

Robindro is the new deputy Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly



IT News

Imphal, Feb 9: Kongkham Robindro, the BJP MLA, who got elected from Mayang Imphal Assembly Constituency was elected as the deputy speaker of Manipur Assembly through voice vote at the ongoing budget session today.

The election was held at 10 am in the State Assembly Secretariat today. K. Robindro elected Md. Fajur Rahim of Congress in voice vote.

Robindro is one of the youngest Deputy Speaker in the history of Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh expressed hope that Robindro will serve his duties following democratic norms. Leader of Opposition O Ibobi Singh said he has high hope from the newly elected deputy speaker that he will serve in a neutral manner as a custodian of the House.

As per his profile available in the government website K. Robindro is 30 years old and is the son of Kongkham Manglem Singh of Mayang Imphal Thana I.B Road Awang, P.O./P.S. Mayang Imphal, Manipur.

Nagaland Elections:

Boycott Falls Flat as 253 Candidates from 9 Parties File Nomination

Scrutiny of nominations conducted today

Kohima, Feb 8: Scrutiny of nominations in Meghalaya and Nagaland for upcoming Assembly elections takes place today.

A total of 253 candidates, including five female candidates have filed nomination papers for the 60 assembly constituencies in the state.

Filing of nominations ended yesterday. State Chief electoral officer Abhijit Sinha

said Scrutiny of the nominations is underway today in all the twelve Election Districts of the States.

Nominations were received from nine Political Parties and Independent candidates.

Nagaland will go to poll on February 27 along with Meghalaya.

The last date for withdrawal is 12th of February. The highest nominations are

made under Mokokchung district with 48 candidates.

In Meghalaya, the scrutiny of nomination papers has begun. Chief Electoral Officer of

Meghalaya said a total of 443 nominations have been filed. The state will go to polls on the 27th of this month.

Our correspondent reports that several heavyweight candidates including from Congress, UDP and BJP have their nominations.

Kohima, Feb 8: A total of 253 candidates from nine political parties ended up filing nominations paper on the last day of filing the nomination paper in Nagaland.

Mainstream political parties whose candidates will be contesting the upcoming elections include the BJP, Congress, JD(U), NCP, AAP and those from regional parties such as Naga People's Front (NPF), Nationalist

Democratic People's Party (NDPP) and Naga People's

Apart from T R Zeliang of the ruling Naga People's Front, prominent among those who filed their nominations on Wednesday included former chief minister K L Chishi of the BJP.

Organisations (CCNTHCO) had issued the January 29 declaration demanding "solution [of the Indo-Naga political issue] before election."

CCNTHCO had, with the support of seven Naga insurgent groups, compelled 11 political parties to sign a joint agreement to not contest the elections to the 13th Nagaland Legislative Assembly. But the boycott call fell flat when political parties and its candidates made a rush to nominate themselves for the upcoming elections.

CCNTHCO was later dissolved by its founders who admitted that people were largely "reluctant" to stand by the committee's demand for 'solution before election' without knowing what the solution is.

Meanwhile, both the BJP and the Congress seems to have hit rough waters before the polls.

For BJP, the pre-poll alliance with NDPP seems to be over, at least for now, after BJP state in-charge Visasolie Lhoungu wrote a letter to the party high command saying it cannot accept any pre-poll alliance with a party without any influence at the grassroots.

This happened a day after BJP in-charge for Nagaland polls Kiren Rijiju and NDPP chief Neiphu Rio addressed the media in Guwahati on Saturday and claimed to have sealed a pre-poll alliance.

However, given that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh are expected to lead BJP's campaign in the state, the spirits of party's leadership are still high.

The trouble with Congress, on the other hand, continues. In a press conference conducted on Wednesday, the party admitted that "it was being forced to contest the elections at the eleventh hour, and that it is "not in the frame of mind to contest polls."

The party's poor run in Nagaland, where it has suffered from infighting and mass desertion, may not be over.

Cadres of KCP People War group which ban Catholic schools arrested

IT News

Imphal, Feb 8: As part of security measure taken up by Imphal East Police personnel in connection with the ban imposed against Catholic Schools by proscribe group of Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), KCP People War group, one active member of the proscribe group was arrested today around 5:30 of the morning.

The arrested person has been identified as one Nandeibam Saratjoy Singh @ Sanjoy (32 yrs), son of N. Iren of Langdum Makha Leikai, Imphal East.

From the disclosure of Nandeibam Saratjoy Singh, one 9 mm pistol along with two rounds of live bullet, two



mobile phones including one trigger mobile and one IED weighing about 5 kg was also recover from Patsoi area. He also reveals that he is

currently an active member of KCP People War Group and working under one Thoi.

Mention may be that Imphal East Police personnel had

launched an operation in connection with the ban imposed against Catholic Schools by proscribe group of Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), KCP People War group from 5 of the morning at Langdum Makha Leikai in Imphal East, in which Nandeibam Saratjoy Singh @ Sanjoy was arrested at around 5:30 of today's morning itself.

The list of candidates was made public by the Election Commission on February 7. It was less than a fortnight ago, on January 29, when the heads of several tribal communities had issued a boycott call for the elections scheduled on February 27.

Core Committee of Nagaland Tribal Hohos and Civil

Party (NPP). Notably, among the 253 candidates, only five are women.

With scrutiny of applications due on Thursday, these numbers may change but it seems that the state's poor run in representation of women continues for now.

The list of candidates was made public by the Election Commission on February 7. It was less than a fortnight ago, on January 29, when the heads of several tribal communities had issued a boycott call for the elections scheduled on February 27.

AR condemns the act of UNLF; calls cowardly act

Imphal, Feb. 8: Armed Wing of United National Liberation Front (UNLF) Manipur Peoples Army (MPA) has claimed responsibility for the violent incidents on Security Forces in the recent past to include IED blast on patrolling party of 6 Assam Rifles on 04th Dec 17, grenade and IED attack on M Sector on 15th Jan 18, grenade attack at Polo Ground and grenade blast at Assam Rifles Transit Camp at Minuthong on 06 Feb 2018. A PRO (IGAR) South statement said that the

cowardly acts of the proscribed group to target the troops of Assam Rifles especially on 05th Feb 2018 during the ongoing 15th Sentinel Cup Equestrian Championship 2018 & 9th Junior State Equestrian Championship, being organized by Manipur Equestrian Society and Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association assisted by Assam Rifles to encourage and showcase the rich Meitei culture, history and heritage has drawn criticism from all.

The tournament was being organized in the heart of Imphal town at Imphal Polo Ground (Mapal Kangjeibung), a place considered sacred by many due to its association with the ancient sport of Sagol Kangjei supposed to have been played by the Meitei deities themselves in the earlier times.

"There is hence an immense significance attached to the place by the locals of Imphal town. Besides being of cultural value, the revival and encouragement to the sport

was also having beneficial effects for the economy by bringing in foreign players and tourists to the state. Accordingly, this has expectedly drawn strong criticism from one and all Manipuris", the statement added.

It further added that the Assam Rifles however will not play into the hands of such devious actors and firmly commit that no amount of such acts of terror against them will make the Assam Rifles cause any inconvenience to the

innocent and peace-loving people of Manipur. Assam Rifles reaffirms its commitment to continue to work with the people of Manipur for betterment of society and bring in peace and prosperity and live upto its epithet of Friends of The North East. The perpetrators of these crimes will soon be identified and brought before the justice system to face the consequences of their senseless acts of violence that have tried to derail the fledgling peace process in the state.

UNLF sets to celebrate 31st Anniversary of its army wing MPA tomorrow

Imphal, Feb 8: Rebel groups United National Liberation Front (UNLF) is observing the 31st Anniversary of its army wing Manipur People's Army (MPA) tomorrow. On the occasion, Military Affairs Committee (MAC) of the UNLF while paying revolutionary salute conveys goodwill messages of New Year and the liberation movement.

A statement signed by its Chairman, Kh. Pambei said that the MPA, in the struggle for the restoration of the sovereignty of Manipur, has been in a position to stand with the people and wage war against the enemy IOF as a result of the sincere support rendered to by the people.

The statement said, "In the contemporary world as nations are moving ahead in the fields of development; expressive aura of respective national identity is axiomatic and those sovereign nations excel jubilantly in a state of pleasant cultural existence along with the glory of freedom.

It said that the root cause of such Manipur- India Political Conflict is the forced annexation of Manipur by India.

"We are restraint by a colonial situation of invasion and forced takeover of an independent country by another country, which is not acceptable to the international law. The fact that, in the historical course

of Manipur, the UNLF emerged in 1964 and spearheaded people's liberation movement to restore the sovereignty of Manipur, is a consequential condition created by the forced annexation of Manipur by India," the statement said.

While stating that the war of liberation to restore the sovereignty is a means to resolve the national contradiction that exists between India and Manipur, the UNLF chairman statement said that the root of this national contradiction is a political question. The statement also blamed India's deployment of heavy military force to continuously keep Manipur as their colony and the consequential liberation war against the former waged by the people of Manipur combined to constitute the characteristic features of this contradiction. "This process, therefore, is a political conflict that embodies the conflict of interest between Manipur and India to defeat the other. This is a conflict that cannot be resolved until the sovereignty of Manipur is being restored", the statement said.

It further added that the deployment of heavy military force forces UNLF to take up arms to fight against India for our self defence.

"From this condition, our liberation movement have reached at a stage of armed conflict between Indian Occupation Forces and MPA of UNLF. Therefore, the

conflict between Manipur and India is no longer restricted to political conflict alone but have broadened to include military conflict as well. The conflict today, therefore, is a politico-military conflict that occurs between two countries", the statement said.

The statement also said that the incumbent Hindutva nationalist regime of India is making all efforts to strengthen the grips of Hindutva nationalism.

"It is making all efforts to ensure maximum exploit of its soft power, particularly information and communication technology, to indulge in propaganda and psychological warfare to cast a mesmerising illusion on people about the Government of India (GOI) as the saviour of Manipur people", it said.

"Recently when the people of Manipur were drawn into the gaiety of the orchestrated Sangai Festival, 41 MoUs were signed to permit Indian Corporates and Multi-National Company (MNC) to extract away the natural resources of Manipur. Those were signed at a time when there were demands for the decommissioning of the destructive Loktak Project. These 41 MoUs, signed by the State government without the consent of the people, have given away the rights to extract minerals, petroleum, hydro-carbon, cement, hydal power, medicinal plants and biodiversity resources. These MoUs are classified and retained in the secret

custody of the Manipur Government. The MoUs need to be de-classified to allow the people to study its pros and cons, in order to obtain consent of the people and to revoke those MoUs that would be destructive to the people. The two days North-East Development Summit (NEDS), held at City Convention, to facilitate the conclusion of the MoUs was organised by India Foundation. Not a single person from WESEA (NE) was represented amongst the organisers. Several Ministers from WESEA (NE) were represented as mere show pieces. Not a single person from WESEA (NE) was assigned to anchor any of the programmes. It was done by an Indian woman. It was a programme designed to facilitate maximum exploitation of natural resources in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. In all these instances the system of the Indian colonial ruler subverts the interest of the people of Manipur. To fulfil their interests, they extract and divert, against our wishes, our resources to mainland India. It enriches them and impoverishes us. And we are forced to exist in servitude, thereby, remaining dependent on annual begging of fund from India. Until and unless the colonial ruler India is completely routed out, UNLF-MPA will continue to wage the war to restore the sovereignty of Manipur", the statement said.