

Protest staged against assault on PRJA candidate Erendro L.



4 UGs with arms arrested by AR

IT News
Imphal, March 5: Troops of 25 Assam Rifles apprehended 4 cadres of KNF (P) along with arms and ammunitions from Churahadpur area under Churahandpur district at around 5.30 am today morning. As per source from the AR two AK 56 Rifles, two pistols, 148 live rounds, four mobile phones and some incriminating articles were recovered from the cadres. They have been handed over to Churahandpur police station.

Protest staged against attacked to PRJA candidates

IT News
Imphal, March 5: A sit-in-protest was staged today at Thangmeiband area against the attacked and assault to PRA candidate Erendro Leichomba who has been contesting election from Thangmeiband assembly constituency yesterday afternoon by some people at Thangmeiband Sinam Leikai. The protesters demanded immediate punishment of those involved in the attack to the candidate.

Gaikhangam mocks BJP, says it is smaller than local party in Manipur

IT News
Imphal, March 5: Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam today mock the BJP saying that even though BJP is popular at most of the mainland Indian states, it is smaller than even a regional political party here in the state of Manipur. The former president of MPCC, now a star campaigner of the Congress party in Manipur Gaikhangam said this while speaking at the flag hoisting ceremony of Alhaj Abdul Nasir, the INC candidate for 30-Lilong Assembly constituency at Lilong Chaobok Mairalkhul. The flag hoisting ceremony held a day after the completion of first phase election was also attended by Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, MPCC President TN Haokip, Law Minister I Hemochandra, Commerce and Industries Minister Govindas



Konthoujam, RD & PR Minister M Okendro Singh and MLA Loken. 2nd phase polling for the 22 assembly constituencies including Liang Assembly constituency will be held on March 8. The Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam further said that Congress will come back to with thumping majority. Reacting to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at which he said that the BJP will celebrate Holi festival together, during an

election campaign here in Imphal, Gaikhangam said that such a dream will never come true as BJP is a communal party which is being led by members ran away from the congress party. The Deputy Minister further added that Congress is the only political party that will bring unity and integrity in the state. Gaikhangam also highlighted the various developmental works being taken up under the leadership of Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh.

Seminar on 'Armed Violence and Nationalism begins at MU

IT News
Imphal, March 5: Inaugural function of the seminar on 'Armed Violence and Nationalism: Reflections in Manipuri Literature' organized with the objective to capture the insurgency engendered issues of the resistance and dissent, nostalgia for the glorious past, the present day turmoil, the hope for better future and harmonious inter/intra community relations as

documented and portrayed in Manipuri literature in the forms of novels, poems and plays organized by the Centre for Manipuri Studies, Manipur University (MU) was held today at the Conference Hall of Anthropology Department University. Vice chancellor of MU, Prof. Arya Prasad Pande, Prof. W. Nabakumar of Anthropology Dept., MU among others attended the inaugural function

of the seminar. In the keynote, Prof. Nabakumar articulated that anti-colonial nationalism is the product of decolonising forces. The meaning of nationalism in Asia and Africa is found to be quite different from those propagated and practiced by the western countries. Instead of 'third world countries', he preferred to use 'Asia and Africa' reasoning that there is an ethical bias in the term 'third world'.

Will marry Irom Sharmila after 2019 polls: Boyfriend

Courtesy Indian Express
Guwahati, March 5: Manipur's iconic activist Irom Sharmila last month said she would get married after the elections. It seems her boyfriend Desmond Coutinho has now developed cold feet. "Whatever the result of the election, I will not be marrying Irom Sharmila until after the elections in 2019 (Lok Sabha). She has too much work to do in Manipur," Desmond said in a Facebook post on Saturday. The British citizen with Goan roots has been with Sharmila for years. Desmond said Sharmila had to build up her political party People's Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA) with widespread Manipuri representation from all

communities living in the State. "We are no teenagers. Two more years is not long to wait," he said. "It is not about winning but allowing people the option to take responsibility for their own lives grow up in a democracy. She has forged good alliances with the LDF (Left Democratic Front) both in Manipur and in India. Various leaders from the diverse communities of Manipur have reached out to her. And there is two million rupees in the war chest. There will be work to be done in and for Manipur," posted Desmond. Desmond also used unparliamentary language in the post and like in the past, drew ire in Manipur. On Saturday, his criticism was for Sharmila's vocal supporter, Laba Yambem.



(File Photo)

"Friends hear from Desmond Coutinho stating that he will only be marrying Sharmila the MLA and not Sharmila the hunger-striking activist who he was able to lure with his charms," said Yambem. "Now I can dare say publicly that should anything untoward happen to

Sharmila, the onus should lie on Desmond Coutinho ji alone," he said. Yambem said after hearing what Desmond said, if something were to happen to Sharmila then there was a provision in the Indian Penal Code called "guilty for abetment to suicide".

EC issues directions to CEOs of 5 poll bound states

New Delhi, March 5: The Election Commission has issued directions to the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of the five poll bound states of Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Manipur for making fool proof security arrangements for counting of votes.

These directions are in addition to those issued earlier by the Commission regarding

storage and safety arrangements of EVMs, appointment of counting staff, counting agents and counting procedures.

The Commission also had several rounds of video conferences with the CEOs and Returning Officers of all 5 States to take first hand inputs on the preparedness of the counting arrangements.

Giving details of security mechanism set up, the Senior Election Commission officer said that the ECI is not leaving any stone unturned to fair and transparent counting arrangements at all the 157 counting centres. Counting will take place at 53 centres in Punjab, 2 in Goa, 75 in Uttar Pradesh, 15 in Uttarakhand and 12 centres in Manipur.

The Election Commission has taken feedback from all political parties and candidates, based on which these additional instructions have been issued with a view to further bolster security arrangements to tackle both general as well as

situation specific exigencies and ensure a smooth counting process in a transparent manner.

ECI has instructed all the CEOs and DEOs to make the above arrangements and undertake counting process cautiously, step by step and without undue haste so as to make them fool proof, the EC officer added.

The instruction includes proper barricading arrangements inside each of the counting hall with weld wires mesh to segregate the counting agents from the counting personnel and EVMs, proper arrangement for Videography in all the counting halls to record the general happenings in the counting hall for effective monitoring.

The Commission has also instructed that all counting arrangements must be completed by night of 7th March. It said, the Observers will visit the counting halls on 8th March and will send a report to the Commission on counting arrangements.

EC instructions

1. All the existing instructions of ECI on counting arrangement to be strictly followed by the DEOs and ROs in letter and spirit.
2. Proper barricading arrangements to be ensured inside each of the counting hall with weld wires mesh to segregate the counting agents from the counting personnel and EVMs etc. as per the Commission's instructions.
3. In each of the counting hall proper arrangement for Videography should be made to record the general happenings in the counting hall for effective monitoring of the counting process as per the Commission's instructions.
4. Effective barricading from the strong room door up to the counting hall door shall be made in such a way that EVMs of each constituency should go to its respective counting hall only and shall not criss-cross each other.
5. For ease of identification, Coloured badges may be given to the staff engaged for transporting the EVMs to a particular counting hall each of constituency.
6. As per the Commission's instructions, all counting arrangements must be completed by the night of 7th March, 2017. The Observers shall visit the counting halls on the 8th March, 2017 and shall send a report to the Commission on counting arrangements.
7. It should be ensured that security protocol of strong rooms, as given in the Commission's letter no. 51/8/VVPAT/2015-EMS dated 5th May 2015, in no way shall be breached while making the barricading arrangements and other preparatory work for the counting hall. If anywhere, counting hall is in the proximity of the Strong room or the passage to the counting hall is near the strong room, then proper strong barricading should be erected to ensure that the access to the inner perimeter of the strong room is completely blocked. In all such matters, the DEO shall personally oversee and approve all such arrangements and ensure that security of EVMs in no way be breached. Further, in all such places CCTV cameras may be placed, before under taking the counting arrangements, from where all the happenings of the movement are recorded and shown on a separate TV placed next to the TV fixed already for round the clock viewing of strong room doors by the candidates.
8. On the date of counting, additional CCTV camera may be installed at such locations from where carrying of EVMs from the strong room to the counting hall can be recorded for effective monitoring.
9. The CEO shall personally monitor and ensure that all the counting arrangements are done as per the instructions of the Commission.
10. The entire plan would be shared with contesting candidates by each DEO. The actual work of preparing for the counting shall be started thereafter for which all the contesting candidates/representatives may be invited to be present, if they wish so.

Congress demands FIR against PM Modi

New Delhi, March 5: Congress has demanded filing of FIRs against BJP leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi for conducting road show at Varanasi without necessary permission from Election authority.

In its complaint, the party said, Mr Modi conducted road show from Banaras Hindu University for about 7 Kilometres covering three assembly constituencies. During his roadshow, the Prime Minister also went to Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Kaal Bhero Temple. Congress requested the EC to take action against all the BJP leaders who were part of the road show.