now, let us discuss the Karnataka episode. The melodrama enacted by politicians in Karnataka is an indication of unprincipled intolerant politics. The Indian polity is moving towards divisive vote-bank politics, taking advantage of the euphoria it creates during such elections.

Though there are several contrary Supreme Court ruling on this, going by the rule of law, being the single largest party having scored 104 seats, the BJP had every right to form a Government in the State. The Governor was theoretically right to invite the BJP to form a Government. But being a party which outsmarted the Congress in Goa, Meghalaya and Manipur, it should have shown mature prudence in assessing the capacity of its leaders in Karnataka to garner support of eight more MLAs who were not happy with the alliance between the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular), more so when Congress chief Rahul Gandhi is fuming like an injured leopard to take revenge.

The euphoria of scoring 104 seats made the BJP forget that Karnataka is not North-East. In the southern State, there is much more than money at stake as maverick HD Kumaraswamy and his father, HD Deve Gowda, are hell bent to assume power and play the role of a king-maker in Delhi. With Congress president smelling distant powers in Delhi, after the Supreme Court's midnight intervention, it was a foregone conclusion that Karnataka will be a different ball-game for the BJP. The BJP could not muster the half way mark and Yeddyurappa had to quit

power ignominiously. The BJP strategist fell into the trap of the Opposition and the party could not form the Government.

As for the Kumaraswamy Government, it is a coalition made after the election — the people of Karnataka know well that the Congress and the JD(S) have come together to keep the BJP at bay, after hitting each other below the belt during electioneering. For the country men, this kind of drama being enacted by our politicians in every election is not a sign of a mature democratic polity. Rather, political parties are moving towards enmity and hatred. The situation has been best described by Chinese dissenter Liu Xiaobo who died in 2017 "Hatred is corrosive of a person's wisdom and conscience; the mentality of enmity can poison a nation's spirit, instigate brutal life and death struggles, destroy a society's tolerance and humanity, and block a nation's progress to freedom and democracy."

The country must remember the words of BR Ambedkar, the founding father of our Constitution, who said, "Democracy is not merely a form of Government. It is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience. It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards fellow men".

This is sadly missing today and here one party is devoting all its energies, trying to prove another party unworthy and unfit to rule and when both succeed, they suddenly become friends. This is not democracy but misuse of democracy.

People of India will one day demand reforms in our Parliamentary form of democracy. In hindsight, many feel that a Presidential form of governance would be a much better a remedy than this kind of parliamentary democracy. It is for the people to force their representatives but not till we mature enough with high moral value and a tolerant mindset free from narrow ideologies.

But for now, at least the presiding officers can invoke the rule to enforce that the Parliament functions. Prime Minister Modi must obtain a consensus on this and ensure proper functioning of Parliament; otherwise punitive provisions existing in the statutes will be done away with. (The writer is former Director-General, Indian Council of Forestry Research Chancellor, FRI University and Principal Secretary to Government of Tripura)

ADMISSION NOTICE (Academic Session 2018-19)



South Asian Institute of Rural and Agricultural Management

Affiliated to Manipur University (A Central University)

The South Asian Institute of Rural and Agricultural Management (SAIRAM) was established by the South Asian Rural and Agricultural Management Foundation (SARAF), registered as a Non-Profit making Company under the Indian Companies Act 2013 and affiliated with Manipur University (A Central University). The institute desires to achieve academic, profession and research excellence using innovative, creative, collaborative and sustainable practices.

ADMISSION TO THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES:

Course	Duration
1. Bachelor of Science (B.Sc)* in i) Agriculture ii) Horticulture iii) Biotechnology	4 years 4 years 3 years
2. Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA)**	3 years
3. Short-term Skill Development (STS)*** in Plant Micro propagation Techniques, Medicinal Plant	6 months
4. Certificate Courses in Foreign Language (CCFL)**** in i) Japanese ii) Chinese iii) Korean iv) Thai	6 months

*Eligibility for admission to B.Sc. Programmes: 10+2 pass with 50% marks in aggregate (45% marks for SC & ST Candidates and 47% marks for OBC Candidates) in Science with Biology as a subject

**Eligibility for admission to BBA Programmes: 10+2 pass with 50% marks in aggregate in any discipline (45% marks for SC and ST candidates and 47% marks for OBC Candidates)

***Eligibility for admission to Short Term Courses: 10th pass in any discipline

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HOW TO APPLY: Candidates can get the Application Form from the Office of the Institute on payment of Rs. 500/ (Rs. 300 for SC & ST Candidates) during office hours. Application forms can also be downloaded from the institute's website: www.sairam.org.in and submit the duly filled in application form with relevant documents. The candidates who downloaded the application form from the website should pay the application fee of Rs. 500/- (Rs. 300 for SC & ST Candidates) at the time of submission of the form in cash or Demand Draft drawn in favour of SOUTH ASIAN RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT (SARAF) FOUNDATION, payable at Imphal

IMPORTANT DATES:

Date of issue of Application form : 7th May, 2018 onwards

Last date for submission of duly filled in Application Form : 23rd June, 2018

Last date for admission of forms for respective programmes : 30th June, 2018

SELECTION PROCEDURE: Application forms will be shortlisted and merit list will be prepared based on the marks they secured in their 10+2 certificate examination.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM

The duly filled in and signed application forms with self attested copies of relevant documents should be submitted to the undersigned on or before 23rd June, 2018

Director

South Asian Institute of Rural and Agricultural Management,
Langjing Achouba, P.O. & P.S. Patsoi, Imphal West, Imphal - 795005, Manipur, INDIA
Website: <http://sairam.org.in/> Email :- YRS001@GMAIL.COM
Phone: 8258801014, 7085124378

ED attaches over Rs 171-cr assets of Nirav Modi

Agency New Delhi, May 22,

In fresh action against Nirav Modi, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth over Rs 171 crore "beneficially owned" by the absconding diamondaire in connection with its money laundering probe in the over USD 2 billion PNB fraud case, the agency said.

The central probe agency here said it issued a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), attaching four commercial premises — with the market value of Rs 72.87 crore — in Mumbai and Surat, 106 bank accounts holding Rs 55.12 crore of deposits, 15

demat accounts containing Rs 35.86 crore, and 11 cars valued Rs 4.01 crore.

"The worth of these assets beneficially owned by Nirav Modi is about Rs 171.26 crore (market value)," the ED said in a statement.

The agency had earlier attached 21 assets - worth Rs 523.72 crore - of Modi in this case, the statement said. The agency had last week seized over 34,000 pieces of jewellery worth Rs 85 crore from the Gitanjali Group, owned by Nirav Modi's uncle and jeweller Mehul Choksi, who is also wanted in this case.

Nirav Modi and Choksi are being investigated by the ED for allegedly cheating the Punjab National Bank (PNB),

the country's second largest lender, to the tune of more than USD 2 billion or over Rs 13,000 crore.

The agency had recently summoned at least four family members of Modi, including his father, brother, sister and brother-in-law, and his US-based business partner Mihir Bhasani in this case.

The case is also being probed by the CBI and other investigative agencies. These agencies suspect that Nirav Modi and Choksi could not be in the US.

The duo and others are being probed under various criminal laws after the fraud came to light this year following a complaint by PNB that they allegedly cheated the

nationalised bank to the tune of over Rs 13,000 crore, with the purported involvement of a few employees of the bank.

The Central Bureau of Investigation and the ED have registered two first information reports each in the case.

The CBI had last week filed two charge sheets in the case before a Mumbai court, while the ED is expected to file its own prosecution complaint soon. The ED complaint or charge sheet will focus on the money laundering aspect and the role of Nirav Modi, Choksi and others in perpetrating the alleged fraud.

Both Nirav Modi and Choksi are said to have left the country before criminal cases were lodged against them.