

## Chief Minister Okram Ibobi files nominations 'Congress will get 2/3rd seats'

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 16:** Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, who is contesting the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly election from Thoubal

Assembly constituency today filed his nomination paper to the Returning Officer of Thoubal District Election Officer. Okram held the office of the Chief Minister for three consecutive terms and he still expect to hold the office for another term saying that Congress Party will get absolute majority in this election.

"We (Congress) will get 2/3rd seats in this election", says the confident Chief Minister while talking to reporters after filing nominations. This means of the 60 seats, the congress party is expecting to win 40 seats.

Okram Ibobi however said that there may be some ups and down in the seven assembly segments of greater Imphal area but he assured win in other seats other than the greater Imphal area as

well as hill districts assembly election.

"In Naga dominated area there are 10 seats and among these we are getting not more than 50%", said Okram Ibobi Singh.

Mention may be made that Naga civil body United Naga Council (UNC) had been imposing economic blockade for over 105 days against the creation new administrative district by Ibobi led congress government. He also said that in Ukhrul Assembly constituency he can make sure of congress winning the seat.

Interestingly, Ukhrul is the place where Chief Minister Okram Ibobi along with his cabinet colleague received deadly protest while trying to inaugurate a Mini Secretariat building last years.

The Chief Minister is confident of winning Tengnoupal, Ukhrul and



some other seats at Senapati district. On being asked whether Irom Chanu Sharmila is a threat to him or not, Ibobi said that in democracy there is nothing

called threat and everybody can contest election.

Okram Ibobi Singh hails from Khangabok Assembly constituency and after becoming Chief Minister in 8th Manipur Legislative Assembly he contested at both Thoubal and Khangabok Assembly constituencies in 9th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election in 2007 and won at both seats. Later he gave up Khangabok by fielding his wife Landhoni to replace him and till now he has been contesting at Thoubal Assembly constituency. Last Assembly election three candidates were in the fray and Okram Ibobi Singh won the seat by securing a total of 19121 votes.

This time, five candidates are likely to be in the fray in Thoubal Assembly Constituency including Chief Minister Okram Ibobi himself, if none of the candidate withdraws its nominations. Irom Chanu Sharmila of PRJA, the onetime AFSPA crusader is also among the contender of Okram Ibobi Singh.

Other candidates are Leitanthem Bashanta of BJP, Leishanthe Suresh of Trinamool Congress and Independent candidate AK Manglemjao.

## Ibobi's challenger Sharmila files nomination



**IT News**

**Imphal, Feb 16:** The one time anti-AFSPA crusader and a challenger to Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, Irom Chanu Sharmila today filed her nomination today. Sharmila's party Peoples' Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA) had earlier assured to field candidate in 4 Assembly constituencies but later dropped Khurai Assembly Constituency. Sharmila reached Thoubal on

her bicycle, covering a distance of about 20 kilometres from Imphal, flanked by her party convener Erendro Leichombam and a few other activists. PRJA, which is making its electoral debut in these polls, have been hoping to make an impact using alternative political practices. The party is depending on crowd funding from supporters and activists to pull off its election expenses.

## NSCN-IM cadres alleged of threatening villagers

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 16:** Villagers of Aimol Tampak and its adjoining villages today said that Cadres of NSCN-IM had allegedly threatened them to vote for NPF candidate in the upcoming state Assembly election.

Report said that some cadres of NSCN-IM in full uniform of the outfit came yesterday and asked them to organise a meeting at Kangoi Khunou. The villagers have been protesting the state government over decision to remove IRB post. Police which rushed the spotied a Gypsy vehicle used by the cadres, a source said.

## High Petrol Prices Force Candidates to Campaign on Foot

**PII**  
**Imphal, Feb 16:** With the state reeling under the impact of an economic blockade since last November and petrol selling at Rs 200-250 per litre, the candidates of different political parties were forced to go on a door-to-door campaign on foot. The state is under an indefinite economic blockade launched by the United Naga Council (UNC) since November 1, 2016, in protest against the creation of seven new districts bifurcating the existing ones. The supply of essential commodities, including fuel, to Manipur was severely hit due to the blockade on NH2 (via

Dimapur) and NH 37 (via Jiribam) – the two lifelines of the state. As most of the petrol pumps were facing severe shortage of fuels, they were being sold in the black market at an exorbitant price of Rs 200-250 per litre.

Political parties were compelled to use minimum number of vehicles for the purpose of campaigning. "Our candidates in most of the places were campaigning on foot. Earlier, we used to do it on cars or open jeeps. But this time there is a huge scarcity of petrol/diesel, and the prices are exorbitant," a state BJP leader said.

## NTAC relaxes some restriction in Nagaland

**Kohima, Feb 16:** The Nagaland Tribes Action Committee (NTAC), who is agitating demanding the resignation of Chief Minister T R Zeliang with total bandh in Nagaland, has relaxed some of the restrictions, but strict imposition of bandh in all Government offices and movement of Government vehicles continues. The duration of the bandh will be 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM from today in Kohima.

In a release issued by the NTAC media cell informed that the NTAC, Kohima has

decided to concentrate specifically on closure of Government offices and movement of all Government vehicles. It said in the interest and for the convenience of the general public in connection with the ongoing indefinite bandh, the purview of exemption exclusively for Kohima was relaxed the activities are, Fire Service, Hospitals, SP Office & Police Stations, District Administration, Banks, Nagaland Board of School Education and any examination related

establishments, Nagaland Public Service Commission, Students appearing Examination, Para-Military forces, Power Sub-stations, Kohima Municipal Council and Kohima Colony & Ward Sanitary vehicles, Business establishments & Eateries, Schools and Colleges both Private & Government, Public Transportation, Central Offices like Postal Services, Accountant General, Telecom & BSNL, PHE Field Staff for water supply, Private Vehicles, Pedestrians and the Press and Media.

## SSUM protests contesting of election by non local

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Feb 16:** Socialist Students' Union Manipur today staged protest against the allowing of non-manipuri to contest in the upcoming Manipur Legislative Assembly Election.

The student body today thronged to the Official Bungalow of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh at around noon today expressed their anger over the government failure to frame a legislative for checking of non local in the state.

However, they were not allowed to meet the chief Minister by security personnel deployed in the CMO bungalow.

Speaking to this reporter, a representative of SSUM said that, had government showed some seriousness to the aspiration of the people non locals would not have comes up to fight the election. The kind of act by non local is nothing but a deliberate attempt to wipe out the indigenous people of the state.

## Lost

I, the undersigned, have lost a bag containing my HDFC ATM card with Cheque, SBI ATM Pass Book, UBI Cheque, Pan Card, Adhaar Card, Voter ID, Driver License, Service ID of Medical Department of Govt. of Manipur on the way between Lamlong Bazar and RIMS on February 13, 2017.

Finders are requested to kindly hand over it to the undersigned.

SD/-

Dr. L. Tilakeswari Devi  
Tinsed Road,  
Lamlong Bazar, Imphal.

## Bombahadur Gurung: Only known Manipuri to received Indian Distinguished Service Medal in WW2

**By: Laishram Ranbir**

**Imphal, Feb 16:** Born to Am Bahadur Gurung of Kaziranga Village in Assam around 1920's, as the eldest of two sibling (one girl), Bombahadur Gurung @ BB Gurung joined the 4th Assam Rifle Battalion in the year 1935 of March 13th. "For the bravery of fighting against the Japanese troops during the WW2, protecting the clandestine airstrip at LIPEYKH on Parachute Operations in enemy occupied territory in the KAREN HILLS, the NCO in charge of a party of 14th Assam Rifles Bombahadur Gurung was awarded the *Indian Distinguished Service Medal* after being review by higher authority from the recommendation for the prestigious *Indian Order of*

*Merit*."

Initially from Kalimpong of Darjeeling, BB Gurung father AM Bahadur Gurung was a Zamindhar who settle at Kaziranga, Assam.

Moved from Assam with one of his uncle who was had joined the Assam Rifle battalion, BB Gurung began his schooling in Bengali High School in Imphal, Manipur. After studying till class 3/4, BB Gurung joined the 4th Assam Rifle Battalion in the year 1935. Though in lowest class in his education, BB Gurung had the knowledge to write and speak Nepali, Bengali, English, Hindi, Assamese, Manipuri and even understand Thangkul language.

During the WW2, in his service at 4th Assam Rifle Battalion attached in "V"

Force, BB Gurung was posted at various part of the country namely, Tamenglong, Maram, Nungba, Tengnoupal, Ukhrul, Namtiram in Tousem Division of Tamenglong, Kamjong, Phungyar, Litan, Tamu (Karen Hills) etc. and was even posted at Chindwin River.

In his posting at Ukhrul, BB Gurung met Vungjaneng Tungnung from Churchandpur Toitengphai Village whose mother was from Ukhrul. Later both got married during the WW2 and settle in Manipur at Nepali Bhasi in Chingmeirong for the rest of his life.

During his service in the force at 6th Assam Rifle Battalion in Argatala Headquarter, BB Gurung retired as Subedhar Rank a month before receiving the Subedhar Major (SM)

Rank due to his pension time. After his retirement from the 6th Assam Rifle Battalion, in the year 1969, BB Gurung was called by the then Chief Secretary of Nagaland Ralengnao Khathing @ Bob Khathing to join the Nagaland Arm Police training centre as Inspector Rank where he served for five around years till 1976.

During his posting in the 14th Assam Rifles Battalion BB Gurung also served fought with Naga hostiles and was even posted at various part of the country like Chizami, Makokchung, Jessami, Karbi Anglong, Melory, etc.

The brave BB Gurung also participated in the 1st Indo-Pak War in Kashmir and even fought at Burma in various battlefields during WW2.

At present, BB Gurung is the known Indian Distinguished Service Medal (IDSM) recipient of WW2 from Manipur and also the first Manipuri to make a parachute jump.

"The Indian Distinguished Service Medal (IDSM) was instituted for distinguished services on 25th June of 1907 to be awarded to Indian members of armed forces, in police etc. The decoration was discontinued in the year 1947." BB Gurung retired from his service from Nagaland Arm Police in Inspector Rank and return back to Manipur where he pass away at the age of around 63 on November 23, 1977 due to cardiac arrest at his home at Chingmeirong. BB Gurung had 6 children, 4 sons and 1 daughter namely

Prem Gurung, Ranjit Gurung, Kamala Gurung, Henry Gurung, Bharat Gurung and Milan Gurung where Ranjit, Henry and Milan had passed away.

During his service, it cannot be deny his passion for photography as one could find hundreds of photos captured by himself with his own camera which is still available with his elder son now settle at Langol Housing Complex. His spectacle, war maps, books, pouch and many materials used by himself at his service in the World War and after are still available and kept properly including IDSM and Burma Star medal and his badges of his service. The most amazing find from his possessed items was an

invitation of Shradha of the Late Highness Bodhchandra Singh which was held on Wednesday December 21 of 1955.

Mention can be made that BB Gurung was not just an ordinary person, being in the war at his service, he was brave, responsible person with the passion of photography and a true leader in his battalion.

Joined Assam Rifles Battalion in the year 1932 where later promoted to Havaldar Rank during WW2 and retired as Subedhar Rank, this was Bombahadur Gurung the only Manipuri to receive *Indian Distinguished Service Medal* (IDSM) and his recommendation document for IDSM is available in National Archive London, till today.