

Mohanbhai Kundiariya,
Union Minister of State
for Agri and Farmers
Welfare to call on Chief
Minister, Manipur to-day
10.15 am.



BJP gains ground, Congress suffers setback: results for 18 Municipal Councils and 8 Nagar Panchayats pour in

IT News

Imphal, Jan.15: with the counting of ballots getting underway since today morning, results for the 18 Municipal Councils and 8 Nagar Panchayats are starting to pour in for the election carried out on the 11th of this month at a total of 587 polling stations with 2,36,302 voters to elect representatives of 279 wards and 558 Ward Development Committee members. The results till the time of filing this report indicates a big leap for the BJP, with Mayang Imphal Municipal Council witnessing a huge win for the party with 6 candidates winning out of 9 nominations in 13 wards

contested, while 2 BJP-supported independent candidates also won. Congress maintains their stronghold at Andro Nagar Panchayat with 9 wins while BJP managed 3 wins. Lamlai Municipal Council also mirrors the change with BJP winning in ward nos. 1, 3 and 6 with Congress winning at ward no 4. Ward no 5 was declared a draw with BJP and Congress securing 171 votes each. Decision for a Postal ballot is awaiting presently. Mayang Imphal which is the constituency of the Works Minister suffered a big setback with Congress managing only 2 wins while BJP managed a coup of sorts winning 7 and helping 4

independents with the support of the party to victory of the 13 wards contested. Bishenpur registered 8 wins for Congress while BJP had to settle for 4 wins. 6 BJP, 2 Congress and 1 independent registered wins for Nambol Municipal council. Kakching Khnou, the stronghold of ex-Works Minister and sitting MLA Ranjit also suffered heavy casualty with BJP getting the better in 6 wards while 2 independents and a lone INC victory completes the tally. Of the 12 wards contested at Kakching MC, ward no 1 gi INC Mayanglambam Memcha Devi of INC beat Sh Tondon Devi of BJP at ward no1.

Interrupted childhood: need for state intervention and assistances

By Reena Nongmaithem

Imphal, Jan.15: Being pampered by one's parents, guardians and elders, receiving the loving care and attention from them and playing hide and seek with friends are some of the most memorable moments of every life. But what may be the memory of a boy who is hardly 12 years of age, who has missed all these sweet moments and taking the responsibility as the main bread earner of his family.

Naobi, a cute and smart hotel boy of Nambol hotel, located just opposite to the office of Imphal Times at Elangbam Leikai still has the seemingly unattainable urge to continue with his studies. He dropped his studies just before giving his class V examination since his family's deteriorating financial condition forced him to work in the hotel as substitute to his unhealthy mother since four months back.

With the daily wage of Rs 200, Naobi just barely manages to keep the fire in their kitchen burning. "I buy rice, vegetables, groceries and other necessary kitchen items - and sometimes medicines for my parents", replied the boy when this reporter asked "What you do with the money everyday?" Naobi said "I will continue with my school again" as a

matter of fact when inquired about his plan for attending classes again.

Naobi is the second of two sons of Hijam Naba Singh and Hijam Ongbi Hemabati of Ningom Thongjao near PPLYW Club under Kakwa Police station. The boy disclosed that his father used to work at a brick field, but cannot go to the work regularly as he falls sick very frequently. He said his brother Somojit (15) too dropped his studies while studying at class IX and go around looking for any available menial work. He also informed that his brother does not return home during night, but said he has no idea where his brother is going or

what exactly he is doing. Expressing her love and sympathy for the boy, Oinam Sushila, owner of the hotel where Naobi is working at present, informed that she had even asked Naobi to stay with her as her adopted son, but that Naobi denied as he has to look after his ailing parents and care for his family.

Sushila said naobi joined the hotel around 4 months back as substitute to his mother who contacted the hotel for work. "Since Naobi's Mother was critically unhealthy she send her son as her substitute", said the sympathetic employer. Naobi travels everyday on his Bicycle. He reaches the

hotel by 7 am works till 6 in the evening every day.

No doubt there must be many more destitute children like Naobi in the society on one side, forced to face the harsh fate, his precious childhood cut short by circumstances while on the other, the state must be having provisions and various alternatives for rehabilitation and social reintegration such as foster care, sponsorship and aftercare of such children who have remain unutilized due to the lack of awareness, or worse still, as a result of the indifference of those authorized and entrusted with the authority and resources to address such unfortunate incidents.

Deputy CM team to attend business conclave at Myanmar

IT News

Imphal 15 Dec: Deputy CM Gaikhangam is all set to attend the business conclave at Myanmar to be held on January 18 and 19 at Town Hall, Monywa, Sagaing Region, Myanmar. He is expected to deliver speech with special emphasis on the border trade and investment between the North Eastern region of India

and Myanmar including banking sector. The conclave is organized by the Consulate General of India in Mandalay in collaboration with the Sagaing Region Government (Myanmar) and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (North East Chapter), Guwahati. The Reserve bank of India has abolished the barrier trade system that was operating along the India-Myanmar

border for a long time since 1994 thereby creating a broader window of opportunity for trade between the two countries. Around 30 Indian companies are participating in the Regional Business involved in trade between India and Myanmar especially through the land border apart from opportunities for business matching.

SEACO wishes on World Religion Day

IT News

Imphal Dec 15: In this upcoming "World Religion Day" on 17 January the South East Asia Cultural Organization (SEACO) and the followers of state Sanamahi religion wishes the people of the state and extend their warmth message to all the different religious beliefs around the globe including the "Bahai Faith" with unity, peace and upliftment of ethnic languages and religions, paving way to gain momentum in all the cultural, traditional and religious related movements in the state.

Blood Donation Camp

IT News

Imphal, Jan 15: 15th Voluntary Blood Donation Camp with Campaign 2016 organized by the Life Savers Manipur (LISAM) in collaboration with Pioneer Club, Lamdeng Makha Leikai, Imphal West in support of State Blood Transfusion Council, MACS and Blood Bank & Transfusion Unit, JNIMS is going to be observed at the Auditorium Hall of R.D.O. Lamshang, Imphal West on 17th January, 2016. In a press release, K Padmakumar Sharma, managing Director of LISAM said that willing volunteers between the

age group of 18 to 65 years with a body weight of not less than 45 kg and who have not suffered from any major ailments during the last one year can donate blood.

Volunteers who have already donated blood through LISAM and have not got their donor card can collect it from the Blood Donation Venue or from the Managing Director of LISAM after providing their identity proof. Padmakumar details. The blood donation camp will commence at 10 in the morning and will continue till 3 in the evening.

Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences to visit Manipur

IT News

Imphal, Jan.15: Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Y S Chowdhary is likely to visit the State on a two day visit on January 21. The Minister will attend a program at the institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development at Takyelpat on the second day during his visit.

The Minister will be visiting CSIR Jorhat in Assam before coming to Manipur.

Dr Jitendra Singh to inaugurate 'Hall of Nuclear Power' in New Delhi tomorrow

Agency

New Delhi, Jan. 15: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the "Hall of Nuclear Power" here tomorrow. This is Northern India's first permanent exhibition on nuclear power, built in the national capital which is going to be opened to the public at National Science Centre (NSC). The exhibition, titled 'Hall of

Nuclear Power - Atoms Serving the Nation' is spread over an area of about 700 sq. m., with over 60 permanent exhibits, covering various aspects of nuclear energy, with prime focus on nuclear power plant safety and applications for human welfare, which include nuclear medicine, food irradiation, as well as several other day-to-day applications of nuclear energy. Scientific information about nuclear power generation, its basics, and non-power uses of nuclear and radiation technology has also been showcased at the gallery.

Annual Inter-School Competition of Bands

IT News

Imphal, Jan 15: Annual Inter-School Competition of Bands cum Practice and Training organized by the Police Department is going to be held from 1st week of February, 2016 at 1st MR.

Notice released by the Secretary of Board of Secondary Education, Dr Chingangbam Sarat states that the program is being organized under the guidance of Band Master of 1st MR. For further details and required information, schools having Bands and willing to participate in the competition could contact the Band Master of 1st MR before the commencement of the Annual Inter-School Competition of Bands, Sarat details in the notice.

Scribes assaulter produced in court

IT News

Imphal Jan 15: M. Dujon charged with physical assault of four reporters was produced before the court of CJM Imphal West A. Noutuneswari at the Uripok Cheirap court today at around 2:30 pm. he under judicial custody. He is under judicial remand till 29 of this month.

SC: Is AFSPA in Manipur eternal?

New Delhi, Jan. 15: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Manipur government how long the Army should be deployed in the state and enjoy unaccountable power under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and whether 35 years of the Army's presence had improved the law and order situation.

The court had appointed a high-level inquiry committee headed by an ex-judge of the SC to inquire into allegations that the armed forces had carried out over 1,500 extra-judicial killings in the last 30 years and police were refusing to file FIRs because of AFSPA. READ ALSO: AFSPA extended in Manipur by another year

AFSPA was imposed in Manipur on September 8, 1980 to tackle the lawlessness created by four main insurgent groups through dacoity, ransom and killings. Petitions by an NGO 'Extra-judicial Execution Victims Families Association of Manipur' and former director of Manipur Health Services Th Suresh Singh had sought withdrawal of AFSPA.

After getting the report and hearing the petitions, a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and U U Lalit told the state government. "AFSPA was supposed to be a temporary measure. But it has been there for the last 35 years. Two generations have grown up under the presence of Army. It was supposed to only aid the democratic government in tackling law and order situation created by insurgent groups."

Appearing for the Congress-led Ibobi Singh government in Manipur, senior advocate V Giri told the court that AFSPA was still needed to maintain law and order as insurgency continued to thrive in the state given its porous international border. When AFSPA was imposed, there were four prominent insurgent groups, after 35 years, there were more than a dozen prominent insurgent groups in Manipur, he added.

The bench said, "AFSPA was imposed after declaring the state a disturbed area. You mean to say that in 35 years of Army presence in the state, the situation has not improved to remove the disturbed area tag from

the state? Has nothing changed on the law and order front for the last three decades?"

Giri attempted to convince the court that democracy had deep roots in the state, which saw very high percentage of voting in the last several assembly elections. "The test is whether the general public is fed up with AFSPA? The answer is, it is not so. Democracy is alive and kicking in the state. Should the elected representatives not take a decision whether AFSPA should be withdrawn or not? People are not disgusted with Army presence in the state. The Army is not in conflict with the people," Giri said.

However, he admitted before the court that not many FIRs were registered on complaints accusing Army personnel of extra-judicial killings.

The bench said, "One can discount one or two aberrations in the operations carried out in insurgency affected areas, but not in 70-odd cases. In all these cases, the complaint of the commoners or victims' families had not been converted into FIRs." It reminded Giri that Tripura has decided to do away

with AFSPA.

Petitioner Suresh Singh said, "People of Manipur are not against the armed forces and, in fact, majority desires the Army to protect them against external aggression but everyone is against AFSPA which has been often misused." He had also sought quashing of a notification declaring the entire state as a disturbed area except for the municipal limits of capital Imphal, saying, "In the name of disturbed area status, widespread deployment of armed forces has created an alarming environment in which exceptions have become the rule."

The petition filed by the NGO through Babloo Loitongbam said, "The legal mechanism has failed to ensure remedial measures relating to abuse or misuse of powers by the armed forces' personnel, who are not held accountable for their illegal and inhuman actions robbing citizens of their most basic right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution."

Courtesy: TNN