



MU staffs protest demanding equal pay for equal works

## NHPC quarter gutted

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 10:** A family quarter of the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) located at Loktak Downstream Project at Bishnupur district was gutted early today morning. Report said that the family quarter allotted to a contract employee identified as Jiten Singh is about 400 meters away from the head quarter (HQ/32) of the Loktak Downstream project. The fire broke out at around 3.30 am today morning. Staffs and security of the project rushed that site and poured all effort to extinguish the fire and fire fighter from Bishnupur district head quarter too rushed the spot. The quarter was reported completely burnt into ashes however, there are no report of any human casualty. Cause of the fire could not be established at the moment but source said that the fire could have been broke out due to short circuit.

## 310 loaded trucks escorted to Imphal

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 10:** A total of 300 loaded trucks has been escorted towards Imphal early today morning from Jiribam for Imphal. The loaded trucks includes 23 petrol tanker truck, 41 Diesel tanker truck, 35 LPG loaded trucks, 1 ATF tanker truck, 1 Chemical filled truck, 1 Oxygen cylinders loaded trucks, 88 trucks belonging to FCI, 24 cement loaded trucks and 88 other essential commodities loaded trucks.

## MU staffs protest demanding equal pay for equal works

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 10:** Staffs of Manipur University who are on casual, contract and engage status today staged a protest demonstration at the main gate of the University today morning demanding implementation of Supreme Court verdict to grant equal pay for equal works or granting of minimum basic entry pay.

## Poppy plants destroyed

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 10:** Combined team of Imphal East Commando, OC-SGM-PS, OC-NARCO /R1, NAB, NCRB and Manipur Rifles today destroyed poppy plants which was cultivated at around 10 acres at Khopibung Village of Sardar Hills. Yesterday too a team of police along with NCRB/NAB destroyed similar poppy plant in the district.

## Election euphoria: War of words fills the air as candidates hoist flags, organize political conferences

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 10:** War of words once more filled the air in the state as candidates of various political parties today hoisted party flags with slashing criticism to their respective political rivals. Former congress man, who had revolted against the leadership of Okram Ibobi Singh and later resigned and joined the BJP, Nongthombam Biren of Heingang Assembly Constituency and the former Congress General Secretary, Jyotin Waikhom of Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency, who had recently joined the BJP along with Satya Singh Thokhom of Yaiskul Assembly Constituency today hoisted the party flags at the respective residence. National General Secretary, in charge of Manipur Ram Madhav along with Manipur Pradesh BJP Pradesh BJP President Ksh Bhabananda and other leaders attended all the three flag hoisting function. Supporters of each candidate pray for blessing of the candidates and leaders spew words of war to the ruling congress government dragging out the misruled, corrupt practice of the Ibobi led government. Flag hoisting function of

Jyotin Waikhom of Thangmeiband Assembly Constituency was considered utmost important as the former BJP MLA Joykishan had joined the ruling congress party. In the function BJP Manipur President Ksh Bhabananda said, "For the Thangmeiband constituency the election result is already declared, we are winning and there is no doubt about it. In the rest of the state we are quite confident with BJP winning more than thirty seats and certainly we are forming the government." He said the present government has totally misruled the state and there was no iota of doubt for it. "Our agenda will be the good governance in the state giving first priority to Law and order, there should be a bill so that economic blockade should not be continued again" added Bhabananda. Former chief minister Radhabinod Koijam who had recently joined the BJP while seaking on the occasion said, "I am confident that BJP will form the government by emerging as the largest party." He added that the Congress government is not properly doing well for the development and welfare of the society and that's why we

are supporting the BJP for the next government, said a public. The BJP gathering was also attended by former minister N. Biren Singh & Y. Irabot, MLA Th. Biswajit and Th. Chaoba, convener of the BJP election management committee among others. Former congress minister L. Jyantakumar of Keishamthong Assembly Constituency, who joined the Nationalist Peoples' Party (NPP) after being denied party ticket also hoisted party flag at his residence at Pishumthong Oinam Leikai. The former minister spells out the bias attitude and unethical behavior of the state Congress leadership. Meanwhile, Congress party also organized a political conference at Nongmeibung Community Hall. Nephew of CMOkram Ibobi Singh, Okram Henry is contesting from the Wankhei Assembly constituency. Congress Spokesperson K Ranjit, AK Mirabai and other leaders of the MPCC attended the political conference. Meanwhile, the oldest regional political party of Manipur MPP also released its manifesto. The party promises to protect the territorial integrity of the state.

## O Malesh kicks start campaign blames Congress and BJP

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 10:** Oinam Malesh, former BJP member who is now contesting the coming assembly election from North East India Development Party (NEIDP) from Naoriya Pakhang Lakpa Assembly Constituency began his election campaign today. Speaking at the launching

function of the election campaign, Oinam Malesh has accused BJP and Congress party for ignoring the long suffering of the people of the state due to the current indefinite economic blockade. It is very unfortunate to see that the two political party still continuous to put blame on each other instead of finding solution I sort out the current

issues of the state, he said. Malesh also said alleged that BJP and congress party are trying to gain political image with the war of words with each other during their election campaign. If both the parties work together as one, it will not be wrong to say that the indefinite economic blockade could be bought into end, he said.

## Manipur observes deworming day

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 10:** State Health Society Manipur today observes the National D-Warming Day at the Anganwadi Centre at Naoremthong Samushang. JC Ramthanga, IAS and Principle Secretary of Social

Welfare inaugurated the function with the administration of D-Warming tablet to s child. Parents and guardians of the Samushang area also brought their children to administer the tablet. The D-Warming tablet was

also administered to minor students of Government primary and upper primary schools. Commissioner of Education S, Director of Social Welfare and Family Welfare Services and workers of the Anganwadi Centre attended the function.

## Sasikala vs Panneerselvam:

### It is serious if MLAs are confined and if they are refusing food, Madras HC says

**Chennai, Feb.10:** A day after telling the Madras high court that AIADMK legislators supporting party general secretary V K Sasikala for chief minister's post were not under illegal confinement and that they were staying in the government MLA Hostel in Chennai, the Tamil Nadu government admitted in the court on Friday that it was an 'incorrect' statement. Also, taking note of the allegation that at least 20 MLAs were refusing to take food and water because they had been kept in confinement, the court said, "If true, it is a matter of serious concern." A division bench comprising Justice C T Selvam and Justice T Mathivanan recorded the 'incorrect' statement, and said: "This court records the submission of public prosecutor of the state that the submission made before this court on February 9 to the effect that persons/MLAs, who are alleged

to be in illegal detention, are free and are staying on their own volition in MLA Hostel is incorrect." The bench also recorded the submission that many MLAs were refusing food and drink protesting their illegal confinement. "K Balu submits that 20 of the MLAs are refusing food and drink owing to their illegal confinement. If it is true, the matter is one of serious concern. However, this court cannot act on the mere say of the counsel. Given the nature of the case, it would only be appropriate to afford the state an opportunity to inform its response." It then adjourned the case to February 13 for further proceedings. It all started on Thursday when advocate K Balu and social activist K R 'Traffic' Ramaswamy mentioned the issue of AIADMK MLAs being escorted to resorts in luxury buses in a bid to keep them together and said they were under

unlawful confinement. The additional public prosecutor denied the allegation and told a division bench that all the AIADMK MLAs were in the hostel and were free. The bench of Justice M Jaichandran and Justice T Mathivanan then refused to offer urgent hearing of the habeas corpus petitions, and said it would be heard in normal course. On Friday, a petition filed by for voter stating R T Ramachandran representing Kunnam assembly constituency in Ariyalur district had gone missing after attending a party meeting a couple of days ago, came up for hearing. The petition of M R Ilavarasan said the MLA was not accessible over phone too. Another habeas corpus petition filed by cousin of another woman MLA M Geetha too came up for hearing. (Courtesy TNN)

## Protest against kidnapping of auto driver put NH 2 to a grinding halt



Protest at Sekmai: Inset (the driver kidnapped by militants)

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 10:** Vehicular traffic along National Highway 2 was put to a grinding halt for around 8 hours today after passenger auto drivers and locals of Sekmai area protest kidnapping of an auto driver by armed group, preventing all sort of vehicular movement along the highway. The protest was however wind up after the driver was released at around noon today. Already the NH 2 has been partially crippled due to the ongoing economic blockade by the UNC. However, passenger service vehicles were allowed to travel by the UNC. Today's sudden bandh had created immense

suffering to the passengers who were returning back to Imphal and also who were supposed to leave Imphal for Senapati. The auto driver identified as Robin Thapa (about 26 years old) son of Kumar Thapa of Kanglatombi AR Colony who ran passenger service along the highway has been reported missing since yesterday morning. Later, an armed organization called Thadou Peoples' Liberation Army had claimed responsibility about the kidnapping of the auto driver and demanded a sum of Rs. One lakh for his released. He was later released at around 10.30 am at Gampiphai area near Kanglatombi.

On learning the report, drivers of passenger auto gathered at Sekmai Keithel and staged protest in the middle of the road using placards decrying harassment to drivers. The locals of the area also joined the protest and prevented all sort of vehicular movement along the route, until the time when the armed militants released him. Due to the sudden protest, passenger vehicles coming towards Imphal from Dimapur and Senapati side had remained stranded for hours. Those moving towards Senapati side were also forced to take alternative route during the protest.

## Nagaland Governor declares ULB polls null and void

**Kohima, Feb. 10:** Nagaland Governor PB Acharya has declared the process of elections to the Municipal and Town Councils in the State as null and void. Informing this in a notification yesterday, State Election Commissioner Sentiyanger Imchen also declared that the

Election Programme for the Urban Local Bodies in Nagaland announced in 21st December 2016 be withdrawn as Null and Void. Meanwhile, Statewide protest demanding resignation of Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang continues. The protesters are not allowing the functioning

of government offices and preventing government vehicles to ply on the roads. The State tribal bodies have demanded the resignation of the Chief Minister on account of the deaths of two agitators in front of his home in Dimapur on 31st January night.

## Tripura launches fortified mid-day meal programme for students

**ANI**  
**Agartala, Feb. 10:** The Tripura government in collaboration with TATA Trust has launched a programme to distribute fortified meals in all schools so that all students are covered under the health benefits. Under the programme, the government will try to provide fortified meals to students in order to counter disorders like stunting, overweight and anaemia - the major causes of maternal and child deaths said

Tripura Education Minister Tapan Chakraborty after launching the programme. About 70 per cent of pre-school children and over 50 per cent of women suffer from anaemia, caused by iron deficiency, National Survey data show. In the first phase, the government aims to promote double fortified salt in school midday-meals and in the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and mid-day

meal in all schools. In January 2016 that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pushed the idea of universal fortification - addition of key vitamin and minerals to foods to improve their nutritional value and address nutritional gaps in the population. By 2020, the Centre aims to achieve the target of universal availability of fortified food, supplying such items through the public distribution system and the open market.