

## Combing at Harao thel

**IT News**

**Imphal, Dec 17:** State police today conducted cordon and search operation at L. Tanguam (Harao thel) village in Kangpokpi district. The police team led by T. Lalboi Haokip, ASP Kangpokpi district, Thangkhochoon Haokip, Dy. SP (Ops)/IW and Insp. JK Haokip, OC Sapermeina PS began the cordon and search operation from around 4 am today and concluded at around 6.30 am. Police source said that a total of 70 persons in the age between 14 to 60 years were verified. Of these two-third have identity proof and the remaining one-third without identity card were verified by the village chief.

The police team also found 6 non-local people in the village. 3 were living in the village as construction workers and 3 were from Senapati living there as JCB excavator drivers. No person was picked up however the police team picked up 4 single barrel guns and handed over to concerned PS for verification.

## Cold wave intensifies

**New Delhi, Dec 17:** Cold wave has intensified across the country, especially the Northern parts, with Kargil in Kashmir recording the coldest night of the winter last night.

The minimum temperature dipped over two degrees to minus 13.4 degrees Celsius. The MET department said, the night temperature also dropped at most places in Kashmir division, including Ladakh region. It has predicted a further drop in temperatures.

Meanwhile, a sunny day in Jammu region today provided some respite to people from the biting cold. The night temperature was on decline in Jammu after high altitude areas experienced heavy snowfall while rains lashed the plains in the region last week.

## Name to be renewed

**DIPR**

**Imphal, Dec. 17:** The Addl. Director of Employment, Directorate of Employment, Employment Exchange Complex, Lamphelpat informs to all job-seekers registered in the Employment Exchange to get their names renewed in their respective Employment Exchanges where they had been registered within 22nd December, 2017 failing which the names registered may be taken as cancelled from the Live-Register of the respective Employment Exchange. Officers of the Employment Exchanges are also requested to allow renew till the date specified.

## Amethi as big a challenge for RaGa as heading Congress

**Courtesy TNN**

**Lucknow, Dec 17:** Even as Rahul Gandhi took over as president of the Congress on Saturday, along with the daunting task of leading the oldest party, he is faced with another big challenge - keeping the Gandhi pocketborough of Amethi, which he represents in the Lok Sabha safe from BJP's bid to wrest it. Amethi has become a political battleground in UP with the BJP attempting to unseat the Congress from here

and in turn embarrass its leadership.

The BJP has been aggressively pursuing this agenda by not only fielding Smriti Irani against Rahul but also pushing its grass root workers to rake up the issue of Amethi being left undeveloped despite being a "VIP constituency". "Congress did nothing for Amethi," said BJP leader Anant Vikram Singh, whose mother Garima Singh is an MLA from Amethi. "Two

generations of Congress have nurtured the constituency despite which it has nothing to show. Smriti Irani visits the constituency regularly and it meets people. Rahul has been there just once in the past several months," he said. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, his win margin against BJP candidate Smriti Irani came down to 1.08 lakh votes from 2009's win margin of 3.70 lakh. Irani, a minister in the Narendra Modi government, has spared no effort in attacking Gandhi on his home turf. She has been visiting the constituency every few months and announcing projects.

Congress leadership, however, appears in no mood to cede ground to the BJP. A host of Congress leaders in the VIP constituency have been reminding people of the contribution of the Gandhi family and the golden period during Rajiv Gandhi's regime. Mindful of the BJP onslaught, Congress is building ground to project its work in the constituency, "despite obstacles by the state and Centre". It recently released a

list, outlining at least 11 such projects that were initiated in Amethi by the Congress which got stalled due to what Congress alleged as BJP apathy. Congress leaders also point out that of his allocated MPLAD quota of Rs 20 crore, Rahul, has already recommended works worth Rs 9.99 crore.

The locals also see the seat being associated strongly with the prestige of the Gandhi family. "Amethi is not wedded to Congress. Any other candidate contesting elections on Congress ticket would lose. But not Rahul Gandhi. We owe him and his family a lot," said Ved Prakash Singh, a 53-year-old resident of Amethi. "Rajiv Gandhi's time was the golden period for Amethi. He was responsible for starting more than 200 factories. Rahul too has done some amount of work," said a local. However, many people in the constituency feel that Congress started taking the constituency for granted and this is visible in the fact that the party has lost all five seats in the assembly elections in 2017.

## Stage set for counting of votes in Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh tomorrow

**Source AIR**

**New Delhi, Dec 17:** All arrangements are in place for tomorrow's counting of votes for the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections. The counting will begin at 8 in the morning and results are expected by afternoon. The 182-member Gujarat Assembly went to polls in two phases on the 9th and 14th of this month, while polling for 68 seats of Himachal Pradesh was held on the 9th of last month.

68.41 per cent voter turnout was recorded in Gujarat, while 74.61 per cent polling was reported in Himachal, the highest-ever in the state. In Gujarat, the Election Commission has set up 33 control rooms at all district headquarters. More than

30,000 personnel have been deployed to monitor the counting process.

All EVMs and VVPATs have been kept in strong rooms under tight security arrangements including CCTV surveillance. Political fate of 1,828 candidates will be decided in this election. In Himachal Pradesh, 48 counting centers have been set up where 2,820 officers would be deployed.

Chief Electoral Officer Pushpendra Rajput said, three-tier security arrangements have been made at all counting centres. Videography of the counting process will be done at all centres, which will under CCTV camera surveillance. 337 candidates are in the fray in the state.

## 6 new Minister inducted in Nagaland

**Kohima, Dec 17:** Nagaland Chief Minister T R Zeliang yesterday reshuffled his cabinet by inducting six new ministers. Governor PB Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to them at Raj Bhavan Kohima.

The six cabinet ministers include veteran politician SI Jamir along with Y Vihkeho Swu, P Longon, Kuzholuz Nienu and CL John, all from NPF and P. Paiwang Konyak of BJP. Their portfolios are yet to be announced.

## NEFIS condemns firing on tea-workers in Assam

**IT News**

**Imphal, Dec 17:** North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) condemns the firing of bullets on tea-garden workers in Numaligarh area of Golaghat district in Assam.

Around tea workers were injured after the tea owners identified as Samir and Sudhir Roy fired upon to a group of tea worker clearance of their wages on December 12. The statement of the NEFIS said that instead of condemning the act, the Assam Govt. posted CRPF personnel in anticipation of protests that the workers may organize. The statement added that tea-workers work under highly oppressive conditions in Assam tea gardens. They have historically been

exploited and out rightly coerced to work, in active collusion with the state.

"The owners, as in the present case exercise quasi-magisterial powers over the workers, with beatings and abuses being a prominent feature of working atmosphere at tea-estates. The state's inaction in the past has engendered abusive work environment in tea-estates and its apathy continues to foster it", the statement said. The NEFIS while condemning the state government's apathetic attitude towards the plight of tea-workers and demanded an immediate probe to look into their working conditions in Assam. It also demands that the victims' families be provided adequate compensation.

## RIMS doctor alleged of forcing back patient referred from GNRC Hospital

**IT News**

**Imphal, Dec.17:** Doctor at RIMS, Imphal allegedly forced back a patient referred from GNRC Hospital for radiotherapy on the ground that the radiotherapy machine at RIMS was not working.

A Brain Tumor patient identified as Thakhellambam Thambalngou Devi of Nongdam bazaar under Lamlai Police Station was referred to RIMS for radiotherapy as staying for the purpose will be costly for them. After getting appointment with doctors RIMS, the patient party were reportedly told to wait for 20 days as radiotherapy need to be done

after 20 days of operation.

On completion of 20 days on December 20, when the patient report to the doctor at RIMS they were told to do the radiotherapy at Guwahati on the ground that the radiotherapy machine at RIMS was not working.

It may be mentioned that some few months back a PG student at RIMS had written to the Prime Minister of India terming the hospital as one of the most corrupt Institute in the country. In his letter to the PM, the PG student pin points the negligence of doctor and inability of required machines in the hospital.

## Railways mulling installation of CCTV cameras inside trains

**Source AIR**

**New Delhi, Dec 17:** Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has said that the railways is mulling to install CCTV cameras inside the trains and dedicate 2018 to collectively fight against human trafficking.

Speaking to media in New Delhi, Mr Goyal said, the idea is being worked upon and will be sent to the cabinet. He said, in order to tackle the women safety issue, Railways is looking to work in two areas, ensuring wi-fi connectivity in trains and CCTV cameras on all stations and also in trains in the longer

run. Mr Goyal said, Railways will dedicate 2018 as a year where it will collectively fight against atrocities against women and children especially human trafficking and it will be done across all the railway divisions.

He said, with mapping of the entire network, a feed captured will be sent to security guards, local police stations and the zonal and divisional headquarters. The railways had recently identified 983 railway stations for the installation of CCTV cameras using the Nirbhaya Fund.

## IED recovered

**IT News**

**Imphal, Dec 17:** An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by unknown persons inbetween Mongjam Village and Konthoujam Lamkhai under Patsoi Police Station was recovered today by a team of Assam Rifles. The IED was safely defuse by bomb disposal squad.

## Assam govt to set up three Terminal Mart for agricultural products

**Source AIR**

**Guwahati, Dec 17:** For the first time in North East, the Assam government will set up three Terminal Mart in the state for the agricultural products. Participating in an AIR talk show, Chairman of state Agricultural Marketing Board Palit Kumar Bora said that the Centre will extend support in setting up the project which will create employment opportunities for thousands of youth.

He said, the marketing board has generated 4.73 crore rupees more in March to May this year in comparison to previous year despite the fact that two gates of the board were closed after implementation of GST. He said that awareness drive is being carried out on organic farming in the state as well as use of Soil Health Card. Mr. Bora said that the Minimum Support Price of paddy will be increased to 1,550 rupees per quintal in comparison to 1,470 rupees.

## Minister K Khyam donates Rs.50,000 to promote the cultural identity of the state on the occasion of Miss Manipur 2017

**Imphal, Dec. 17:** Miss Manipur 2017 grand finale presented by Halley Laithangbam and Sonya Phairembam was held yesterday at Bheigyachandra Open Air Theatre, Palace Compound amidst much pomp and grandeur in which about 17 contestants from different walks of life competed for the coveted title. CAF&PD and Revenue Minister Th. Karam Shyam & Chairman Tourism Corporation of Manipur Ltd. Dr. Sapam Ranjan graced the event as the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour respectively. Delivering the welcome

address, Chief Co-ordinator, Miss Manipur Organisation, R.K. Somio stated that Miss Manipur 2017 is not just a one day show but a culmination of pre-events of around 1 month in which the contestants have to undergo skill development and training camp grooming sessions to horn their important talents. Dr. Sapam Ranjan said that the very purpose of organising Miss Manipur Contest is not just appreciating external physical beauty alone but to give a platform to the contestants to showcase their inner talents & mental attitudes. Highlighting the importance

of knowing the value of time, Minister Karam Shyam said that citizens should be punctual in their activities if the State is to head towards progress and development. He pointed out they should try to abide by the timing of the set schedule as far as applicable while organising a function. He addressed the audience saying that Miss Manipur Pageant is a way to expose the beautiful character, talents & morals of a women apart from appreciating the different structures of human anatomy like eyes, nose etc. He said that the Arts & Culture Department of the State

should play a big role in organising such State function and a collective effort from all sides including the Government is needed to promote the cultural identity of Manipur. Convincing the gathering that the Government is ready to co-operate & shoulder responsibility in times of need for properly organising such function of traditional significance, he donated Rs. 50,000 to help compensate the shortage of funds met by the organisers. Yumnam Leirikeima, Longjam Memchoubi, A.K. Memcha Leima & Ph Sakhri were felicitated with momentos,

badges & shawls for their contribution in tackling the social issues of Manipur positively. IGP, CID Branch & Director, Fire Service, R.K. Meme; Medico fashionista & founder of a clothing line, Dr. Thiyam Sonia; design consultant, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Memyo Ningombi; well-known designer and brand director of Abhinav Mishra, Rina Ahanthem and Chairperson, Manipur State Commission for Women, Dr. K Sobita chaired as jury members in today's Miss Manipur beauty pageant 2017.