

Editorial

Imphal Friday, March 10, 2017

More MLAs or not BJP will form government in Manipur

For sure no political party will get absolute majority in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly election. Yet either of the Congress or the BJP will be getting single majority, and depending upon the numbers these two party win in this election the Governor Manipur will invite them to form the government. This invitation is possible only if one of these parties cross 30 MLAs in number or else the governor of Manipur has to wait for claims from any of the party.

As per exit poll conducted by various agencies both BJP and congress numbers of MLAs BJP is expected to win is 25 to 31 (CVtor exit Poll), As per exit Poll result conducted by the India Today -Axis the number of Congress seat may be in between 30-36.

As per analysis of the mainland agency it is either the BJP or the congress that will form the government.

But as per the grass root survey conducted by the Imphal Times and team, it is definitely the congress that will be simple majority, but the number to claim stake for forming election may not reach. Maximum seat expected for congress is 26 to 28.

BJP on the other hand may be the second largest political party in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly, total seat expected is not more than 20. However, with other smaller parties which are expected to get seats in the state assembly may support them if not merge for coalition government, as supporting is also a kind of advantage. There is also a possibility that BJP may form a coalition government in the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly. The only problem with this political party is the lack of a figure which will be unanimously accepted as the legislature wing leader. And right now it's too early to declare the name as result is yet to be announced.

So congress party has double advantage and for sure it is likely that the Okram Ibobi Singh government will return for another term. But the question is how long?

Even as Okram Ibobi is considered as omnipotent leader of Congress party, it is worth reminding that there are still crisis inside the congress party, as every elector believe that, each of them too should have the opportunity of becoming chief minister.

Post election scenario will be a different picture from that of the strategy of pre election campaign. If not those elected are not power hunger, that is a different story. But precisely every elected represented leaders are power hunger people. Anything can happen.

Former Chief Minister of Manipur Radhabinod Kojiam had once said that everything is possible in politics.

Manipur being more like a beggar state definitely need a close tie with the ruling party at the center and this is the main reason that Imphal Times Question for how long? If in case Okram Ibobi returns to power for the fourth terms. Anti defection law is a powerful instrument, but it lacks certain provisions to rule out delaying tactics. So if the number of BJP candidate is even lower than expected and the number of congress goes up as stated by Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, the fate of congress party may be in danger.

This write up suggest that, even though congress party returns to power and Okram Ibobi becomes chief Minister for the fourth term, the government will only work for one or two months. There will be definitely a BJP led coalition government in the state, but still except for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, nobody can predict who will be the Chief Minister is a BJP led government is formed.

Light rains in Rajasthan

Jaipur, Mar 10: Light to moderate rainfall has occurred at few places in Rajasthan due to western disturbances.

One centimetre rainfall each was recorded at Bharatpur, Saipau, Rajakhera, Baari, Mahua, Kishangarh, Thanagaji, Laxmangarh, Malakheda, Alwar,

Sikrai and Mandawar. While several other places recorded below one cm rains during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 AM, according to MeT department here. Light rains are expected at few places in eastern and at isolated areas in western parts of the state during next 48 hours, it said.

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National & International News

Supreme Court issues bailable warrant against Calcutta HC judge CS Karnan for contempt

New Delhi, March 10: The Supreme Court today issued a bailable warrant against Calcutta High Court judge CS Karnan for showing contempt to the apex court by not appearing before it as ordered.

A seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar also asked Justice Karnan to furnish a personal bond of Rs 10,000 and appear before it on March 31.

The Supreme Court has directed the West Bengal Director General of Police to personally execute the warrant against Justice Karnan to ensure his appearance before it on March 31.

The order came as Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi told the court that Justice Karnan has

refused to appear before the court in contempt case and under the Supreme Court Rules, if a person does not appear, a bailable warrant be issued against him.

On February 8, the Supreme Court had, in an unprecedented move, issued the contempt notice to a sitting High Court judge and had asked Justice Karnan to appear on February 13, which he didn't.

The issuance of the contempt notice to Justice Karnan was significant as it was for the first time in the history of the Supreme Court that it had invoked powers to initiate contempt proceedings against a sitting judge of a High Court.

Justice Karnan is accused of writing disparaging letters to the Prime Minister, Law Minister,

Supreme Court Registrar about sitting and retired top court and High Court judges. In case of some judges, Justice Karnan had even levelled the allegation of corruption and caste discrimination.

Justice Karnan had also stayed the top court collegium's decision transferring him from Madras High Court to Calcutta High Court.

At the outset of the hearing, Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi has told the apex court that the nature of various communications by Justice Karnan were "very very scandalous" and "embarrassing" and the "time has come for this court to act". He urged the court to act so that a clear message should go to the citizens that the top court will not hesitate in taking action against its own judge in the High Court.

AG said that the top court was empowered under Article 129 of the Constitution read with Article 142(2) to punish the High Court judges and the members of subordinate judiciary.

However, Chief Justice Khehar said that since it was happening for the first time. "We must be as careful as we can be. We have to see what we can do... it is a vital issue. We have to see cause and effect," said Chief Justice Khehar.

"This is presumptuous. You are presuming," the bench said. "We are receiving letters from him for a long time. Suppose if he denies writing letters, it will change the situation. We will have to hear him and we have to hear every one," the bench added.

'Pakistan Army chief needs to be persistent in fight against terror'

Washington, March 10: A top US military general has said the new Pakistan Army chief has shown signs he is taking action against the Taliban and the Haqqani network but he needs to be "more persistent" in the fight against terror. A top US military general has said the new Pakistan Army chief has shown signs he is taking action against the Taliban and the Haqqani network but he needs to be "more persistent" in the fight against terror.

Gen Joseph Votel, Commander of the US Central Command or CENTCOM, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee that Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has begun action against the terrorist groups his predecessors were reluctant to target.

Gen Votel said Pakistan Army recently supported Gen John Nicholson, Commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, in some places on the border, making sure they were doing the activities on their side of the border. He called the actions "a move in the right direction."

"But what we need is that (they) be more persistent and continue to focus in that particular area," Gen Votel said.

"I think it is key to ensure that Pakistan and Afghanistan have a very good relationship. There are certainly tensions along border along the common border between those countries and so I think a key role that we can play is in helping move that relationship forward."

Votel said in his response on a question from Senator Tom Cotton. Cotton had said that for years the US has been "lamenting the existence of sanctuaries" for the Taliban and other terrorist group in Pakistan. "As you think about the strategy to break this stalemate, what's the role of eliminating those sanctuaries inside Pakistan? And how do you plan to get after this long standing problem?"

Gen Votel said Pakistan remains a "key partner" of the US in the fight against terrorism in the Af-Pak region. "They have done some things that have been helpful to us."

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Two killed in shooting at Basel cafe, one badly injured, says police

Geneva, March 10: Two men shot dead two people and seriously injured a third on Thursday at a cafe in Basel, northwest Switzerland, police said as they hunt for the suspects.

"Two men came into Cafe 56" around 8:15 pm local time (1915 GMT) "and fired several rounds of shots," police said in a statement, without providing information on a possible motive. "Two customers were killed. Another is in a critical condition."

The assailants were on the run following the shooting, according to police, who said they had headed in the direction of the railway station after the attack.

"The reason behind the attack is not yet known and will be

investigated," the Basel prosecutor's office said in a statement. Police have asked anyone with information regarding the incident to come forward. The road next to the cafe has been cordoned off and traffic redirected.

A bullet hole was visible in one of the windows of the establishment, a small cafe in a residential neighbourhood. An AFP photographer at the scene saw police dressed in white forensic garb collecting evidence at the site. "Cafe 56 doesn't have a bad reputation," a neighbourhood resident told local newspaper *Basler Zeitung*. "It was previously an establishment known for its links to the drug world, but since the owner changed several years

ago it became an ordinary cafe," the paper quoted another resident as saying.

Gun crime is infrequent in Switzerland, even though the country has one of the highest rates of firearm ownership in the world. Citizens are allowed to keep their army-issue weapons at home outside periods of mandatory military service. This right has been controversial as sometimes weapons are used at home in domestic incidents.

The number of weapons held at

home is believed to be two million for a population of eight million, according to Swiss press.

In January, a man clad in military clothing shot and injured two police officers as they searched his home in northeast Switzerland for a suspected cannabis plantation. The gunman fled but was eventually cornered and after a standoff lasting several hours, which included negotiations over the telephone, he shot himself dead. Police searching his home found gun publications.

UN chief mulls talking to India, Pak officials on Kashmir

United Nations, March 10: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is mulling the option of talking to senior officials from India and Pakistan on the situation in Kashmir and will see how things can be improved on the ground, his spokesperson has said.

Guterres "will talk to different officials if it helps (to) move the process along. That's something that he is looking into. Beyond that, I have nothing new to say about the issue." UN chief's Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters here yesterday. Haq made the remarks when he was asked at his daily press briefing about the situation in Kashmir and if Guterres has been able to understand the Kashmir dispute and would he be talking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to start a dialogue with Pakistan.

When asked if there is a timeline as

to when the UN chief will talk to leaders from the two countries, Haq said as with any number of long-running situations, there are "a lot of complex issues" that need to be examined.

The UN Chief "will look into the issue, and certainly, he will try to see what can be done to improve the situation on the ground," Haq said. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had repeatedly expressed deep concern about the deteriorating situation along the Line of Control in Kashmir and called on all those involved to prioritise the restoration of calm and stability in order to prevent any further escalation of tensions and loss of lives.

Ban had called for the two nations to resolve their difference bilaterally, saying that his good offices were available to India and Pakistan if "accepted by both sides".

KPCC chief Sudheeran to step down, cites ill health

Thiruvananthapuram, March 10: The chief of Congress in Kerala, V M Sudheeran, today announced his decision to step down from the post, citing ill health.

The 69-year-old leader, known for taking firm stand on several issues which led to differences between him and senior party colleagues, said he was sending his resignation letter to Congress President Sonia Gandhi today itself.

"My personal difficulties should not affect party work in any manner," Sudheeran, who was the choice of Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi for the post, told reporters here, announcing his sudden decision which took everyone by

surprise. He expressed hope that the AICC will make the necessary alternative arrangements.

A former Assembly Speaker and Health Minister, Sudheeran was appointed Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee President in February 2014, replacing Ramesh Chennithala, who was inducted into the Oommen Chandy Cabinet.

Sudheeran had been keeping away from public functions due to ill health after he was recently injured while attending a function in Kozhikode. "I am indebted to the party for having restored faith in me," Sudheeran said, adding "there is nothing political" in his decision to quit.