

# Nagaland CM meets PM Modi; calls for early settlement to vexed Naga Political issue

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec. 15

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio along with MP (Lok Sabha) Tokheho Yephthomi called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 13 at Parliament House in New Delhi. The Chief Minister impressed upon the Prime Minister the desire of the Nagas for an early settlement to the vexed, decade-old Naga political issue. Rio briefed the Prime Minister that the Nagaland Gaon Bura

Federation (NGBF) also carried out a peaceful march on 12<sup>th</sup> December across all districts of the State and also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Governor of Nagaland and all the DCs for an early and inclusive solution. He expressed appreciation to the Prime Minister for the NDA Government's "commitment" towards resolving the long-pending Naga political issue for which the GoI had been negotiating with the NNPGs.

Rio also discussed the Ciethu Airport at Kohima and apprised the Prime Minister that it was a commitment of the then Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee that all State Capitals should have an airport. The Chief Minister compared the project to the Silchar-Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal railway project and stated that the estimated cost of Ciethu Airport project was much less compared to the railway project. He expressed anguish over the delay in the

sanctioning of the airport and hoped that the Prime Minister will personally intervene in the matter. The Chief Minister further requested the Prime Minister to release the pending balance under erstwhile SPA due to the State as some of those projects have already been completed while the others are on the verge of completion. Rio apprised Modi that the recommendation for release of SPA was duly forwarded by the Ministry of Finance wherein some queries

were made to NITI Aayog for clarification which NITI Aayog had replied. He urged the Prime Minister to recommend release of the approved amount so that the various ongoing developmental works may be completed at the earliest since it is long overdue. The Prime Minister expressed his gratefulness to the Chief Minister and the MP (Lok Sabha) for apprising him and assured that he will take up the matters with the ministries concerned.

# Akhilesh Says Yes, Mayawati Keeps Congress Guessing as Kamal Nath's Swearing-in is Latest Oppn Meeting Ground

Agency  
New Delhi, Dec. 15

Almost seven months after the swearing-in of JD(S) leader and Karnataka chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, another CM's swearing-in event will turn into a massive show of strength for the national opposition. Preparations are underway in Bhopal for the swearing-in of Madhya Pradesh's new CM Kamal Nath. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who is supporting the Congress government in the state, and Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, who has taken on the

mantle of bringing the opposition together, have confirmed their participation. But BSP Mayawati, who has also supported Congress in forming a government in the state after 15 years, is still to respond to the invite. She, along with Akhilesh Yadav, had also not attended an opposition meet a day before the assembly election results were announced amid differences over seat sharing in UP for the 2019 general elections. Other senior opposition leaders who have confirmed their presence include Kerala CM and CPI(M) leader Pinarayi Vijayan, V Pudu-cherry CM and Congress leader

V Narayanasamy and senior TMC leader Dinesh Trivedi. Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi is also likely to attend the event. Madhya Pradesh is the largest of the three in the 'Hindi heartland' states that Congress just wrested from the BJP in the recently concluded assembly elections. With 29 Lok Sabha seats, it sends more MPs to the Parliament than Rajasthan or Chhattisgarh (at present 26 of these seats are with the BJP, 3 with Congress). It is also crucial considering the local level alliance that has just come to be here -

apart from support from four independent MLAs, SP has offered one and BSP two of its MLAs to help Congress with its 114 MLAs to reach the majority mark of 116. The Congress has managed to stitch together a mini mahagathbandhan with itself in the leading role, in what it will hope to be a model for a national opposition alliance. With Lok Sabha elections

only four months away now, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi planning a massive political campaign of 25 rallies in January alone to expand BJP's influence in places like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, where it has yet to succeed, Kamal Nath's swearing-in ceremony could provide for a platform to the opposition to chalk out a strategy, and iron out differences in time.

# Bidyapati stuns favourite Amisha Bharti on day three of junior Nationals Boxing Championship



Courtesy - Scroll  
Chandigarh, Dec 15,

Manipur's N Bidyapati stunned Amisha Kumar Bharti of Assam in the second round of Junior National Boxing Championships in Chandigarh on Friday. In the 50kg bout of the day, the Assam pugilist began as a favourite in the afternoon against lesser-known Manipuri only to

fade away as Bidyapati won 4:1 in what was a major upset so far. The Manipuri boxer was all over her Assamese opponent and landing her combination punches, which culminated in her winning the bout on spit decisions. Amisha, who had won a silver medal at Silesian Cup in Poland, couldn't bring her best as Bidyapati emerged

winners with judges' verdicts favouring her. Later in the afternoon, Aashreya Naik proved her superiority over Punjab's Jashanpreet Kaur, beating her 5:0 in the 60 kg class. The Goan boxer with good international exposure under her belt she had won a silver medal at the Selesian Cup in Poland it became easy against her Punjab rival.

# Chanu Creations training to 150 weavers in East Sikkim District



IT News  
Imphal, Dec 15,

Chanu Creations distributed certificates to 150 weavers at West Pendum East Sikkim district yesterday. The weavers were certified

after completing training conducted by the Chanu Creation under the Under National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Chanu Creations, Thangmeiband, Imphal trained RPL-PMKVY skill training to 150 weavers in

East Sikkim District on the job role "Two Shaft Handloom Weaver" from 19th June, 2018 to 21st June, 2018 as Project Implementing Agency (PIA). The certificate distribution programme was attended by Oma Devi Sharma, Ex-Vice President West Pendum Sakchu Panchayat (East Sikkim District), W. Joyshankar Luwang, Project Manager Chanu Creations, Tula Ram Dahal, Project Assistant Sikkim Rural Development Agency, Prakash Rai Social Worker and Chiroam Indira Proprietor Chanu Creations as Chief Guest, President and Guest of Honours respectively.

## Declaration

Two organizations - "Manipur Extreme Sports" and "Manipur Roller Sports Association" will be registered under the Manipur Society Registration Act. Any persons who want to object their registration of the two bodies can submit their objection plea within 5 days from the publication of this advertisement. No objection will be entertained after the said days.

Contact No. 7005298979

# IndiGO flight grounded after bomb threat call

Agency  
Mumbai, Dec 15

An IndiGo flight from Mumbai to Lucknow via Delhi was grounded Saturday after a bomb threat call, airport sources said. The aircraft was taken to an isolated bay for a secondary ladder point check after a Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC) found the threat as specific, the sources said. Later, security agencies declared the plane "safe", they said. Repeated attempts for IndiGo's reaction on the development did not fructify. The flight was scheduled to depart at 6.05 am. It was immediately not clear as to how many passengers were on board.

A woman passenger travelling to Delhi on Go Air flight G8 329 approached an IndiGo check-in counter at TI and informed that there was a bomb in IndiGo's flight 6E 3612 (operating on Mumbai Delhi/Lucknow route), an airport source said. The woman passenger also showed photographs of a few people and claimed that they were a "threat to the nation, the source said. Thereafter, CISF personnel took her to the airport police station for questioning. A BTAC was convened in CISF Assistant Commander's office which declared the threat a specific one, the source added.

# Wickremesinghe likely to take oath as Sri Lanka's PM on Sunday

Agency  
Colombo, Dec 15

Ranil Wickremesinghe is expected to take oath as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister on Sunday after disputed Premier Mahinda Rajapaksa will resign on Saturday, signalling an end to the nearly two-month power tussle in the island nation. President Maithripala Sirisena has reportedly agreed to reinstate ousted Prime Minister Wickremesinghe in the post after a discussion with him over the phone on Friday, Colombo Page reported.

Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) said that it was decided during the discussion that he will take oath as the Prime Minister at 10 am on Sunday. The President removed Wickremesinghe from the post of Prime Minister on October 26 and appointed former president Rajapaksa as the Premier, plunging the country into an unprecedented crisis. Wickremesinghe refused to accept the sacking and challenged it in a court and in the Parliament. The daily reported that a new Cabinet will be sworn in on Monday. The

Cabinet will consist of 30 members and include six Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) parliamentarians, it said. Rajapaksa's son on Friday announced that the former strongman will resign on Saturday, after two crucial Supreme Court decisions made the embattled leader's efforts to cling to premiership untenable. The apex court on Friday refused to stay a court order restraining Rajapaksa, 73, from holding the office of Prime Minister until it fully heard the case next month. "To ensure stability of the

nation, Former President @PresRajapaksa has decided to resign from the Premiership tomorrow after an address to the nation," Rajapaksa's son Namal tweeted. The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) with former president, SLFP and others will "now work to form a broader political coalition with President Sirisena", Namal, a lawmaker, added. The apex court's Friday ruling came a day after it unanimously declared that the dissolution of Parliament by President Sirisena was "illegal".

# NGT orders reopening of Vedanta copper plant in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi

Agency  
Tamil Nadu, Dec. 15

The National Green Tribunal has set aside the Tamil Nadu Government's order closing down the Vedanta-owned SterliteNSE-1.36% Copper factory in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. The Tribunal has also directed the state pollution control board to renew a key licence, Consent To Operate, and remove other hurdles subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, within three weeks from now. "Accordingly, we allow this appeal, set aside the impugned orders and direct the TNPCB to pass fresh order of renewal of consent and authorization to handle hazardous

substances, in the light of above finding, subject to appropriate conditions for protection of environment in accordance with law within three weeks from today," the National Green Tribunal ordered in its judgment dated December 15, seen by ET. The Tribunal has also ordered for restoration of power supply to the factory, subject to certain conditions. On May 23, the state pollution control board had suspended power supply after it claimed to have found production-related activity inside the factory, at a time the Sterlite Copper plant hadn't had a licence to run the unit. The NGT order is the culmination of a legal battle for over 6 months.

Sterlite Copper had moved the NGT well over a month after the closure order by Tamil Nadu in May this year. In the order, the Tribunal had adjudicated on the legality of the Tamil Nadu pollution control board to refuse a renewal of the Consent to Operate, the first roadblock for Sterlite Copper that culminated in its shutdown in May this year. "If anything was still required to be done in that regard by the appellant [Sterlite Copper], that could not be a ground for rejecting consent for renewal or for closing the unit without opportunity of hearing to the appellant. Even if there is a technical breach as contended on behalf of the respondents, the

breach is trivial in nature causing no prejudice to anyone," NGT wrote in its order. In an earlier interview to ET, Sterlite Copper CEO P Ramnath said the plant could take some time to resume production in view of pending maintenance work. The court has also said Sterlite Copper should, on "precautionary principle," take a series of steps for "safeguarding environment." The factory has been directed to spend Rs 2.5 crore for its faulty handling of 3.5 lakh tonnes of copper slag near the factory. It has also been directed to form a digital portal—a wife publicised one—for registry of complaints in its operations.