

Deck clears for first phase Manipur Legislative Election

IT News
Imphal, March 3: All preparations have been put in place for free and fair poll in tomorrow's first phase of the state assembly elections. A total of 11 Lakh and 19 thousand electorates

across of 38 assembly constituencies from the six districts of Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Kangpokpi, Churachandpur and Pherzawl will exercise their franchise in tomorrow's poll. Polling will start at seven in the morning and will end at three in the afternoon. Altogether 168 candidates including six women are in the fray in the first phase.

Out of the 1643 polling stations for the first phase, 529 polling stations are identified as sensitive. 280 companies of Central Paramilitary Forces will be deployed and only central force will be deputed for polling duty in all polling stations.

Meanwhile, the Eastern Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Praveen Bakshi had already visited the state on Wednesday on a two day visit to review the security situation ahead of the assembly elections. The

Sl. No.	Area	Number of Assembly Constituencies within the Area
1	Imphal East	10
2	Imphal West	10
3	Bishnupur	10
4	Kangpokpi	10
5	Churachandpur	10
6	Pherzawl	10
7	Senapati	10
8	Chandel	10
9	Ukhrul	10
10	Thoubani	10
11	Maibam	10
12	Senapati	10
13	Chandel	10
14	Ukhrul	10
15	Thoubani	10
16	Maibam	10
17	Senapati	10
18	Chandel	10
19	Ukhrul	10
20	Thoubani	10
21	Maibam	10
22	Senapati	10
23	Chandel	10
24	Ukhrul	10
25	Thoubani	10
26	Maibam	10
27	Senapati	10
28	Chandel	10
29	Ukhrul	10
30	Thoubani	10
31	Maibam	10
32	Senapati	10
33	Chandel	10
34	Ukhrul	10
35	Thoubani	10
36	Maibam	10
37	Senapati	10
38	Chandel	10

Army Commander visited important locations in the state including Bishnupur, Senapati and Mantripukhri where he was briefed by the General Officer Commanding of the Red Shield Division,

Inspector General of Assam Rifles (South) and local commanders on the security challenges and the measures being taken up for ensuring a conducive atmosphere for conduct of free and fair elections.

RIMS runs without Director Prof. Ch. Arunkumar appointed as MS

IT News
Imphal, March 3: Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), one of the pioneer medical institutions in the North East India is now run without a Director since February 28.

On the other hand Prof. Ch Arunkumar (surgery dept) has been appointed as the Medical Superintendent of RIMS Hospital as the term for MS Dr. Amuba has over. RIMS is now under the supervision of the Union health Ministry and Dr. Ch Arunkumar of Anthropology department has been appointed as Director in-charge of RIMS following large scale allegations of fund



Dr. Ch. Arunkumar, New MS

misappropriation by former director Dr. Sekharjit. As per the rule in-charge director are kept for only six months but for Dr. Ch. Arunkumar, former director in-charge, he enjoyed the post for over 6 months. As per the order of the Union health Ministry, Director in charge Dr. Arunkumar ends his

service on February 28, 2017. The Union Health Ministry having known that the term of Arunkumar ends on Feb. 28, nothing has been initiated to appoint a new director. Source from the institution said that if the Union health Ministry is sincere enough to appoint a new director they could have already done it as soon as the completion of the term of the in charge director. "It seems like those in the Union health Ministry is waiting for persons who wanted to become the director as it has been a talk of the town that huge amount of money are being bribe to some officials at the Ministry for getting the post.

Indo-Myanmar border gate sealed

IT News
Imphal, March 3: With election for 11th Manipur Legislative Election scheduled to hold tomorrow, Indo-Myanmar border gate at Moreh in Chandel district has been sealed from today as a precautionary measures to prevent any disturbances to the election from outside force.

Additional Chief Secretary Home, Dr. Suresh babu had issued an order in the regard following directives from the Election Commission of India. Meanwhile, border trade has been totally shut down following the closure of the border gate. Namphalong Market complex remain shuts and the international trade is expected to be affected till March 8, that is till the conclusion of the 2nd phase election.

Bomb found at candidate's residence

IT News
Imphal, March 3: One hand grenade was found today inside the residential complex of NPP candidate for Kshirgao Assembly Constituency Vevek Raj Wangkhem at around 8.30 am. The grenade was found at the lone of the candidate's residence. Police team who rush the site safely retrieved the the bomb.

Meanwhile, locals of the area today staged a sit-in-protest in front of the residence of Vevek Raj Wangkhem decrying the placing of the hand grenade. The protestors urged concern authority to clarify the reason for placing of the bomb and also appealed not to repeat it in future. A local meira paibi said that such an act may cause serious casualty to innocent people as many people use to visit the candidates' residence for election purpose.

Vevek Raj Wangkhem is also the general secretary of National Peoples' Party. As of now no individual or groups have claimed responsibility of the placing of the bomb.

Congress eyes dominance, BJP promises end to economic blockade

ANI
Imphal, March 3: The elections fever has gripped Manipur as it gears up for the 11th state assembly polls. A total of 167 candidates of 17 political parties including the Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Naga People's Front, All India Trinamool Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) besides others are in the fray.

Polling for the 60-member legislative assembly will be held in two phases on March 4 and March 8 respectively. Kicking off the BJP's campaign at Langjing Achouba ground in Imphal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to find a solution to economic blockade that has crippled life in the state for months now if the BJP is voted to power.

"BJP government will be formed in Manipur and once we come into power we won't allow blockades to continue in the state. We promise that and we will show how the administration functions," the Prime Minister said. Ahead of the assembly polls, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi also addressed a rally at Hapta Kangjeibung in Imphal and said that his party would guide Manipur on the path of development and prosperity.

"O. Ibobi Singh is the Chief Minister of Manipur and he will take into consideration the views of the common people and run the administration smoothly and this will benefit the people of Manipur and the state as a whole," Gandhi said.

Over the last six months, several smaller parties have also emerged on the political scene. Irom Sharmila's People's Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA) is one of the new parties.

"In a multi-cultural society living in hills and valley and in between hill and valley, there will be a very harmonious living together

with understanding by connecting their hearts, to solve any problems by bringing real democracy in our state," said activist and PRJA candidate Sharmila. In wake of the polls, the Election Commission of India launched awareness campaign for the voters in Manipur.

"We launched our SVEEP campaign in the form of democracy event. On the event, election commissioner had coined the word 'Festival of Democracy' wherein all the stakeholders should participate in a festive mood either they are electors, political parties, candidates and officials. All of them should take it in the spirit of festival of democracy. That was the term the election commissioner coined it when he visited Manipur," said Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur. The election results will be announced on March 11.

Armed assailants burnt 4 vehicles of two candidates in Senapati district

IT News
Imphal, March 3: Four vehicles belonging to 2 candidates contesting the upcoming 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly election were hijacked and burnt by armed assailants today at 47-Karong Assembly Constituency in Senapati district.

Report said that one Bolero and a Tata Sumo vehicles used by workers of BJP candidate Joanthan Tao of Karong assembly constituency and another two vehicles an Alto car and a Tata Sumo use by supporters of LJP Candidate Kh Savanai who is also contesting at the same Assembly constituency were hijacked by armed militants on March 1, while they were campaigning for their respective candidates from Vaki area, the junction of Pural, Phuba And Chilivai area



located on top of Pural village. The vehicles were all found burnt down at the area today. On the hand, gun shots were heard at Motbung area in Kangpokpi district at around midnight yesterday. Report reaching here said that

KNF (p) summoned all village chiefs from Saitu area and threatened them to vote for BJP. The report added that on receiving that news, KRA (U) cadres black flagged in the air. There were no reports of any human casualty.

No question of giving up - P. Dhanakumar

IT News
Imphal, March 3: North East India Democratic Party (NEIDP) candidate of Keishamthong Assembly constituency Potsangbam Dhanakumar today said that there is no question of giving up election fight as spread by some of the people in his constituency.



Speaking to reporters, at his Hoabam Marak Constituency, Dhanakumar said that some people has been deliberately spreading rumours about him giving up the election which

is not true at all. He further points the Congress candidate and NPP candidate of spreading such rumours as they want to fool the people of the constituency. Dhanakumar appealed the people of the constituency not to allow them buying by candidates with their black money earn through illegal means.

The ECI has fixed the expenditure of each candidate at Rs. 20 lakhs there are talks that some candidates had already spend over cores of rupees for buying vote.

MNRF observes 6th Anniversary

IT News
Imphal, March 3: Manipur Naga Revolutionary Front (MNRF) has observed its 6th Anniversary at different places of Manipur and outside.

As per a statement main observance function were held at its Central Headquarters, General Headquarters, Tactical Headquarters and Branch Units of the front at 10 a.m. by hoisting the party flag. Paying homage by maintaining silence observance to the martyrs and with valuable speeches on the party's motto - Unity, Independence and Co-existence mark the 6th Anniversary observance of the outfit, the statement added.



Those guests of other fraternal parties of Manipur and WESEA who participated in the function at Valor, Truth

in Unity different places are heartily thanked and wish you success of the revolution. The front is also very much

thankful to media houses for their co-operation publishing all the press releases in time, the statement added.

ICAR workshop promotes organic farming in north-east

ANI
Shillong, March 3: To utilise the available indigenous resources and promote organic farming India's north-east region, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) recently held an exhibition-cum-workshop in Meghalaya province.

To promote organic farming in the region and to bring out the flavor of indigenous food, the ICAR for north-eastern region, organised a three-day long

exhibition-cum-workshop on "traditional farming and indigenous foods of north-east" at Umiam in the province of Meghalaya. Dr. T. Mohapatra, secretary of department of agricultural research education, Government of India, and in the presence of other dignitaries, the event aimed to explore the possibilities and new ventures in food sectors of the north-east region.