

# AR troopers help parents in finding a missing boy

IT News  
Imphal, April 3,

31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 became an unforgettable day for Thingam Kamala Leima, a seasonal agricultural worker who single handedly takes care of her family. The day started as usual for her when she went to work at her paddy field. However, Kamala had no idea that a seemingly ordinary day would turn out into a fanatic search for her son, Thingam Raj Meitei. Raj, aged just 10 and a student of class 3<sup>rd</sup> ventured out 8km from his home on his bicycle, leaving the entire village worried.

Their fates intertwined with Assam Rifles when Raj borrowed a mini cycle from his neighbours and paddled towards the playground but did not return till lunch time. Kamala's husband who is a mason by profession is presently working in Kerala and hence the



responsibility lies solely on Kamala to take care of the family. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, when her son did not return till 1100 hours, she started worrying. Responding to her concern, the local youth clubs and village authorities started searching for the boy in the neighbourhood.

The distressed mother and locals called the Company Commander of Pangaltabi Company Operating Base, Kakching battalion Assam Rifles for help. The AR Battalion part of 28 Sector Assam Rifles of IGAR (South) immediately sent a team to conduct thorough search of the entire

locality. All the sources were informed about the missing boy. Even with thorough search and use of PA equipments, the boy could still not be located. Around 1930 hours an information came to the Company Commander from one of his associates with a fitting description of a

boy on a minicycle at Sarik Khunou, approximately 08 km from Umathel Mayai Leikai. The team went immediately and found Raj safe and sound at the road side at Sarik Khunou. The child was given refreshments and taken back home.

The mother with teary eyes embraced her son and stated, "I thought I had lost him forever. I am grateful to Assam Rifles and would always remain indebted to the Kakching Battalion". On asking about how Raj lost his way, the boy recollected that he kept riding the bicycle and lost his way but he took it as an adventure. The day ended with happy tears in eyes, smiles on faces and a memorable day in the life of a young boy.

Although small but important, this incident shows how closely Assam Rifles has got intertwined with the lives of the locals.

# Sunsilk Mega Miss North East 2018

By a Correspondent  
Guwahati; April 3,

**Jyotishmita Baruah** from Assam, who won the title of Sunsilk Mega Miss North East 2018, has been selected as the state winner of fbbFemina Miss India. The beauty from Biswanath Chariali will now represent Assam in the most coveted beauty pageant of the country.

Currently in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, Mega Miss North East is the biggest beauty pageant of northeast India, conceptualized by leading fashion entrepreneur **Abhijit Singha**, and produced by **Mega Entertainment**. Speaking about Jyotishmita's selection to Femina Miss India, Abhijit said, "Jyotishmita is extremely hard working, and we have seen her blossom as a professional since she was crowned Sunsilk Mega Miss North East. We are sure her talent and hard work will take her places. Mega Entertainment feels privileged to have been a part of her journey."

Mega Entertainment was conceptualized with a mission to nurture and promote the immense talent pool of northeast, mentor the talents and help establish them in the national and global modeling industry. As Abhijit Singha says, "Our responsibility does not culminate with mere

*crowning of the winners. Our actual mission is to give our winners an international platform from where their dreams can take flight.*" In 2017, Rinky Chakma, Soibam Kanchan and Licha Thosum, all previous winners of Sunsilk Mega Miss North East had been selected for Femina Miss India. In 2018, Mary Khyriem made it to the finale of the coveted pageant. This year, with Jyotishmita's

Jyotishmita Baruah to represent Assam in Femina Miss India



selection for the pageant, it is proved yet again that the winners of Mega Miss North East definitely have the potential and talent to make a mark in the national beauty and fashion industry.

# In 2019 manifesto, Congress changes own tune: No sedition law, diluted AFSPA

Courtesy-  
The Indian Express  
New Delhi, April 3,

Signalling a shift in its position on issues related to national security and individual freedom, the Congress, in its election manifesto released Tuesday, promised to repeal the colonial-era sedition law, leave out the IPC section on criminal defamation and "review" the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and Disturbed Areas Act which empower and provide immunity to security forces in areas hit by insurgency and militancy. The Congress also said it "will provide a statutory basis to the National Security Council (NSC) and the office of National Security Adviser (NSA). Their powers and functions will be defined under the law and both authorities, and the agencies under them, will be accountable to Parliament." It said it "will re-establish the NSAB (National



Security Advisory Board), provide a statutory basis to the body, appoint experts from different disciplines and ensure that it will function as a permanent, professional advisory body advising the NSC and the government". The party said it will establish the office of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to be the "principal adviser" to the government on matters relating to defence. Following the Kargil war, a GoM headed by former Deputy Prime Minister L K

Advani had recommended establishment of the post of CDS; former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar too had spoken about the likelihood of the NDA government creating the CDS post. But it is the new Congress stand on AFSPA that marks a fundamental shift because the UPA under Manmohan Singh had maintained a studious silence on the recommendations of the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee and Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) which

had called for the repeal or amendment of the AFSPA. The Congress manifesto made a specific proposal related to national security — in Jammu & Kashmir, the party said it will "review" both the AFSPA and Disturbed Areas Act. "Suitable changes will be made in the text of the laws to balance the requirements of security and the protection of human rights," it stated. Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram told reporters: "As far as AFSPA is concerned,

please read it carefully. We have said we will amend the law... balancing the rights of security forces as well as human rights, and remove immunity in only three cases: enforced disappearance, sexual violence and torture. I don't think anybody in the 21st century can say that enforced disappearance, sexual violence and torture must be condoned." "There is a Supreme Court judgment that has directed an inquiry into enforced disappearances in North-East etc. Where they have said that there are some universal values which cannot be ignored by India. Therefore, we have said that immunity will be removed only in the cases of enforced disappearance, sexual violence and torture. We will only amend the law to balance the rights. We recognise that armed forces require a certain degree of immunity, we also recognise that human rights are to be respected. We are going to balance that," he said.

# Centre extends "disturbed area" tag under AFSPA for three districts of Arunachal Pradesh

Agency  
New Delhi, April 3,

The Centre has extended the "disturbed area" tag under Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) for three districts of Arunachal Pradesh for another six months, while withdrawing it partly from three other districts bordering Assam. According to a Home Ministry notification issued in New Delhi yesterday, the decision was

taken after considering the present law and order situation in the six districts of the state. The three districts which will continue to be designated as disturbed areas under AFSPA are Tirap, Changlang and Longding. The designation, which allows imposition of AFSPA, will also continue for the four police stations areas of the state's three other districts bordering Assam. They include Namsai and Mahadevpur police

stations in Namsai district, Roing in Lower Dibang Valley district and Sunpura in Lohit district. The notification said the "disturbed area" tag was withdrawn from the four police station areas of the Arunachal's districts on Assam border, due to the improvement of law and order situation there. The AFSPA is imposed in areas where armed forces are required to operate in aid to civil authorities.

# Assam Rifles organises Mega Campaign on Skill Development

IT News  
Imphal, April 3,

Moreh Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised a mega Skill development drive in collaboration with National Skill Development Corporation. The event was organised at the Integrated Check Post (ICP), Moreh. A total of 370 youth of Moreh and adjoining areas participated in the mega event. Training team led by Mr. Zimik, State Engagement officer (NE), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) conducted the

awareness lecture followed by enrolment of youth for various job roles. Moreh Battalion with the mandate of maintaining peace and harmony in this border town as well as operational mandate has shouldered additional responsibility of overall infrastructure and skill development with a focused resolve to ensure Skill development, opportunity creation and addressing the issue of unemployment. Due to lack of infrastructure and non availability of industry in Moreh, otherwise known to be the commercial capital of Manipur, the

town is affected by large scale unemployment and drug abuse. Moreh Battalion chalked out a detailed plan to bring the local youth on board and coordinate their overall growth. The battalion initially got together all the community heads of Moreh and planned skill development of unemployed youth including sharing of job roles. Simultaneously, the NSDC was approached to carryout a feasibility study and further selection of local youth. The aim of today's event was to identify the local unemployed youth of Moreh and train them to hone their skills. This



initiative will go a long way in making the youth of Moreh self reliant and

keep them away from the menace of drug abuse prevalent in Moreh and

also prevent them getting swayed away by anti national elements.

A total of five agencies (Humanism Foundation, JCRE skill Soln, KB Phylantropy, Skill Pro Pvt LTD, NESFEED foundation) interacted with candidates and explained the details of various job roles possible to explore which includes Tourism and Hospitality-Food and Beverage, House keeping attendant, Textile- weaving, dying, Apparel self-employed tailoring, hand embroidery, Electronics-Field technician, Retail sale associate, Agriculture-poultry farming and bee keeping. All the CSO leaders who attended the drive cooperated with Assam

Rifles in coordinating the event to facilitate youth empowerment and address unemployment. They expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Moreh Battalion Assam Rifles for giving opportunity to the youth of Moreh Town and organizing this mega event. The event culminated with vote of thanks from various CSOs followed by distribution of refreshments for the participants. The enthusiastic youth of Moreh, all the community heads and the representatives of NSDC conveyed their gratitude for such a noble initiative by Assam Rifles.