

Continued from page 1

Polling for by-elections to 4 Lok Sabha & 10 Assembly

All eyes are on politically-crucial Kairana Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Besides Kairana in western UP, by-election is held in Bhandara-Gondiya and Palghar parliamentary constituencies in Maharashtra, and Nagaland Lok Sabha seat. The Kairana bypoll will see a joint opposition taking on the ruling BJP. The Kairana Lok Sabha seat fell vacant after the death of BJP MP Hukum Singh, whose daughter Mriganka Singh is now the party's candidate for the by-election. She is contesting against Rashtriya Lok Dal's (RLD) Tabassum Hasan, who is supported by the Congress, Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party. The joint opposition, which includes Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party and Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party, hopes that by consolidating anti-BJP votes, they will repeat the success of

the Gorakhpur and Phulpur Lok Sabha by-elections, where the BJP suffered an unexpected defeat. In Maharashtra's Palghar Lok Sabha seat, over 10 percent voting was recorded till 11 am. Voting was disrupted in Bhandara-Gondiya constituency due to technical snag in about 450 voting machines. All four major parties — the BJP, Shiv Sena, Sharad Pawar's NCP, and Congress — have campaigned aggressively for the Lok Sabha by-elections in Maharashtra's Palghar and Bhandara-Gondiya. The outcome is significant as it is likely to have a bearing on their future course. The Shiv Sena has fielded late BJP MP Chintaman Wanaga's son Shrinivas Wanaga in Palghar, much to the dislike of the BJP which has in-turn nominated Rajendra Gavit, who switched over from the Congress. In Bhandara-Gondia,



Nana Patole quit as the BJP MP and resigned from the ruling party to return to the Congress earlier this year, necessitating the by-election. The ruling BJP has locked horns with the NCP for retaining the Bhandara-Gondia Lok Sabha seat while in Palghar, it is in a direct fight with the ally Shiv Sena even though the contest is multi-cornered. The assembly by-elections are taking place in Maharashtra's Palus Kadegaon constituency.

Uttar Pradesh's Noorpur, Bihar's Jokiha, Jharkhand's Gomia and Silli, Kerala's Chengannur, Meghalaya's Ampati, Punjab's Shahkot, Uttarakhand's Tharali and West Bengal's Maheshtala. General election to Karnataka's Rajarajeshwari Nagar assembly seat is also taking place today. In Punjab's Shahkot assembly seat 44 per cent polling was recorded till 1 PM. The seat fell vacant after the death of sitting Akali Dal legislator Ajit Singh Kohar in February.

NEFIS condemns Romila Thapar's callous remark on Bodo community!

IT News
Imphal, May 28,

North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) condemns historian Romila Thapar's callous remark on Bodo community.

In a lecture delivered in 2004 at FICCI auditorium in Delhi, which is reprinted in the second edition of her

book, 'Ancient Indian Social History', a mention is made of Bodo community among different so-called terrorist organizations organized along lines of community and ideology. Despite the correctness of her stance which criticizes targeting of Muslims by their identification with terrorism on the basis of their religion, she mentions

Bodo 'community' among terrorist 'organizations'. Romila Thapar is a widely acclaimed left-wing historian, and left is known for espousing the cause of marginalized communities. Such callousness regarding marginalized communities is unbecoming of her as a left-wing intellectual. It is expected of her to tender a public apology.

First AYUSH medical awareness campaign at Singhat village

IT News
Imphal, May 28,

Thinghat Battalion under the aegis of 27 Sector Assam Rifles, Churachandpur district organized First AYUSH Medical Camp on 28-29 May 2018 for the local people of the area at New Market Yard, Singhat Village with the aim to bring Govt initiated programme to remote Border areas in Manipur. AYUSH awareness campaign

& Medical Camp was facilitated by 27 Sector Assam Rifles at Singhat village for the local population by a team of 14 qualified Doctors & Staff from the Dept of AYUSH. Hon'ble Chairman MANIREDA, MLA Singhat Mr G S Haupe was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the Medical camp by lighting the lamp. Dr M Shyamjai Singh, Addl Director AYUSH, Manipur also addressed the gathering. This effort by

Assam Rifles and AYUSH will indirectly facilitate "National Yoga Mission" and State Govt's "GO TO VILLAGE" Mission. Holistic treatment focused on traditional forms of medicines like Ayurveda, Homeopathy and healing therapies to improve health was imparted by the AYUSH Team. A total of approx 800 villagers excluding 200 school students participated in the Med Camp with full enthusiasm.

National & International News

RLD and SP raise EVM malfunction issue in UP by-election voting

Courtesy – the Hindu
Lucknow, May 28,

The Samajwadi Party (SP) and Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) on Monday raised allegations of rigging in the Noorpur Assembly and Kairana Lok Sabha by-election polling after EVM malfunction was reported in several booths. The RLD's candidate in Kairana Tabassum Hasan has written to the Chief Election Commissioner complaining about malfunctioning EVM and VVPATs in the constituency. Despite raising the flag, the administration is not dealing with the issue and voters were being deprived of their right, she wrote, urging the EC to urgently send engineers and technicians to repair the machines. In a letter to the UP Chief Election Officer, SP State president Naresh Uttam Patel

has complained that faulty EVMs were reported from 113 booths in the stronghold of the SP and its allies in Noorpur. "It appears that the EVMs are made to go faulty in such large numbers on the directions of the State government so that people cannot go and vote in these booths," Mr. Patel wrote. A delegation led by BJP UP vice-president J.P.S. Rathore met the UPCEO demanding immediate restoration of EVMs and possible re-polling on booths where voting was stalled for a long time. Submits list of 67 booths in Kairana where faulty EVMs have been reported. The BJP also says that the election officers and booth officers were not paying heed to complaints raised by BJP polling agents. As per her complaint, EVM related issues have been reported in booths in each of the five Assembly segments

in Kairana. Shamli: 47 booths, Kairana 13, Gangoh 48, Nakud 38, and Thana Bhawan 9. Raising the issue on Twitter, RLD leader Jayant Chaudhary said: "So many malfunctioning EVMs point to some sort of systematic anarchy!" The SP also raised allegations of rigging in the Noorpur bypoll, saying that EVMs in most of the booths in Dalit and Muslim areas were "selectively" not functioning. The SP pointed out at least 19 booths where EVM malfunctioning was allegedly reported. The EC is yet to comment on the accusations by the Opposition. SP president Akhilesh Yadav said: "Is this a technical fault or failure of election management or a conspiracy to deprive people their voting rights? At this rate, the foundations of democracy will

be shaken." SP MLC Udaiveer Singh alleged there was "scientific rigging" going on as EVMs were "selectively" malfunctioning in 90% Dalit and Muslim populated booths in Noorpur. "No engineer (are) available, DM irresponsibly behaving. Ramzan being used as a tool by BJP. Yahi hai (this is) digital India aur VIKAS (development)," he said. Almost 90% of officers in Noorpur have their phones switched off, added Mr. Singh. "Administration ko message hai kaise bhi jeetna hai (It has been indicated to the administration to ensure victory at any cost)," he said. The SP says that polling has been stalled in many booths in Noorpur seat, including 97, 200, 231, 205, 206, 337, 25, 29, 30, 266, 30, 24, 222, 305, 282, 311, 230, 287, 221.

Senior BJD leader & Lok Sabha MP from Odisha Baijayant Panda quits party

Agency
New Delhi, May 28,

Odisha Lok Sabha MP and Biju Janta Dal leader Baijayant Jay Panda quit the party today. The MP from Kendrapara district submitted his resignation letter to BJD chief and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. In a letter to Mr Patnaik, Jay Panda said, he has decided to quit the politics into which the BJD has descended. The letter further said that he would convey his decision to the Lok Sabha Speaker soon. Panda has been a parliamentarian of the BJD since 2000 and was a founding member of Biju Janata Dal. He was suspended from the party's primary membership in January 2018 on disciplinary grounds.

Indian women athletes to shun saree for 2018 Asian Games

Agency
New Delhi, May 28,

After the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, the traditional saree, which had long been associated with the Indian women athletes during the opening and closing ceremonies of the multi-sport events, has now been wrapped and packed off for the forthcoming Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games as well. Carrying on with its CWG decision, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has decided to leave out the saree from the opening and closing ceremonies of the Asiad, scheduled to be held in two Indonesian cities from August 18 to September 2. Instead, the attire will be replaced by blue trousers and navy blue blazer, similar to the men's dress. This decision was taken after getting a feedback from the women athletes post the Gold Coast Games, where the regular combination of saree

and blazer for women athletes made way for blue trousers and blazer embellished with the Indian logo. The men athletes, too, had exchanged their traditional 'bandhgala' for the modern attire of trousers and blazer. At the Rio Olympics, the women athletes had worn the blazer over a yellow saree. Confirming the development, IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said: "We have decided that the two ceremonies at the Asiad will see the entire contingent maintaining a uniform dress code. The women athletes will

sport the same attire they wore during the Gold Coast CWG." At the time of taking the decision prior to the CWG, the IOA had cited comfort level as one of the reasons behind doing away with the tradition of wearing a saree. The decision was taken after consulting several women athletes who were of the view that for many, wearing a saree required taking help from others. Many women athletes had often complained in the past about the discomfort the saree caused during such ceremonies.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, Yumnam Kora residence of Wangkhei Ningthem Pukhri Mapal, Imphal East, Manipur do hereby declare that I have wholly renounced, relinquished and abandoned the use of old name Yumnam Pishak, as I have assumed my new name Yumnam Kora.

Sd/-

Yumnam Kora

Wangkhei Ningthem Pukhri Mapal, Imphal East, Manipur

IT News
Imphal, May 28,

One Slow loris, zoological name- Nycticebus bengalensis, a scheduled I (one) animal was saved from the possession of Yengkhom Krishnamohon Singh of Kakching Irum Mapan by the staffs of Kakching Range Office. The animal will be released on a safe place today. On the occasion, N. Munal Meitei, RFO/Kakching said, Slow loris, a small but lovely primate, is now endangered in all its natural habitats including Manipur. Using the animal as traditional medicine is one of the greatest cause for decline of the animal. Despite having Section 9 of Wild life Protection, Acts, 1972 which prohibits trade in wild life and its products, to stop and to act stringently, Slow loris is now included in Appendix I by CITES. But due to indiscriminate killing, deforestation and habitat lost, to survive itself, now the animal started moving out even to our residential areas without a fear. In the recent pass, different species of animals and birds were rescued by the Forest Department, Manipur and one of the causes for the animals to come near to human habitats may be as a result of climate change with intolerable temperature for them. N.Munal said, Slow loris might look like a harmless, big-eyed baby ewok, but the slow loris is one of the only venomous mammals in the world. Its subtle nature makes it popular in the illegal pet trade, but this furry creature also carries a toxin that is released from the brachial gland on the sides of its elbows. If threatened, the loris can take the toxin into its mouth and mix it with saliva. The animal may also lick or rub its hair with this mixture to deter predators from attack. The toxin can cause death by anaphylactic shock even to human being also. While on research, the toxin is made up of the secretoglobin, a heterodimeric protein which without saliva of the animal



has no lethal power. Therefore, N.Munal appeal to take care while on handling the Slow loris. But he appeal to general public

not to kill the animal but to save it and hand it over to the Forest Department and otherwise Slow loris may extinct from the Earth.

MSCB Yairipok Branch open today



IT News
Imphal, May 28,

Co-operation Minister nemcha Kipgen today open a new branch of Manipur State Co-operative Bank Ltd. at Yairipok

in Thoubal district. The opening function was attended by MLA Meghachandra, Ramthanga, Principal Secretary, Co operation Govt Manipur and A Subash Singh MD, MSCB LTD

ILP demand underway



IT News
Imphal, May 28,

Large number of women folk today staged a protest demonstration demanding implementation of Inner Line

permit system in the state at Wangjing are along Imphal Moreh road today. Placards demanding passing of ILPS Bill were displayed during the protest demonstration.