

Stage set for 2nd & final phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections for tomorrow; last day for filing of nominations in Rajasthan and Telangana

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 19,

All arrangements are in place to ensure free, fair and peaceful polling in 72 constituencies of Chhattisgarh which are going to poll in the second and last phase of assembly elections tomorrow. These constituencies are spread across 19 districts of the state. In this phase, as many as one thousand seventy-

nine candidates, including one hundred and nineteen women candidates, are in the fray. More than one crore fifty-three lakh voters, including about seventy-six lakh females, are eligible to exercise their franchise. Nine hundred and forty-third genders are also among the voters. Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo said that elaborate security arrangement are in place to ensure peaceful polling. About

nineteen thousand three hundred polling stations have been set up for this phase of elections. In Telangana, all major political parties have almost completed ticket distribution. Congress released its final list of 6 candidates and BJP, its sixth list of candidates. The TRS also announced party candidates in the remaining two seats. Meanwhile, electioneering is picking up with top leaders of all

parties are set to address various road-shows and public meetings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to campaign in the state during the first week of next month. The Congress party has announced that UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi will be addressing a public meeting on Friday at Medchal near Hyderabad. Party President Rahul Gandhi is also scheduled to campaign in the state in two spells.

Filing the nominations for Rajasthan and Telangana Assembly Elections ends this evening. The scrutiny will be taken up tomorrow and the last date for withdrawal is Thursday. Single-phase polling for 200 assembly seats of Rajasthan and 119 of Telangana will take place on 7th of next month. Counting will be held on 11th December along with Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram.

Gold and Silver Meedallist of Asian Martial Art Game Feted

IT News
Thoubal, Nov. 19,

Social Welfare Organisation, Thoubal today felicitated Leisangthem Marika (Loibi) Devi D/o L. Basanta Singh of Thoubal Bazar and Akoijam Diamond Singh S/o Ak. Suresh Singh of Thoubal Bazar at a reception function organised in their honour at the premises of the Organisation at Thoubal Thongkhong Torban Ground today. Leisangthem Marika clinched Gold Medal in Kumite (Fight) and Silver Medal in Kata in the Asian Martial Art Game 2018 held from November 12 to November 14 at New Delhi while Akoijam Diamond Singh Singh bagged silver and bronze medals in Kumite (Fight) & Kata



in Asian Martial Art Game 2018. Marika and Diamond is also Participated of the 29th Karate National Championship held under the All India Karate

Federation at Rajasthan in 2016 and gold medal winner of the State Level Karate Championship held under the Karate Association Manipur in 2017.

3 Dead, 20 Injured In Amritsar Attack, Khalistani Terror Link Under Probe

Agency
New Delhi, Nov 19,

Three people were killed and around 20 injured in a grenade attack at a prayer hall in Amritsar's Rajasansi village on Sunday, the police said. Eyewitnesses say that two men on a motorcycle, their faces covered, threw a grenade at the Nirankari Bhawan, where a religious ceremony was on at the time, and fled. The attack took place amid a high alert that six to seven Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists had entered the state and were "planning to move towards Delhi". While the police are analysing the CCTV footage and looking for clues to identify the attackers, they don't rule out a terror angle. "It (this incident) appears to have a terror angle. Because it is against a group (of people) and it is not against any individual. There is no reason to throw a hand grenade on a group of people, so we will take it as a terrorist act. Till proven

otherwise, prima facie we will take it as that," Punjab Director General of Police Suresh Arora told news agency PTI. The incident happened just eight kilometres from the Amritsar airport. Surinder Pal Singh Parmar, a senior officer, said the around 20 injured have been taken to the hospital and the bodies of the victims sent for post-mortem. Every Sunday, hundreds of devotees gather here for prayers and kirtan. About 250 people were inside the hall when the attack took place. The two men also threatened devotees with a gun before flinging the explosive into the prayer hall. Home Minister Rajnath Singh has promised strongest possible action for this reprehensible act of violence. The possibility of involvement of ISI-backed Khalistani/Kashmiri terror groups can't be ruled out, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said and promised that the state won't let the "forces of terror"

destroy the hard earned peace. He has announced Rs. 5 lakh for the victims of the Amritsar blast and free treatment for the injured. "My condolences are with the families of those who lost their lives in this incident. It is an attempt to disturb peace in Punjab. All the security agencies are on high alert and coordinating with each other to maintain peace," said Sunil Jakhar, Punjab Congress chief. Delhi Chief Minister called it as a "cowardly attack". "We strongly condemn it," he tweeted. Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury said "this is a dangerous thing to happen". A few days ago, four persons had snatched an SUV at gunpoint near Madhopur in Pathankot district. The men, who spoke in Punjabi, had booked the car from the Jammu taxistand, police said. Army Chief Bipin Rawat had recently warned that attempts were being made to "revive insurgency" in Punjab and had urged people to stay alert.

Weavers of Wangkhem Kendra gets Looms



IT News
Thoubal, Nov. 19,

State Executive Member of BJP Manipur Pradesh Oinam Haridash has distributed looms to 11 weavers of Wangkhem Kendra at Residence of Haridash in Yairipok Bishnunaha today. Speaking at the occasion, Oinam Haridash spoke about various schemes planned by the Government for the welfare of weavers. He also said that about 1800 looms were distributed in the recently conducted MANITEX at Lamboikhongnangkhang from November 5 to 11, out of which 11 looms were sanctioned for

Wangkhem AC. He continued that further efforts are going on to provide more looms and accessories to other weavers. President of BJP Wangkhem Mandal Leisangthem Sunil and Other BJP Workers and Weavers attended the Function.

Weeklong Cooperative Week Celebration to be concluded tomorrow

IT News
Imphal, Nov. 19,

65th All India Cooperative Week Celebration is being underway at Institute of Cooperative Management, Imphal since November 14 will conclude tomorrow. The weeklong celebration is being organised in Manipur by the Manipur State Cooperative Union in collaboration with different Cooperative Institutions. Closing function of the weeklong Cooperative Week

celebration will be held at 11.30 a.m. at Institute of Cooperative Management, Lamphelpat, Imphal. The main objective of the Cooperative Week Celebration is to review the trends and achievements of Cooperative movement and chalk out future action plans. This year the theme of the Cooperative Week is "Inclusive Growth and Good Governance through Cooperatives for Rural Prosperity". The topic of celebration of the concluding day will be "Skill and Technology Upgradation through

Cooperatives", a statement said. Ex Union Minister of State, Th. Chaoba who is also Founder Chairman, ICM, Imphal will grace the Function as Chief Guest and L. Tompishak Singh, President, Manipur State Cooperative Union will preside over the Function. J.C. Ramthanga, IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Manipur & Armstrong Pame, IAS, Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Government of Manipur will grace the function as Guests of Honour.

Govt seeks Rs 100cr help to deal with polio vaccine cost hike (after spending Rs 3000cr on showpiece statue)

Agency
New Delhi, Nov. 19,

In impending price rise that is likely to raise India's budget for a key vaccine by less than Rs 100 crore has prompted the government to seek an international donor's help at a time it has built a showpiece statue for an estimated Rs 3,000 crore. Public health experts said the situation reflected India's poor budget allocation for health programmes. The health ministry is scrambling to avert a possible stock-out of the injectable inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) amid a global supply shortage and a decision by Sanofi, vaccine maker and the sole IPV supplier to the Indian government, to revise prices. A stock-out would mean the government would be forced to temporarily stop immunising infants with IPV, a vaccine critical to maintaining India's polio-free status and introduced in the public immunisation programme in 2015. The IPV does not carry the risks of vaccine-associated polio paralysis or vaccine-

derived polioviruses that come with the oral poliovirus vaccine. It's a key tool in the global polio eradication effort. Sanofi has the IPV's price under a uniform worldwide pricing revision. The price for India, among other countries, is to increase from the current 0.75 euro (Rs 61) to 1.81 euros (Rs 147) per dose in 2019, and to 2.18 euros (Rs 177) per dose from 2020 through 2022, according to a Unicef document. The health ministry has approached Gavi — an international organisation that supports immunisation in poor countries — to intervene and help maintain IPV supplies to India. The vaccine has been available in India through private paediatricians for over a decade, but at higher costs. The health ministry had introduced the IPV in 2015, relying on Gavi which disbursed \$16.3 million (Rs 118.8 crore) for IPV immunisation in India during 2015 and 2016 with the expectation that India would then use its own funds. "The price increase is global

and Gavi is aware that this has put a significant, unforeseen strain on India's immunisation budget," a Gavispeaksperson told The Telegraph from Geneva. "Gavi and its partners are exploring options with the Indian government." The spokesperson said the price increase had also affected other Gavi-supported countries. "We expect that more supply will become available at lower prices with the arrival of new manufacturers, starting late 2020." But vaccine domain specialists say India's decision to seek Gavi intervention underscores the country's inadequate budget allocations for its immunisation programme, which depends on Gavi money for, among other initiatives, pneumococcal vaccines and rotavirus vaccines. Gavi has already disbursed \$107 million (Rs 769 crore) for pneumococcal immunisation between 2017 and 2019 and approved \$55 million (Rs 395 crore) for rotavirus vaccines between 2018 and 2020. Union health minister Jagat Prakash Nadda and health

officials have often asserted that money will "never" be an issue for the immunisation programme. Two senior health officials declined to speak to this newspaper about the implications of the IPV price rise or reveal how long the already procured IPV stocks are expected to last. A top paediatrician, virologist and authority on polio, T. Jacob John, emeritus professor at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, said an IPV stock-out would be indefensible. "Whatever the cost, we have to pay and buy. Gavi may or may not help, but India is no longer a poor country," John said. "The health ministry will have to justify a higher budget and protect our investment for polio eradication and secure it through continued universal IPV immunisation." John said the IPV market was now a "sellers' market", dominated by a giant supplier because of "flawed decisions" taken decades ago. "India had planned to establish a manufacturing plant for IPV in the 1990s, but the project was killed," he said.

Qaumi Ekta Week begins today to reinforce spirit of communal harmony and national integration

New Delhi
Nov. 19

Qaumi Ekta Week will be observed across the country from today to foster and reinforce the spirit of communal harmony and national integration. The observation of the week will help to highlight the inherent strength and resilience of the nation to withstand actual and potential threats to the eclectic and secular fabric of the country. The occasion also provides an opportunity to reaffirm age-old traditions and faith in the values of tolerance, co-existence and brotherhood in a multi-cultural and multi-religious society.



As part of the week-long programmes, today will be observed as National Integration Day. Programmes like meetings, symposia and seminars will be organised to emphasise the themes of secularism, anti-communalism and non-violence.

The last day of the Qaumi Ekta Week will be observed as Conservation Day and several meetings and functions will be organised to emphasize the growing need for awareness and action to conserve the environment. The National Foundation

for Communal Harmony, an autonomous organisation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, organises Communal Harmony Campaign coinciding with the Qaumi Ekta Week and observes the Communal Harmony Flag Day on 25th November.