

## Presidential election: 7 Congress MLAs who had not officially left the party vote for NDA candidate

**IT News**  
**Imphal, July 17:** Voting is currently underway to elect the 14th President of India. Members of Parliament and legislative assemblies are exercising their franchise at designated centers at Parliament House and state assemblies complex. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh along with other Ministers of partner political parties, BJP MLAs, Congress MLAs and the lone independent MLA from Jiribam Assembly constituency, Ashab Ali cast their vote at Manipur Legislative Assembly secretariat. Interestingly, besides the coalition government partners, the 6 congress MLAs who had joined the BJP but not officially approved by the state assembly cast their vote for the NDA sponsored candidate Ram Natha Kovind, a source said. Till now the State Congress Party has not filed any petition for suspension of the congress MLAs under the tenth scheduled of the Indian constitution, neither the state assembly recognised them as the BJP MLAs. The voting value of an MLA varies from state to state; higher the population higher the value of the MLA's vote. The total population of Manipur is 2.722 million (as per the census of 2011.) and it is divided by 1000 and to that divided by number of MLAs 60. Like this the vote value of an MLA of Manipur is 45.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah who is also a legislator from Gujarat cast their vote. Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Vice President Rahul Gandhi, former PM Manmohan Singh and BSP chief Mayawati were among those prominent leaders also cast their vote at Parliament house. The total number of elected MPs in Lok Sabha is 543 (excluding the two appointed by the President of India from Anglo-Indian community).

Out of the 245 sanctioned strength of MPs in the Rajya Sabha 12 of them are nominated by the president, thus the total number of Rajya Sabha MPs counted for presidential election comes at 233. Added all up, the total number of MPs vote in India is 776 (Lok Sabha 543 + Rajya Sabha 233). The value of vote of an MP is fixed at 708 in India, which is calculated by dividing the total value of all MLAs' votes of the country (5,49,474) by the number of MPs of both the

houses (776). So the total number of votes for all the MPs in India is 5,49,408. While the total number of votes in the electoral college of the election to the President of India is total value of MLAs vote 5,49,495 + total MPs vote 5,49,408 = 10,98,903 votes. Former Bihar Governor Ram Nath Kovind and former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar are in the direct fight in the polls in the race to the Raisina Hills. The voting will be held till 5pm. Paper ballots are being used in this election

## Former Sikkim CM Nar Bahadur Bhandari passes away, PM Narendra Modi condoles death

**PTI**  
**Gangtok, July 17:** Nar Bahadur Bhandari, an obscure school teacher, who rose to become one of the longest-serving chief ministers of Sikkim, died today, state government sources said. Bhandari, a three-term former chief minister, was 77. He is survived by wife Dil Kumari Bhandari, a former MP, two daughters and a son. He breathed his last at a Delhi hospital this afternoon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoned the demise of Bhandari and praised his role in Sikkim's progress. "Saddened by the demise of Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari. His contribution towards Sikkim's progress will always be remembered. My



condolences," the prime minister's office said in a twitter post. Born in 1940 at Malbaisey in West Sikkim, Bhandari was a teacher in a government school before he joined active politics. He became the chief minister of the tiny Himalayan state for the first time in 1979 on a Janata Parishad ticket and then again in 1984 and 1989 on a Sikkim Sangram Parishad

ticket. The founder of the SSP, Bhandari remained its president till his death. Known as a pragmatic and resilient leader, Bhandari was the second chief minister after L D Kazi to hold the reins of the fledgling state which officially became a part of the Indian Union in 1975. He was also a former president of Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee. Chief Minister Pawan Chamling condoned the death of Bhandari. "I am extremely sad and shocked to know about the untimely demise of Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari. With his passing away, Sikkim has lost a worthy son of the soil whose contribution to the state and its people are unparalleled."

## Both NHs connecting mainland India cut off; 200 trucks stranded

**IT News**  
**Imphal, July 17:** The crucial Barak bridge located along the National Highway-102 collapsed on Monday morning, cutting off landlocked Manipur from rest of the country, an official said. The bridge collapsed when a 10-wheeler goods-laden truck was passing through it, a transport department official said, adding that the structure was in a fragile condition since Sunday night. This has left around 200 goods-laden trucks coming from Jiribam town to Imphal stranded. Repairing works are being carried out on war-footing, the official said. The Barak bridge is located along the Imphal-Jiribam highway and passes through the hill district of Tamenglong.



Earlier, Imphal-Dimapur highway has been cut off after a portion of the highway caved in and sank near Viswema, Nagaland. A 60 to 70 feet long section of Imphal-Dimapur highway caved in and sank at Viswema

about 10.50 Kms away from Mao day before yesterday. As the sunk section cannot be repaired immediately, people have started taking alternative routes which are mostly inter-village roads between Kohima and Mao.

## 1 AR, 4 civilian hurt in Imphal blast

**IT News**  
**Imphal, July 17:** At least three civilians and one Assam Rifles personnel were injured when a powerful IED exploded in Imphal East's Khurai Ahongei around 10:30 am today. The incident occurred at the end of retaining wall side of Indian Army War Cemetery on Khurai Ahongei Leikai crossing JNIMS road soon after 3 vehicles of AR passed through. The injured Assam Rifle personnel is identified as F.L. Willington Kom, son of L Akham Kom of Sagang Village under Kumbi PS, presently attached to Military hospital Leimakhong. The four injured civilians have been identified as Wangkheimayum Ibomcha singh (50 yrs), s/o Late W Daoji of Citizens Club Wangkhei Khunou, Rk Amushang Meitei (43 yrs), s/o Late Rk Patibabu of Cashar (Carpenter Mistry), Md Ahmed Khan (43 yrs), s/o Late Basuriddin of Khurai Ahongei and Md Sahid Khan (35 yrs) of Yairipok Changamdabi. The injured persons were admitted at JNIMS hospital and later discharge due to minor injuries. Eye witness says the blast



occurred near a scraped old car parked at the end of the cemetery wall. The IED bomb is said to be expired Indian made fitted on a 2 inch mortar which is of a remote control. A team of police officials led by Imphal East police SP K Kabib, a team of forensic science, Commandant of 6th AR Indrajit Singh and Major Tony along with Manipur Police Bomb Disposal Squad inspected the blast site. The police team found a remote control device near drainage in front of a shop around 100 meters away from the blast site on JNIMS road. Injured Wangkheimayum Ibomcha singh was on his way to pick up his mistry on his alto car when the blast occurred while the other three injured persons were sitting in front of a shop of the blast site. Report says that the bomb

might have been targeted at the 4th Assam Regiment of Leimakhong who frequently visited JNIMS for medical checkup. Wangkheimayum Ibomcha singh said that the blast occurred after an AR vehicle pass by his car while he was on his way to buy glass mirror along with his work mistry. Ibomcha expressed disappointment over the blast at public places where many innocents have lost their lives in the past and appeals the concern not to repeat such act in the future. Locals of Soibam Leikai has appeals the concern not to repeat such act in the public areas and the workshop running shops not to put up scraped vehicles and the public not to park any kind of vehicles along the Ahongei Leikai JNIMS road in order to avoid such incident in the future.

## One shot to death inside Guwahati Sikh temple

**NENA**  
**Guwahati, July 17:** A simmering internal feud triggered a gun attack at a religious function in Guwahati where one person died on Sunday. The sensational fatal attack took place in the broad day light inside a Shikh temple in Beltola where a person sprayed several rounds of bullets on a fellow from a point blank range. The accused identified as Lakhbinder Singh suddenly took up his pistol inside the temple and targeted Harbinder Singh in full view of all those who attended the function inside the temple and vanished from the spot. Harbinder, who sustained serious injury, was rushed to GNRC where he was declared brought dead. On the other, minutes after the attack, Basistha police came and held Lakhbinder from his residence. Interrogation is going on. The reason behind the attack is said to be personal feud between the two.

## Kenny Basumatary to play Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Tigmanshu Dhulia's 'Raag Desh'

**By: Vikash Singh**  
**Guwahati, July 15, 2017:** Actor-director of the Local Kung Fu films, Kenny Basumatary, will be seen on July 28th playing Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Hindi film Raag Desh, directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia, who has won the National Award for Paan Singh Tomar and has also made hits like *Sahib Bivi Gangster* and *Haasil*. He is also famous for playing villain Ramadhir Singh in the *Gangs of Wasseypur* films. Raag Desh is about the 1945 court-martial of three Indian National Army officers, who were captured during their failed attempt to throw the British out of India, and how the Red Fort trials (as they

came to be known) galvanized public opinion against the British raj. The three officers were coincidentally a Hindu (Prem Sehgal), a Muslim (Shah Nawaz Khan) and a Sikh (Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon), and their roles are being played by Mohit Marwah (Anil Kapoor's nephew), Kunal Kapoor (Rang De Basanti) and Amit Sadh (Sultan, Kai Po Che). The film is being produced by Rajya Sabha TV, with its CEO Gurdeep Singh Sappal being the film's producer. Tigmanshu Dhulia says, "I am a student of history, and I never thought I would one day get a chance to make a film on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army. No typical Bollywood



producer would finance such a project." The trailers and character intros of the film, in which Kenny can be seen as Netaji in some shots, have been well received. Speaking on how he was cast, Kenny said, "I had already acted in Tigmanshu Dhulia's Yaara, releasing later this year,

about 70,000 Englishmen controlling India's 38 crore population, a force of around 50,000 Indian soldiers would be enough to drive them out. However, the INA faced stiff British resistance at Imphal, apart from inhospitable terrain and lack of supplies, and eventually had to retreat. But once the trial of the three officers started and people started getting to know about the INA's efforts, a huge wave of public opinion began forming, leading to a widespread naval mutiny. These events were a huge catalyst in convincing the British that their time in India was indeed up. "I read three very important books on Netaji and the INA

and went through as many videos and recordings of his speeches as available," said Kenny on preparing for the role. "The physical preparation used to take about an hour every day, with shaving of my head, makeup, padding and costumes. I am not the main character in the film, though. I appear in important flashbacks." "Netaji stood 4th in the ICS exams, (the IAS exams of then), and he could have lived a comfortable life as a senior bureaucrat, but he chose the hard way and fought for the country's freedom instead. I feel it is an honour and a great responsibility to portray such a great man", concludes Kenny.