

## ECI calls all-party meet on May 12 on EVM issue

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, May 4:** Election Commission has called an all-party meeting on 12th of this month over the issue of

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The meeting takes place amid opposition parties' allegations of EVM tampering.

Last month, sixteen opposition parties had urged the Election Commission to revert to the paper ballot system. They say the alleged tampering has created trust deficit in the credibility of the EVMs. However, the poll body has been maintaining that EVMs are tamper proof and cannot be manipulated. After the UP Assembly poll results, BSP Chief Mayawati had made allegations of EVM tampering. Later, other opposition parties joined her. Following this, the poll body issued several clarifications on the issue.

The Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi had informed that the commission would call a meeting of all political parties to assure them that the electronic voting machines (EVMs) were tampering-proof and secured.

He had said that the commission intends to use Voter-Verified Paper Audit

Trail (VVPAT) in all coming elections to bring in more transparency and boosting the confidence of people in the electoral process.

"We will soon hold an all-party meeting in which they will be told how our EVMs are non-tamperable and secured as per our administrative and technical safeguard system," the CEC had informed. He was responding to questions about allegations levelled by various political parties against EVMs. Recently sixteen opposition parties had urged the ECI to revert to ballot system, claiming the faith of the people in EVMs had been "eroded". Zaidi also said that the ECI is planning to "hold a challenge" for which time frame is being worked out.

The CEC had said that the ECI had placed an order for the supply of VVPAT machines for use in elections.

"For VVPAT, we have got all the funds. We have placed an order for the supply of 15 lakh VVPAT with two PSUs Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Electronic Corporation of India (ECI)," Zaidi had said.

## 2 days state level youth convention begins 'Youth if properly trained is an asset for the country' - Governor

**DIPR**  
**Imphal, April 4:** A Two days State Level Youth Convention, 2017 under the theme 'Role of Youth in Socio-Economic Development' was today inaugurated at Gandhi Memorial Hall, Imphal.

The inaugural function was graced by the Governor of Manipur Dr. Najma A. Heptulla and Executive Chairman, MASLSA & Justice, High Court of Manipur N. Kotiswor Singh as Chief Guest and President respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said it is significant and appropriate that this Youth Convention is being organized and she strongly believe that this Convention will surely deliberate and come up with a roadmap for a more meaningful role of the youth for the socio-economic development of the state. She further said that, the youth in India comprises 27.5% of the population. Youth if properly trained is an asset for the country but if not, can create multifarious problems. The youth of the country and the state have done everyone proud with their achievement. This Youth Convention being



land. He also encourages the students to read Constitution of India and understand Rule of law which implies respecting the democratic institution. He also said that the topic chosen for the Convention are relevant for the present society. Kotiswor further said that Manipur State Legal Services Authority provides free and competent legal service to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice, free legal advice, free counselling and preparation of legal documents. The Youth Convention was organized by Service Bridge Agency in collaboration with Manipur Legal Service Authority and attended by many students. In this two Day State Level Youth Convention, eminent lawyers and experts would attend as resource persons. Various topic including 'Legal Aids', Law Relating to Cyber Crime, etc. will be discussed in the technical session

organized is in the right direction and it has done a commendable job in uniting the youth of different parts of the state on a single platform. Such Convention should also be organized at different parts of the state spreading the right message and infusing the right spirit, the spirit of love, peace, compassion, hard work and commitment in youth for the socio-economic development of the state.

The Governor also stated that State Government has already framed Manipur State Youth Policy from the year, 2011 in

which important objectives were highlighted such as to foster among the youth a spirit of national consciousness; fight against all forms of substance abuse; to provide the youth proper educational training opportunity to equip them with working skills for employment and self-employment opportunities including financial assistance. In his Presidential speech, Justice N. Kotiswor Singh said this Youth Convention is important for the students and youngster to know the basic fundamental law of the

### 3 hurt in school van mishap

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Three children studying at Nawa Sindam Sang were injured when the school van carrying students met with an accident at Poiroukhongjin Kaina around noon. According to reports, the injured students have been hospitalized at Yairipok community health centre.

### CCPur woman nabbed with Rs 9 lakh worth WIY tablets

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Personnel of 12 Assam Rifles recovered approximately 1823 numbers of World is Yours tablets concealed in nine packets from a woman during checking at Khudengthabi on Imphal-Moreh route. According to reports the woman identified as Nemneifel, 38, wife of Th Henmuanal, of Churachandpur was travelling in a Maruti Eco having registration number MN01S 6031 when the drugs worth Rs 9.11 lakh were detected in her possession. She was latter handed over to the police along with the recovered items.

### Narcotic drive

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Narcotic Cell of state Police department today conducted drive at Thangal Keithel and its surrounding and seized several illegal intoxicants.

## CAF and PD inspects various oil pumps

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Two teams led by Director of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution (CAF and PD) today inspected oil pumps in various areas of Imphal East and Imphal West districts. Speaking to the media persons, Yumnam Ranjan, Director of CAF and PD said that some oil pumps are not giving fuels to the public causing serious inconveniences. CAF and PD department along with the state government will take up strict actions against those oil pumps which were found closed after collecting petroleum products from the oil depot, he added. Yumnam Ranjan also clarified that there is buffer stock of petroleum products for at least 30 days at the oil depot and appealed the public not to panic. Routine updates on the stock levels of petrol and diesel are being sent to the department from the IOC and there is no real need to panic, he added. CAF and PD



will also conduct drives at oil pumps regularly as part of a policy including those in hill districts, he added. The teams inspected PCTC, M/S K Nilo Singh, M/S Uripok Energy Station, Highway Petroleum, Singamei NRL oil pumps etc. and checked the stocks of petrol and diesel available at the respective pumps. Many oil pumps remained close with sign board of out of stock placed in front of the pumps despite having adequate stocks of petroleum products while some of the pumps were being used as parking lots. Ranjan said those oil agencies that are not offering public

service or voluntarily closing despite having sufficient stock of petroleum products will be penalized. The nature of punishment, whether to seal the oil pumps or cancel their licenses, will be decided at the government level, he said adding that many NRL oil pumps were found closed for many days. The strike of the drivers was settled amicably after assurance of a satisfactory package for them. The frequency of incoming oil tankers to the state has normalized and the feeling of an artificial scarcity of petroleum products is a creation of the oil agencies, he asserted.

## Vendors make fresh plea to CM

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** The Ima Panthoibi Street Vendors Union has made a renewed demand to the new state government for construction of a market place at the site opposite of ISBT, Khuman Lampak today. In a press release, the union stated that the establishment of a women market at this place will

be a very suitable one as it is already an active trading centre for traders from both hills and valley. The demand for the market has been placed repeatedly before different governments in the state from 2010 onwards and North Eastern Council had even sanctioned fund for its construction in 2014. However,

no real action for the construction is visible, it added. The statement went on to appeal to the new chief minister N Biren to consider the welfare of the future generations and build an integrated market to be shared by traders from both hills and valley and with vending space for 1000 people.

## Modern College students stage sit-in-protest

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Students of Modern College, Porompat, Imphal East, today staged a sit-in-protest demanding sufficient number of teachers in the geography department. Speaking to the media persons, Robert Touthang, General Secretary of Students' Union of Modern College (SUMC) said that only two geography teachers are teaching the 698 students and the students have been suffering for the past two years due to the shortage of teachers. After 10 months the two teachers will retire from their jobs, after

which the geography department will be defunct, he added. Robert alleged that on May 2 the union has sent a proposal to the additional director at the directorate but the director turn it down and their problems has been ignored till date. Such indifferent director should be dismissed from the position by the authority concern, he added. Robert also said that

examination is drawing near but the syllabus has not yet been covered. The college also does not have a librarian too, he complained. The students urged the authority concern and the government to meet their demands within 48 hours and forwarded a threat that failure to heed them will lead to the shutdown of A-Block of the college and even an examination boycott.

## The Public of Manipur bear no ill feelings against Irom Sharmilla: Maoist

**IT News**  
**Imphal, May 4:** Armed rebel group the Maoist Communist Party Manipur in a statement has strongly condemned and rejected the allegation of India Today journalist Renu Ratheesh, who published an article under the heading "Rejected by her own people" (India Today dated 2nd May 2017) in connection to the marriage of Irom Sharmilla to one Desmond Coutinho. "This is a naked lie, an attempt to hide the real facts & the truth, insulting and portraying the public in a bad light. The dirty Indian Politics, known all over the world as one of the filthiest Politics can in fact be described as Semi Feudal in nature. The people of Manipur have witnessed the

descendents and expanded family members of Okram Iboibi, Rishang Keishing, RK Ranbir, Irengbam Tompok etc displaying family or acquired political inheritance since time immemorial. And in such a political scenario the political plume taken by Ms Irom under the guidance of certain money oriented NGOs was resented by many. But at the end of the day her wish was respected and she unfortunately lost the fray, true to the nature and color of the filthy Indian Politics", the statement added. The statement added that the usage of "as being rejected by her own people" by looking at the result of a mere election and that too standing against the kingly of the one of the

dirtyest era of Manipur Politics is simply childish and unethical, reflecting a sinister attitude of the Indian media against the people of Manipur. The statement further questions Where was the National media when she was incarcerated in solitary confinement for sixteen years? It said Indian National media was never interested in highlighting the genuine issues of Manipur viz AFSPA, blockades, natural disasters like flood, earthquakes or any other man made calamities or for that matter even to discuss Irom's then the prolonged fast and all the while portraying to the rest of the world that her fast was done at the behest of the Rebels (Another man's Freedom fighter is a rebel to

others) and in support of them. "Do we need to remind the Indian Media that they too are equally dirty as much as the Indian Politics, if not more. Do we need to remind the Indian Media the "World Press Freedom Index Report", where they are in the 136th place out of a total of 180 countries in terms of transparency", the Maoist questioned. "So to judge the people of Manipur by a dirty media controlled by a dirty Indian Politics based on a filthy corruption & nepotism filled Indian modeled Manipur election is indeed laughable, a moronic verdict and a complete farce" the statement added. It added that everyone knows election in India is an investment and candidates

spends or throws millions to buy the numbers (voters) since democracy depends on numbers. So the so called Indian democracy is in fact a "thugery" system or a "Money-crazy" and to judge & pass a verdict based on their yardstick is the biggest joke of the century. "We in fact would like to challenge the Indian Media to do an online referendum on this topic to see who rejects Ms Irom and the online referendum should be, to the chagrin of the Indian Media, done by any organization from a third country where the dirty hands of Indian Politics are barred. We are sure that 99.9% of the Manipurians will show their support for her", the Maoist said.

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