

## Rajnath campaign for BJP

**Assures protection of Manipur's territorial Integrity; expresses dissatisfaction over politicisation of eco-blockade issue by Congress**

IT News

**Imphal, Feb 19:** Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who visited Imphal today assured to protect the territorial integrity of the state.

The Home Minister arrived here in Imphal in a private airline and was received by Ksh. Bhabananda, President, BJP Manipur Pradesh, Th. Chaoba, Convenor of BJP Election Committee along with other leaders of the BJP Manipur Pradesh at Tulihal Airport Imphal.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Finance Minister of Assam, Hemanta Biswas Sharma also arrived in the state in a Pawan Han Helicopter. Both the leaders were also received by leaders of state BJP.

Soon after the arrival, the Union Home Minister along with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Hemanta Biswas went to Utluu in Nambol Assembly Constituency where they attended election campaign meeting.

Speaking at the election campaign meeting Union Home Minister Rajnath said that Manipur is not included in any way to the Frame work agreement signed between the government of India and



the NSCN-IM. He said Framework agreement is for bringing solution to the problem of the NSCN-IM and has nothing to do with the state of Manipur.

On the other hand Rajnath said that Central government is doing everything to end the prolonged economic blockade by the United Naga Council (UNC) on both the national highways however, expressed dissatisfaction to the politicisation of the issue by the congress party. He further said that whatever the state government demanded to face

the economic blockade the center has been providing all the requirement. The Home Minister was referring to the allotment of central security forces for security on High ways and also the kind of initiatives taken up by inviting the UNC for tripartite talk between the GoI, GoM and UNC.

Further speaking at the meeting, the Union home Minister spells slashing criticism to the Okram Ibobi Singh led Congress government who has been in power for 15 years saying that

corruption and nepotism reached its peak. He also categorically alleged the misappropriation of funds sanctioned for various developmental projects here in the state.

Later after attending the election campaign meeting the Union Home Minister along with Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister and Finance Minister of Assam attended the Intellectual meet cum releasing function of BJP Manipur Vision Document at MFDC Auditorium, Palace gat Imphal.

## Kejriwal donates Rs 50,000 to Irom Sharmila's party

Agency

**New Delhi, Feb 19:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday donated Rs 50,000 to Irom Sharmila's party Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRAJA) and also urged the people to donate generously and support her. "Please donate generously to Irom Sharmila," Kejriwal tweeted.

"I am donating Rs 50,000 as my small contribution to her (Irom Sharmila) and appeal to everyone to support her," he said in another tweet. Sharmila had last year ended a 16-year fast in protest against alleged army atrocities in Manipur and had said that she would contest elections to continue her movement politically.



## Former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir passes away in Kolkata

**Kolkata, Feb. 19:** In unfortunate news, former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir passed away in Kolkata after the prolonged illness. He wasn't well for some time and passed away on Sunday morning. The 68-year-old and was born in Calcutta in 1948 to a prominent Bengali Muslim family in the district of Faridpur, a town that is now a part of Bangladesh. He is known for playing an important role in many high profile cases and passing on crucial judgements. Altamas is particularly known for playing a key role in issues related to human rights and election laws. His most important case till date was that of Sandhya Manoj Wankhede of Amravati district in 2011.



Another important case presided by him was the contempt case against the prominent advocate and (the now disbanded) Team Anna member Prashant Bhusan who alleged that half of India's last 16 CJs were corrupt.

Altamas' father Jehangir Kabir was a leading Congress politician and the trade Union leader from West Bengal. He also served as

a Minister in the B.C. Roy and P.C. Sen ministries. He even went on to serve as a minister in the first non-congress government of West Bengal in 1967 with Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee as the Chief Minister.

Altamas started his career as an advocate in 1973 and practised in the District and Calcutta High Courts. He was later appointed as a permanent Judge of the Calcutta High Court in August 1990 and became the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court in March 2005. He was elevated to the Supreme Court and named the Chief Justice of India in September 2012. Altamas held this position until 18th July 2013.

## Flag hoisting

IT News

**Imphal, Feb 19:** Candidates of various political parties contesting the upcoming state assembly election today hoisted party flags at their respective residence. Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh hoisted a new party flag at the residence of the Social Worker Ningombam Gojen at Thoubal Ningombam today.

BJP Candidate L. Bashanta @ Bhim who is a keen contender of Okram Ibobi Singh also hoisted his party flag at his residence at Thoubal Achauba. Various leaders of the BJP attended the flag hoisting ceremony.

## 'Left front will form Govt. in Manipur'

IT News

**Imphal, Feb 19:** Convenor of the Left and democratic Front, a conglomerate of likeminded political party, Dr. M Nara today said that Left front will form government in 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly. Talking at the flag hoisting function Th. Nabakishor (@

Tayai), who is contesting as MNDF candidate at Kshetrigao Assembly constituency, at his residence at Kongpal Chanam Leikai today, Dr. M Nara further said that people of the state are now fed up of both the congress and the BJP as they are already tested. He said at

the juncture it is the Left front political parties that the people had started believing in Left front Political parties. Nara also said that no political parties will get majority in the upcoming state legislative assembly.

Th. Nadakumar while speaking on the occasion said that both the BJP and the Congress party are playing foul with the people of the state on the prolonged economic blockade. Both the parties are playing blame games towards one another when the people of the state already know that it is them who are making the people worried. Other leaders of the left front also attended the political party meeting.



CM Pema Khandu speaking at the flag hoisting function of BJP Candidate L. Bashanta at Thoubal

## Apply for passports at select post offices from March

PTI

**New Delhi, Feb 19:** From next month, people in select cities will be able to apply for passports in post offices under an ambitious initiative of the External Affairs Ministry.

This is aimed at making the passport issuance process hassle-free and ease burden on passport offices across the country which are grappling with large volume of applications.

In the first phase of the

project, passport services will be made available in select post offices in Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Jharkhand and some other states.

The External Affairs Ministry, which issues passports, is making all required arrangements for rollout of the scheme in some of the select cities in first half of March.

Currently, 89 Passport Seva Kendras (PSK) are operating across the country as

extended arms of the 38 Passport Offices.

According to the MEA, the government rendered 1.15 crore passport and other related services during 2016.

In Rajasthan, passport services will be available in Kota, Jaipur, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu and Jhalawar while in West Bengal it will be in Asansol, Nadia, North Dinajpur North Kolkata.

In Jharkhand, services will be offered in Deoghar, Jamshedpur and Dhanbad.

## India to get all its energy from the moon by 2030? This ISRO prof thinks so

ANI

**New Delhi, Feb 19:** India may be able to meet all its energy requirements from resources from the Moon by 2030, said Dr Sivathanu Pillai, a professor at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). ISRO recently launched a record 104 satellites to space in a single launch.

Elaborating on ISRO's future programme plans, Pillai, who was formerly the chief of BrahMos Aerospace, said all of India's energy requirements could be met through Helium 3 mined from the Moon.

"By 2030, this process target will be met," he said while delivering the valedictory address at the three-day ORF-Kalpna Chawla Space Policy Dialogue, organised by Observer Research Foundation here on Saturday.

Pillai said that mining lunar dust, which is rich in Helium 3, is a priority programme for his organisation. He added that other countries are also working on this project and that there was enough Helium in the Moon to meet the energy requirements of the whole world.

He said that ISRO was planning the whole of process

of mining Helium from the Moon, producing energy and transporting it back to earth.

Pillai also said that creating low cost access to the Moon and developing multi-purpose and reusable vehicles would help in a big when it comes to intra-planetary mining and space tourism.

"In (a) few decades, people will be going to (the) Moon for honey-moon," he said.

He said that ISRO is also working on fusion energy ITER, adding that a seven-nation consortium was working on mastering fusion technology.

Lieutenant General PM Bali, director general of Perspective Planning, Indian Army, said that the launch of GSAT-7, India's first dedicated military satellite, was testimony to its outlook towards utilisation and exploitation of outer space for national security.

He said that India has now begun acknowledging the growing requirements of space technology for its national security and is beginning to put in place relevant policy and institutional frameworks.

He pointed out that at present, India possesses one of the largest constellations of communication and remote sensing satellites covering the Asia Pacific.

Lt Gen Bali also said that though India continues with a civilian orientation to its space programme, the changing regional and global realities require it to also develop military assets in space and on ground, as an emerging regional and global power.

He added that there was a need for a dedicated military space programme with adequate resources at its disposal because of "the changing realities in our neighbourhood".

Delivering a special address on "Outer Space and Strategic Stability", Lt Gen (Retd) B S Nagal felt that maintaining space stability was "very difficult" with changing warfare and space being no taboo unlike nuclear weapons.

ORF Director Sunjoy Joshi underlined the need for framing the right regulations and the innovations required to frame regulations.

He noted that transponder capacity falls far short of

the increasing demand and the processes for leasing capacity from commercial satellites remains cumbersome, taking anywhere between three to nine months for gaining regulatory approvals.

"More clutter in space, greater challenges in the form of space debris, conflicts over demands for spectrum allocation and radio frequency interference. Then there remains the looming question of cyber vulnerabilities, the increasing trend towards weaponisation of cyberspace itself — all of these pose serious challenges for the governance of outer space," Joshi said.

The third ORF-Kalpna Chawla Space Policy Dialogue had discussions on 'Space Finance', 'Transponder Capacity for Broadcasting and Broadband over India', 'Collective Governance of the Global Commons', 'Derivatives Space-scoping the Downstream Applications', 'Emerging Space Actors', 'Making the Case for India's Space Policy', 'A New Frontier: Boosting India's Military Presence in Outer Space' and 'Space Sustainability and Global Governance'.