

Voters' turn out high in Nagaland; blast ahead of polling, one killed in gun fight, but fail to mar the electioneering

With input from agency

Imphal, Feb 27: One person was injured when a crude bomb went off in a polling station in Tizit constituency of Nagaland on Tuesday. The bomb went off around 5:45am. Report said that the person sustained injuries on left leg when a hand-made crude bomb was lobbed by miscreants 15-20 feet from polling booth in Tizit, Nagaland at 5:45 am, says V Vise, SP of Mon district.

Bottle grenade was thrown at the polling centre by unknown miscreants.

Poll related violence was reported from 31- Akuloto assembly constituency at which a person was shot dead by another person belonging to supporter of his rival candidates. Details of the gun fight could not be get at the moment but report said that the deceased is identified as one Kivika, (Age: Around 35 yrs), son of Hovishe, Lapulu village.

The two incident however fails to mar the electioneering process in Nagaland as heavy turn out was reported in the election. Fate of the 195 candidates have been sealed in the EVM. Result will be declared on March 3 along with Meghalaya and Tripura.. Election began at 7 am amid tight security as more than half of 2,156 polling stations have been declared critical.

With Nationalist Democratic People's Party (NDPP) chief

Neiphiu Rio winning unopposed the Northern Angami-II seat, polling is being held in 59 seats.

Voting continued till 4 pm, except in some polling stations of the interior districts where it will end at 3 pm, election office sources said.

Officials said as many as 281 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), beside the state police force, have been deployed throughout Nagaland to ensure peaceful polling.

Nagaland Chief Electoral Officer Abhijit Sinha said of the 2,156 polling stations in Nagaland, 1,100 have been declared critical, 530 vulnerable and 526 normal.

All the polling stations would be manned by the CAPF personnel and the state police would also be assisting them, he added.

A total of 11,76,432 voters, comprising of 5,97,281 male, 5,79,151 female, and 5884 service voters, are eligible to exercise their franchise during the day to decide the fate of 195 candidates.

There are no third-gender

voters in the state while the first time voters between the age group 18-19 years are 26,900, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Awa Lorin said today.

Voting will be conducted in 2,156 polling stations as 40 polling stations fall under the Northern Angami-II seat, from where Rio has been declared elected unopposed.

Out of the 2156 polling stations, 1062 are critical, 530 vulnerable and 564 normal polling stations, he said.

Over 15,000 government employees will be on poll duty and there will be 177 all-women polling stations across 25 constituencies in the state. Sinha said there are 55 election observers, include 22 general and expenditure observers each and 11 police observers, besides 442 micro observers.

Electronic voting machines with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines will be used for voting, he added. The election process in Nagaland had started on a difficult note with the Core Committee of Nagaland Tribal Hohos and Civil

Organisations (CCNTHCO) advocating "solution (to the Naga political issue) before an election".

Following this no-election diktat, the political parties had initially kept away from the poll process and the first batch of 22 contestants filed their candidature only on the penultimate day on February 5, though filing of nominations had begun on January 31.

There was a heavy rush of nominees filing their papers on the last day.

BJP, which is determined to expand its footprint in the northeast this time after Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, is relying on its partner, the NDPP.

In Nagaland, BJP's hope hinges on its alliance partner NDPP which is contesting from 40 seats. The saffron party has fielded candidates from the remaining 20 seats.

The Congress, which has given three chief ministers to Nagaland since the state's inception in 1963, is contesting from only 18 seats - two less than the BJP.

Agency

Shillong, Feb 27 : Fate of the 361 candidates, including 31 women have been sealed at EVM to elect the 59 seat of Meghalaya state assembly today. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the state F R Kharkongor said voter turnout was high and the election was peaceful.

Polling started at 7 am and no incidents of violence was reported from anywhere in

the state, the CEO said.

"We have received complaints of EVM malfunctioning in some booths. The faulty machines were replaced and voting resumed within a short time in those polling stations," he said.

Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad cast his vote at the Oakland polling station here in the state capital around 10 am.

Voting is being held in 59 seats of the 60-member Assembly as the election in Williamnagar in East Garo Hills district has been postponed, following the killing of NCP candidate Jonathane N Sangma in an IED blast on February 18.

Women voters in colourful tribal attires were seen queueing up at the polling stations since morning. Former Union minister and Congress MP Vincent Pala, senior Congress leader and Shillong East MLA, Ampareen Lyngdoh and state BJP president Shibun Lyngdoh were among the early voters.

Polling will be held till 4 pm across the state.

The CEO said a total of 106 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), along with the state armed personnel and police, were deployed across the state, especially in the troubled Garo Hills region.

Today's polling will decide the fate of 361 candidates, including 31 women and 80 Independents, election office sources said, adding that 18.09 lakh voters were eligible to exercise their franchise in 3,025 polling stations in the state.

For the first time, 67 all-women polling stations and 61 model polling stations were set up in the state, the CEO said.

State Director General of Police (DGP) S B Singh said 580 polling stations were categorised as "vulnerable" and that strict security measures were in place across Meghalaya to ensure a free-and-fair election.

NDPP says it will not merge to any political party

ITNews

Imphal Feb 27: A Press statement of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party NDPP, which is an alliance with the BJP in the Nagaland Election said that it will not merge to any political party after the election. The party's chief Neiphiu Rio had already been elected uncontested.

Barrack-Type Teacher's Quarters Including Veterinary Dispensary Inaugurated

Chandel, Feb.27: Chairman of Autonomous District Council (ADC) Chandel Lhukhosei Zou today inaugurated Two newly constructed Barrack type Teacher's quarter of Nungpan Primary School and Tonsen Primary School under Autonomous District Council (ADC) Chandel at Nungpan and Tonsen Village in Chandel District.

The inaugural function was also attended by Member of Autonomous District Council Dy. Holngam, Executive Member (Edn & PHED) of ADC Chandel Tongsin Willingdon, Member of 20-Wangkhirra DCC, ADC Chandel and EM (PWD & SW) of ADC Chandel J.N. Baite as the presidium members respectively.

Lhukhosei Zou also unveiled the inaugural plaque and cutting the ribbon of the newly constructed

quarter which consists of eight rooms and separate toilets.

The Barrack type Teacher's quarters was constructed under Special Plan Assistance (SPA)-III 2015-16 at the estimated cost of Rs.39,56,000 Lakhs.

In his speech, Lhukhosei said that the construction of the quarter will solve the accommodation problem faced by the teachers in their respective place of posting and it will also ensure regular attendance of teachers.

Therefore, the villagers and teachers of the school should maintain the newly constructed building properly and make the best use of it, he added.

While appealing to extend co-operation for smooth functioning of primary schools, he further maintained that the government will

provide other infrastructures of schools.

Beside, N. Yaikul Singh, executive engineer (PWD) ADC Chandel, Tk. Moshilpa Inspector of School, Th. Joy Lamkang Vice-chairman ADC Chandel, Ts. Kanlun EM (Agri, Horticulture), Kh. Morung EM (TA & Hill), Th. Hopeson Chothe MDC (ADC Chandel) and also teaching staffs of the school, several villagers, Village Authority members, Church leaders of Nungpan Village and its surrounding villages also attended the inaugural function.

Meanwhile, A newly constructed Veterinary Dispensary under Autonomous District Council (ADC) Chandel inaugurated at Purum Khullen Village today. Chairman of Autonomous District Council (ADC) Chandel Lhukhosei Zou, MDC of Autonomous District

Council Th. Hopeson Chothe and Vice-chairman of ADC Chandel Th. Joy Lamkang graced as the inaugural Chief Guest, Functional President and Guest of honour respectively.

After cutting the ribbon, chief

guest Lhukhosei Zou also unveiled the inaugural plaque of the newly constructed building.

The Veterinary Dispensary was constructed under State Finance Commission (SFC)-III Award 2016-17.

Lhukhosei Inspects Govt schools

Chandel, Feb. 27: Chairman of Autonomous District Council (ADC) Chandel Lhukhosei Zou has inspected today government schools on primary level at Chandel District.

The schools inspected were Tampikovol Primary School, Tampi Primary School, Khambathel Primary School, Unopat Primary School. During the inspection, the Chairman had an interaction with the teachers on different problems of the schools like

infrastructure, toilet, up gradation, low student-teacher ratio etc. and remedial measures.

N. Yaikul Singh, executive engineer (PWD) ADC Chandel, Tk. Moshilpa Inspector of School, Th. Joy Lamkang Vice-chairman ADC Chandel, Ts. Kanlun EM (Agri, Horticulture), Kh. Morung EM (TA & Hill) and Th. Hopeson Chothe MDC (ADC Chandel) also attended the Schools inspection.

Women's body appeal not to obstruct the road construction

ITNews

Thoubal, Feb 27: Women Welfare Association Charangpat has strongly reacted to the objection by BJP Wangkhem Mandal to the construction of the 3.5 Km road (Charangpat to Yairpok road) by a special contractor identified as H. Romen Singh. In a press note the association said that plea for construction of the road stretch has been denied time and again by the past government as well as the present government. The road stretch even though have been included on the route of the MST Buses, it was never passed due to the dilapidated condition of the road.

"This special contractor H. Romen Singh finally comes to help the people of the area and such a good effort should not be obstructed", the statement said.

Police pulls up 6 persons with 6 vehicles without valid documents

ITNews

Imphal, Feb 27: State police today pulled up 6 persons along with the 6 different vehicles which failed to produce proper valid documents during a search operation conducted at Khetri Bangoon Yangbi Leikai today morning.

Report said that a police team of Imphal East district led by M. Kumarjit Singh Addl. Sp. (Ops), Robinsun khamnam DSP-CDO and RK. Saklemba Singh DSP (Ops) conducted cordon and search operation at Khetri Bangoon Yangbi Leikai from 4 am to 6 am today. During the operation 315 persons including 112 female were reported verified. The team also found 1 Tata Winger Vehicle, 1 TATA Magic, 2 Auto Rickshaw and 2 kinetic Honda without proper documents. The vehicles along with the claimed owners were picked and handed over to Porompat Police station for further verification.

Festival of colours to festival of sports

"Instead of proposing to shorten the duration of the festival, the Manipur Government may exercise its wisdom to declare the five days of Yaoshang as 'Sports Movement Week' in order to make the festival a constructive event for Manipur"

By : Seram Neken

Greeting my readers with the coming of Yaoshang Festival and wishing all to enjoy a constructive Yaoshang Sports extravaganza, this writer takes the privilege to propose the Government of Manipur to declare the five days of festival of colours as 'Sports Movement Week' all over Manipur. Festivals are an indispensable component of human life. Without them, life would have been monotonous and invaluable. Hence, every community on earth has its own festival in their varied designs and compositions. Manipuris have a rich heritage of festive celebrations, among which the Lai Haraoba is a major one. Lai Haraoba, since the pre-historic times, has changed its style and facets to suit the changed perception of people from generation to generation.

Constructive devolution of the celebrations and observances occurs in almost all festivities belonging to different communities inhabiting this Earth. Taking into account the increasing replacement of Yaoshang festival by a variety of games and sports in the nook and corner of Manipur, we may optimistically presume that 'Yaoshang Festival' of the Manipuris has gradually become a constructive event day by day. This writer terms it "an intellectual transformation from festival of colors to festival of sports", which has been occurring in modern Manipur during the last five decades.

Yaoshang Sports has become an institution of socialization with multifaceted benefits. It serves as a school for cultivating personality development and hunting young talents. Kids get the opportunity to expose to various competitive events. It

inculcates discipline among youths. Besides recreating the ageing people, it promotes organizational skills among the locals, increases social cohesion and reduces crimes & unwanted behavior in society. Every locality must endeavor to tap the inherent potential of Yaoshang Sports in the making of a strong Manipur.

Looking back to its recent history, Yaoshang Sports has a unique purpose of its birth. The addition of a variety of games in the Yaoshang festivities began as early as during the pre-independence period. Although there is obscurity on the exact origin of Yaoshang Sports, it is believed that the organization of sporting events during Yaoshang in 1946 at Akampat in the present Imphal East district was the first of its kind in the state.

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