

4 Congress MLAs along with lone TMC MLA join BJP

IT News

Imphal, April 28: In a major boost to the BJP-led coalition government, four more Congress legislators crossed over to the saffron party and the state unit of the Trinamool Congress which commands a legislator merged en bloc with BJP today thus providing a comfortable majority for chief minister N Biren at the Assembly.

The current strength of BJP legislators in the state Assembly has reached 28, seven more than it originally won at the Assembly elections, while that of the Congress party has dwindled from 28 to 22 since the declaration of results of the elections.

The four MLAs who ditched



the Congress to join the BJP were Y Surchandra of Kakching constituency, Sanasam Bira of Kumbi AC, Oinam Lukhloi of Wangoi AC and Ngamthang Haokip of Saitu AC. They were accorded a warm felicitation by BJP state unit president K Bhabananda, chief minister N Biren and senior leaders and workers of the party at the BJP office at Nityaipat Chuthek.

Meanwhile, in another major development, the state unit of the TMC merged with the BJP. According to reports, the lone

party MLA Tongbram Robindro, who was elected from Thanga AC, along with all office bearers joined the BJP.

With the joining of the four MLAs the number of Congress legislators who switched to the BJP has risen to six. Present Cabinet minister Th Shyamkumar who was elected from Andro AC was the first to ditch the party doing it immediately after the declaration of results of the state Assembly elections. Later, Tipaimukh MLA Ginsuanhau followed suit.

Officers at RIMS worry as new director streamlines matters relating to financial matters

IT News

Imphal, April 28: The appointment of RK Dinesh (IAS) as the officiating director of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, it now appears, has made an impact on other sections of the institute besides the teaching faculty and the high ranked administrators who had already created a major ruckus calling for his exit citing from rule books that non-medical civil servants do not meet the criteria for holding administrative posts in medical institutions like that of director and medical superintendent. It was learnt from reliable sources that officials of the institute have slipped into a state of panic since the takeover materialised. Although it is still not officially confirmed, there is a possibility that an unofficial instruction

from the officiating director asking the subordinate staffs not to move some specific files related to financial and administrative matters had led to the anxious moment for the latter.

Some officers including those in the account section has reportedly advised their lower staffs not to reveal some of the files to the officiating director until he leaves office and a new director takes charge.

Consequently, the piles of files belonging to these categories censored by the officiating director accumulating on the tables of senior officials have grown in size over the time and they are unable to forward them to the incumbent director. The engineers working at the central workshop which is the engineering section of RIMS and functioning under the

chief account officer have their daily chores substantially reduced after the instruction against processing of the files came into effect. Reports said nowadays the engineers report for duty but return home after bidding their time at the office as only few assignments are allotted to them.

The new director has also set up a rigorous regimen for the employees of the institute with the plans to rectify their past mistakes, reduce complaints and usher in competency, it has been claimed by inside sources. In many instances, he had directed the officials to process scores of files which were pending for 6-12 months after receiving complaints about the situation from other staffs.

One refreshing development is that the attendance of staffs of central workshop have

jumped significantly lately after the new director issued a warning of punishment in case there is proof of dereliction of duty.

There are charges against the senior officials of the institutes that their lack of work ethics and constant negligence have resulted in delaying of processes for procuring machines, equipment and life saving drugs.

Now, due to corrective actions taken up by the officiating director there is a new optimism among many staff of the institute that the existing lack of intent and complacency among the officials towards all round growth of the institute will become a thing of the past as he had a good grasp of the wrongdoings happening at RIMS during the last many years.

Workshop Concluded

DIPR

Imphal, April 28 : The Closing Function of the "5-Day Workshop on Conservation & Preservation of Biological Specimens" was held today at the auditorium of the Manipur State Museum, Imphal. The 5-Day Workshop, which started from the 24th of this month, was organised by the Manipur State Museum under the supervision of Smt. Y. Binita Devi, Curator, Manipur State Museum.

Altogether 30 participants took part in the workshop in which the participants were taught the technique and know-how to preserve eggs, fishes and birds. Curator of the Manipur State Museum Smt. Y. Binita Devi, Guide Lecturer L. Sadhana Devi and Artist N. Imo Singh were the resource persons of the workshop.

Dr. Chongtham Jamini Devi, former Chairperson, Manipur State Commission for Women and Dr. Kh. S h a m u n g o u , Environmentalist attended the closing function as Chief Guest and President respectively. Certificates were distributed to the workshop participants during the function.

Govt will eradicate TB by 2025

New Delhi, April 28: The Union Health Minister, JP Nadda has said that Government will eradicate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the target of 2030. In an interview to All India Radio's programme "Countrywide", Nadda said that plans and programmes are being carried forward to eradicate TB. He further said that prices of the generic medicines have been reduced which will benefit the poor people and will have a great effect. Mr Nadda said that Prime Minister Modi's idea will have a far fetching effect.

Women body storms at Cheirap Court complex as police produce rapist

IT News

Imphal, April 28: Large number of women today tried to storm at Cheirap Court Complex today morning demanding justice for the two rape victim when police produce one among the seven rapists was produce at the

court.

Of the seven rapists, six are reported to be juvenile, the only rapist identified as adult was produced today at the Special Court (POCSO) at Cheirap Court, Uripok. Large number of women folk who were present at the court

premises threw water bottle to the vehicle carrying the rapist and shouted slogan demanding appropriate punishment.

Police team deployed at the area find hard time controlling the mob. Later the protestors were driven out of the court

complex and locked the gate. The rapist was remanded 15 days in judicial custody.

Earlier on Thursday 1000s of people staged a protest rally demanding justice for the rape victims by punishing those involved in the gangrape of the two girls at Phakung area of Imphal East on April 14.

According to police reports,



the two girls had gone to witness the Thabal Chongba festival with their friends. While on their way back, the

minor girls were reportedly waylaid by a group of seven boys and allegedly gang-raped.

Maoist warns agitation over irregularities to the pipe line construction of Maphou Dam

IT News

Imphal, April 28: Maoist Communist Party Manipur (MCPM) has warn serious consequences if the concern government department do not take up immediate action against those playing foul to the pipeline construction work from Maphou Dam to Chingkei Ching Water treatment plant.

In a statement the outfit said that due to irregularities in the construction of the pipe line work several paddy field areas of Lamlai area and its surrounding may be ruined. The works being taken up under the Central Water Commission since 2015 has been converted as gold mined by the EE of Thoubal Project Division No. 6 along with

some contractors and amount sanction for the project is Rs. 300 crore, said that statement.

The statement further said that if the concern department failed to enquire the matter punished those involved in playing foul to the construction works the outfit along with the people will stop all kinds of works at Maphou Dam. It said that Lamlai area has been trying to convert into revolutionary model area by the Maoist Communist Party Manipur any foul play in the area will not be tolerated.

On the other hand, the Maoist Manipur said that time given for clarification to the Lamlai Municipal Council and the Oil Depot has been over. It said it exploded a bomb to the

residence of Vice Chairman Lamlai Municipal Council showing respect to the women community of the region as the Chairperson is a woman. The outfit details on how the LMC misappropriated funds for development of Lamlai area. Moreover it also alleged that the vice chairperson had given Rs. 10,000/- to a group under SoO with the government. On the other hand the outfit said that it knows the game going on at the Oil Pump near Itam Bridge. As the owner is a close person of MLA, police are protecting him and people of Lamlai had been shut their mouth. However, Maoist will not let the kind of things happen at the area.

Training Programme on Rational Use of Blood and Blood Products

IT News

Thoubal, April 28: Two Days Training Programme on Rational Use of Blood and Blood Products kicks-off today at the Conference Hall of District Hospital Thoubal. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. N. Jayantakumar Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Thoubal in the presence of Dr. N. Hemantakumar Singh, Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Dr. Arke, Sr. Specialist (Medicine) District Hospital Thoubal, Dr. Geetchandra Okram, MD, Transfusion Medicine, Asst. Prof. Dept. of Transfusion Medicine, JNIMS, Imphal and Ch. Basanta Singh, District

Programme Manager, District Health Society, Thoubal.

The programme is being organised by Blood Bank and Transfusion Unit, District Hospital Thoubal with the support of District Health Society, Thoubal and Blood Cell, National Health Mission, Govt. Of Manipur. Various resource persons delivered talked on different topics through powerpoint presentation viz.

Dr. Doendro Loitongbam, Specialist, (Transfusion Medicine), District Hospital Thoubal delivered talked on 'Rational use of blood and blood products, Dr. Kh. Memtonbi, MD (Transfusion Medicine) Senior Resident,

Dept. Of Transfusion Medicine, JNIMS, Imphal delivered on 'Massive Transfusion and its Management', Dr. Vijayanta Ksh. MD (Transfusion Medicine) District Hospital, Churachandpur delivered talks on 'Transfusion Reactions and its Management', and Dr. Geetchandra Okram, MD, (Transfusion Medicine) Asst. Prof. Dept. Of Transfusion Medicine, JNIMS, delivered talks on 'Component Therapy and its importance'.

Altogether 60 Medical Officers from different Health Institutions from Thoubal, Kakching and Chandel districts are participating in the training programme.

Can appoint Lokpal without opposition leader, says SC

Courtesy: The Hindu

New Delhi, April 28: The Supreme Court on Thursday found the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act of 2013 an "eminently workable piece of legislation" which provides for the appointment of Lokpal chairperson and members even in the absence of a recognised Leader of Opposition (LoP).

The judgment goes against the very logic of the government's argument that appointments of Lokpal chairperson and members is not currently possible, and would have to wait till the 2013 Act is amended to replace the LoP with the single largest Opposition party leader.

Under the 2013 Act, the appointments to Lokpal is made by a high-level selection committee of the Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, LoP Chief Justice of India and an eminent jurist chosen by them. The fact that the 16th Lok Sabha does not have a recognised LoP — Congress party could not get the required 10% membership in the Lok Sabha post 2014 parliamentary elections — had stalled the implementation of the Lokpal Act. But the judgment authored by Justice Ranjan Gogoi differs with the government's viewpoint. Highlighting India's

commitment to "zero tolerance against corruption," the court said an existing law cannot be put on hold merely because the Parliament is working on a better law.

Instead, the court points to sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the original 2013 Lokpal Act, which makes it clear that an appointment of the chairperson or members of Lokpal will not be invalidated merely because one of the members of the selection committee — the LoP — is missing.

In short, the available members of the Lokpal selection committee could very well recommend suitable persons to the President for appointment to Lokpal.

If an appointment process done by a "truncated" Lokpal Selection Committee is already recognised under the 2013 Act, why should the government wait for any amendments at all, the Supreme Court asked.

Quoting Justice Krishna Iyer, the judgment described the Lokpal Act 2013 as "an eminently workable piece of legislation and there is no justification to keep the enforcement of the Act under suspension till the amendments, as proposed, are carried out."

Justice Gogoi wrote that bettering a legislation is "a perpetual and ongoing exercise dictated by the experiences gained on the working of the Act," but that does not mean the existing Act of the Parliament should come to a halt.

But having said that, the Supreme Court added that it cannot push the issue any further. It said no matter how strongly the populace feels about the imminent need for the Lokpal law and its beneficial effects on the citizenry of a democratic country, it cannot overstep its jurisdiction and encroach into the legislative domain.

Lokpal and Lokayuktas and Other Related Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014, containing the proposed amendments in the law has been gathering dust from the date of its introduction in the Parliament on December 18, 2014.

Though a Parliamentary Standing Committee submitted its report on December 3, 2015, fully supporting the amendment to replace the LoP with the single largest Opposition party leader in Lok Sabha, the law is yet to see the light of the day. This is despite the fact that India ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption way back in May 2011.