

Re-poll held for the second time 28 polling station; CEO says polling peaceful

IT News
Imphal, March 10: Re-polling in 28 polling stations across four districts of Manipur was held today amidst tight security. Voters were seen standing in queues before the polling stations to exercise their franchise before 7 am where the poll begins. Polling will end at 3 pm. Source from the CEO official said election was peaceful and turn out rate was even higher comparing yesterday's re-poll. Preliminary report said the voters turn out cross 80% but exact figure will be known after thorough examination, the source added. The re-poll was ordered following electoral malpractices in these polling stations, the official said. Among many interesting events, one polling station in the remote Saikul constituency in the newly created Kangpokpi district saw voting thrice this season.

Saikul, 60km away from Imphal, has 11 candidates in the fray - highest for any constituency in this poll. This tribal-reserved seat is dominated by the Kuki tribe, and went to polls on March 4 in the first phase. "It is a crucial seat and we had ensured a tight security cover yet we found some malpractices and ordered a re-poll," Manipur's Chief Electoral officer VK Dewangan told NDTV. The repolling took place yesterday, but the BJP again filed a complaint against the Congress candidate for booth capturing and the EC after scrutiny ordered another re-poll. About 1,000 voters are voting for the third time today. "People from remote areas have actively participated in the polls. The political parties are locked in a fierce battle in Saikul which has many heavyweight candidates this

time," said local journalist Kaybie Chongloi from Kangpokpi. The EC had directed that the polling was to be held in the Saikul police station and not

in the polling booth that was allegedly 'rigged' twice. The first phase recorded 86.5 per cent polling, followed by 88 per cent in

the second phase. Repolling at 34 booths in eight constituencies of the first phase yesterday stood at 89 per cent.

Preparations in full swing for Counting of votes tomorrow for 5 state Assembly Elections

Imphal, March 10: Elaborate arrangements are being made for the counting of votes tomorrow for Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur Assembly Elections. Counting will start at 8 in the morning and first of all postal ballots will be counted. Trends are likely to be available from noon. The Election Commission has issued guidelines on security arrangements for counting of votes. In Uttar Pradesh, a total of 78

counting centres have been set up in all 75 districts. In three districts of Amethi, Azamgarh and Kushinagar each two counting centres have been set up and in remaining all 72 districts one centre each have been set up. Punjab, Chief Electoral officer V.K. Singh has said that 14000 officials have been deployed for smooth conduct of counting. Counting will be done at 54 counting centres at 27 locations. Counting for Amritsar Lok

Sabha seat will also be conducted tomorrow for which polling was also conducted on 4th February. Tight security arrangements have been made around and inside the counting centres. In Uttarakhand, the state election department has geared up its machinery for the counting of assembly polls held in the state on 15th February. Counting agents of different political parties and candidates would be present in the counting halls. A report:

Confident of Getting a Clear Majority This Time, Says Ibobi Singh



Imphal, March 10: As the India Today- Axis exit polls predicted a majority of seats for Congress in Manipur with 30-36 seats and 16-22 seats to BJP. Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh expressed confidence by stating that it is a sure win and this time also Congress would be forming the government in Manipur. Congress has been ruling the state for 15 years since Okram Singh became the chief minister in 2002. "I am hopeful that the people of Manipur will give a clear mandate to our party. We are confident of getting a clear majority this time. We will win anywhere between 40

and 42 seats," he told a media. Singh also mentioned that the Congress would win around 42 seats in the 60-member assembly. 2017 elections were very closely watched as activist Irom Sharmila also contested elections against CM Okram Singh in his constituency Thoubal. Manipur went to polls in two phases for the 60 assembly seats and over 84 per cent voters' turnout was recorded. The exit polls have predicted a victory for the Congress in Manipur but the C-Voter predicted a win for BJP with 25 to 31 seats to BJP, 17 to 23 seats to Congress.

Uproar in Parliament

IT News Imphal, March 10: The death of late chief minister of Tamil Nadu J Jayalalitha echoed in the Lok Sabha with eight members owing allegiance to the AIADMK camp led by Mr O. Panneerselvam rushing to the well of the House raising slogans seeking CBI inquiry into her demise. As noisy scenes persisted, Speaker Sumitra Mahajan adjourned the House for a brief period. After the House reassembled, the agitated AIADMK members sought permission for an adjournment motion to discuss Jayalalitha's death and staged a walk out. In the upper house, Four AIADMK members today demanded a Central probe into the death of Jayalalitha.

Exit Polls:

BJP likely to form government, says survey

Source: Financial Express
Imphal, March 10: Manipur has been a happy hunting ground for Congress over the years under the leadership of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh who has won last three assembly elections in the state convincingly. In 2012, he led his party to an absolute majority securing 42 out of the total 60 assembly seats. In 2007, Congress had won 30 seats so the result in 2012 was a reflection of its growing status in the state. However, a lot has changed since then. This year's voting was conducted in two phases ending on March 8. Bharatiya Janata Party led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi emerged as a serious threat for Congress in the state for the first time. Even though most political pundits expect a huge downfall for Congress this

year, the contest is likely to be very close. Going into this election, under development, unemployment and frequent economic blockades were the key issues in Manipur. The state has a 19,02,562-strong electorate comprising of 9,28,573 male and 9,73,989 female voters. This year about 45,642 new voters registered themselves with Election Commission. The elections for 60 seats were held in two different phases. As per projects by MRC, BJP is likely to be single largest party in the state, winning 25-31 seats in the 60 member Assembly, while the Congress will end up getting 17-21 seats, while others will get 9-15 seats. In a projection made by the CVoter survey has projected BJP to gain in inner Manipur with 36 percent votes

while in New Districts and Outer Manipur, the party is likely to gain by 39.5 percent and 28.2 percent since last time, which means a total seat share of 33.6 percent BJP. Meanwhile, the Congress seat share has fallen since 2012 to 6.4 percent in inner Manipur, 18 percent in New District, while in Outer Manipur, swing of votes for Congress has fallen to 25.5 percent. Other political parties may see a loss of 20.6 percent seat sharing in the state. As far as seat sharing is concerned, BJP is likely to gain 14 seats from inner Manipur since 2012, while it may gain 8 seats in new districts and six seats in outer Manipur, which means the party may increase its tally to 28 more seats this time, compared to last Assembly polls. On the other hand Congress, which has

been in power in the state since last 15 years has a reason to worry about this time. According to the CVoter India survey, the party may lose 20 seats this time, with 15 from inner Manipur, 3 from New Districts and 2 from outer Manipur. Talking about others they are likely to lose 3 seats from Inner Manipur, 1 from New Districts while 8 from Outer Manipur since 2012. The survey further said that BJP will also get vote share of 34.8 percent in the state, while Congress and Others will get 32.7 percent and 32.5 percent respectively. The projections by MRC and CVoter India clearly shows that BJP in most likely be the single largest party and in most likelihood may even form the government on its own.

10 day Film Workshop

Imphal, March 10: A 10-day Film Making Workshop organized by the Films Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India in partnership with Film Society of Manipur, Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Government of Manipur and Manipur State Film Development Society from March 26 to April 4, 2017 at MSFDS Complex, Palace Gate, Imphal. Those candidates having passed 10+2 and interested in films may submit their application in plain paper with 2(two) passport photographs

at the office of Film Society of Manipur, MSRTC Complex, Moirangkhom on or before March 20, 2017. Number of intake will be 24. During the workshop, the course participants will produce two films under the guidance of eminent film personalities of the Films Division. Besides the workshop, there will be a Mumbai International Film Festival for Shorts and Documentary in Manipur to be organized by the Film Society of Manipur in collaboration with the Films Division.

Manipur HC quashed the FIR lodged maliciously against a RTI Activist (A story of patience, Trauma and Truth for fighting against corruption)

IT News
Imphal, March 10: The Chief Justice of High Court of Manipur Mr. Rakesh Ranjan Prasad quashed an FIR lodged maliciously against an RTI User on 24.02.2017. The FIR bearing No.264 (9) 20115 PRT-PS u/s 420 IPC was lodged by Mr. Luis Ngaisanao, Director, Agriculture Department against Mr. Ayeekpam Keshorjit Singh, Haobam Marak Iromleikait, Imphal for using forged BPL ration card while submitting RTI applications. The said FIR was lodged to the Porompat Police Station on 10.09.2015. In the complaint filed by Mr. Luis Ngaisanao to the Police, he mentioned that Mr. Keshorjit used two different BPL ration cards while he was filing RTI application to the Agriculture and Rural

Development & Panchayati Raj Departments and he requested to investigate the BPL cards as he suspected both the ration cards. It may be mentioned that it is the second incident that the Government of Manipur harassed citizens who were questioning the Government by demanding transparency and accountability for using public money. In 2008, one Mr. Titus Kamei of Nungba Village, Tamenglong District was also arrested and detained under because he tried to find out the truth behind the controversial implementation of Rashtriya Sram Vikas Yojana, RSVY in Tamenglong District, through RTI and thereafter released him unconditionally due to intervention by the Central Government. Just after some days of filing

the FIR, a team of Porompat Police Station came to the residence of Mr. Keshorjit Singh for arresting him. However, the unfortunate incident was not happen as Mr. Keshorjit was not in his home on the ill-fated day. Later on, he visited the Police Station and met the O.C. namely Th. Dinesh Singh and requested him to withdraw such malicious allegation. But the Police denied his sincere request. Being a whistle blower, Mr. Keshorjit was in mental agony, trouble and trauma for the last one and half years for the cause of transparency work and contention of corruption. It is shameful for some lawyers who advised their clients to file such malicious FIR against citizens which is amounted to harass and intimidation of

innocent citizens unnecessarily. Immediately, being aggrieved Mr. Keshorjit approached to the Session Court, Imphal East for interim bail and the Court passed an order for interim bail on 24.09.2015 and then an absolute bail was granted by the same court on 05.0.2015 (copy attached). However, the IO, concerned denied to submit an FR till the expired of stipulated time period for submitting a charge sheet of the said alleged offence despite the fact that the District Supply Officer, CAF&PD, Imphal West submitted them that the said two BPL ration card were found to be correct and maintained both the cards in their office record. Thus Mr. Keshorjit filed a Cril. Misc. Application to the Court of

CJM, Imphal East for calling a status report of the said FIR. On 02.11.2016, the Officer-in-Charge of Porompat Police Station namely Mr. AK. Shantikumar Singh submitted a status report to the Court stating that a charge sheet is to be submitted soon (copy attached). However, the Charge Sheet was never submitted which is lingering an innocent citizen by an FIR for many months unnecessarily and thus having no other efficacious avenue, Mr. Keshorjit file a write petition before the High Court of Manipur for quashing the said malicious FIR and thus the Hon'ble High Court issued an order stating that "...Here in the instant case, the allegation that the petitioner does have

two BPL cards does not fall in any of the categories of making a false document. In that event, the question of offence of forgery being attracted never does arise..." Advocate Wahengbam Ojit Singh represented Mr. Keshorjit at Session Court and CJM Court and Advocate Ms. Sarvodaya Lakshmi & her team represented in the High Court. During the pendency of the said FIR, the Agriculture Department submitted wrong facts to the Manipur Information Commission so that Mr. Keshorjit was also compelled to bear all the unnecessary proceedings taken up against him and thereafter in July 2016, he was also accused by a proscribed

group being misused of the RTI Act with Agriculture Department. It is revealed that if Mr. Keshorjit committed the said allegation, the Agriculture Department might not file the FIR. But such kind of frivolous acts of public authorities cannot sabotage the practice of participatory democracy through using RTI Act. Corruption could not be socially accepted norms longer in Manipur if every section of society particularly media can highlight corrupted practices of the public authority frequently. Now, the present order of the High Court indicates that corrupted public servants could never misuse the true spirit of law by filling such malicious allegations.