



## Political parties gear up election campaign; Congress likely to announce candidate after Rahul Gandhi's visit; all eyes set on Th. Bashanta as BJP candidate

IT News  
Imphal, March 12,

A day after the Election Commission of India announced the poll date for the upcoming 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Election political parties across the country have gear up election campaign to win the election by their respective party. In Manipur too campaigned has been intensified using every possible means by all political parties particularly

the two major rival group Congress and the BJP even though they are yet to announce their candidate. As for the Left parties, Dr. M. Nara of CPI is now a consensus candidate and campaign is being underway in a harder way. Some independent candidate including Film actor RK Somorendra (Kaiku) had already launched his election campaign days before the announcement of the poll date. Source with the Imphal Times said that candidate for the congress party may be announced after the visit of the AICC president Rahul Gandhi on March 20. Dr. Meinya who is the sitting MP, Former Chief Secretary O Nabakishore, Veteran

Politician Okram Joy Singh, former MLA Dr. Ng Bijoy Singh were among the applicants for contesting as congress candidates. As for the BJP, all eyes are now set on Th. Bashanta for the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency as RK Ranjan who had contested as BJP candidate in last parliamentary election in the inner Manipur and also H. Borababu have now been given post as members of the Manipur Public Service Commission recently. Besides, Bashanta is the son of former Union Minister Th. Chaoba who had played a major role in building and strengthening of the BJP of today in Manipur. His influence is likely to be

considered by the Central leadership. However, source also added that as for the BJP the central leadership might nominate any persons from among any party workers which have strong connection with the RSS. Meanwhile, with the election code of conduct came into force, all hoardings and poster showing achievement of government have been taken out and the ECO have taken up strict vigilance to conduct the poll free and fair.

The election will be conducted into 7 phase Lok Sabha Election of the Inner Manipur Parliamentary election will be held on April 18, while the poll the outer will be held on April 11.

Agency  
Shillong, March 12,

The Editors Guild of India on Monday said the Meghalaya High Court's order in a contempt case against The Shillong Times, including its editor and publisher, is "intimidatory and undermines" press freedom. The Meghalaya High Court Friday sentenced The Shillong Times editor Patricia Mukhim and publisher Shoba Chaudhuri to sit in the corner

of the court room till the rising of the court, besides imposing a fine of Rs 2 lakh each in a contempt case.

The case relates to an article published by the paper on the perks and facilities for retired judges and their families. The Editors Guild, in a statement, said it is deeply distressed over the Meghalaya High Court's order.

"The order, which among other things imposes a fine along with a threat of imprisonment

and a ban on the publication, is intimidatory and undermines press freedom," the Guild said.

"It is ironical that the judiciary which should uphold press freedom has instead issued an order that militates against freedom of expression," the statement said.

The Guild urged the judiciary to exercise its constitutional powers with "utmost caution and care" so that the role of a free media in a democracy is duly respected.

## Disabled body suspends agitation

IT News  
Imphal, March 12,

State Platform of Disable People Manipur today suspended its agitation after the Director of Social Welfare Ng Uttam assure to look into their demand. The Disabled body today submitted a memorandum to implement the PWD act to ensure the rights of the disabled body. After the Social Welfare Director assured to implement the act the disabled body suspended the agitation.

## Workers of 8 Municipal Council begins cease work strike

IT News  
Imphal, March 12,

All Manipur Ward development Committee Skilled and Unskilled Labour Association today begins cease work strike. The member of the 8 municipal councils have not been paid honorarium since august of 2017. The members today locked the office of the Nambol Municipal Council today. Garbage collection work have been stopped.

## BSF meets local leaders

IT News  
Imphal, March 12,

113 Bn BSF under the aegis of DIG HQ SF SHQ Koirengei today conducted meeting with leaders of civil population at CI Post Wangjing as a part of PF Confidential Building measures between SF/Civil Population. SH Shagat Singh, Assistant Commandant address the meeting and discussion related to current law and order situation on the event of general Parliamentary Election - 2019. The meeting was attended by Pradhan, Ward members and Club Executive members of Wangjing.

## Assam Chief Electoral Officer: NRC would not impact voting rights in Lok Sabha elections

Agency  
Imphal, March 12,

Assam Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Sahu has said that the National Register of Citizens NRC, would not impact voting rights in the Lok Sabha election. Mr. Sahu said, anyone whose name appears on the electoral rolls can vote, irrespective of the person's inclusion in the final draft of the NRC. Our correspondent

reports that the NRC is being d in state to register legal citizens and in the process, identify illegal migrants. On the other hand over seven lakh first time voters will cast their vote in the forthcoming General Election, which will be held in three phases in the state.

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Sahu said that out of total 2,17,60,604 voters in the state, 7,06,489 are in the 18-19

years category, making them first time voters.

He also said that there could be some voters in the other age brackets who have enrolled themselves for the first time, thus also making first time voters.

The state has the highest number of voters in 20-29 years category, with over 57 lakh voters coming in this age bracket. Assam has 14 Lok Sabha seats.

## BJP's prepares to defeat Congress using all means in Northeast

Agency  
Ghy, March 12,

The Bharatiya Janata Party is preparing with all means to win as many of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in North East states of India.

Agency report said that Some political forecasters in the northeast feel that since all the 8 states in the region are now ruled either by the BJP or its allies, the saffron party holds the advantage.

However, other political analysts are of the opinion

that the stiff opposition to the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016 in the entire northeastern region - home to 45.58 million people as per the 2011 census - could upset the BJP's bid to win the targeted number of seats.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) allies, including Naga People's Front (1), Meghalaya's National Peoples' Party (1) and the Sikkim Democratic Front (1), together won 11 seats with the dominant party bagging 8

seats. The BJP had won 7 seats in Assam and 1 in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Congress, which since 1952 has had a stronghold in the northeast, also managed eight seats in 2014 - 3 in Assam, 2 in Manipur and 1 each in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

Five years ago, the Assam-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) won 3 seats while the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) secured 2 seats in Tripura. Independent

candidate Naba Kumar Sarania (Hira) won from Assam's Kokrajhar constituency. The academician said that non-publication of the contents of the Naga peace talks agreement and the agitations for hiking salaries and allowances of the government employees as per the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission and few other local issues would affect the electoral prospects of the BJP and somewhat help the Congress.

Courtesy TNT  
AIZAWL, March 12,

Retired IAS officer C. Lalsawta was sworn in as the first Chairman of the newly constituted Lokayukta in Mizoram on Monday, officials said. He was sworn in at the Raj Bhavan here, they said.

Governor Jagdish Mukhi administered the oath of office to Mr. Lalsawta, an official said.

Chief Minister Zoramthanga, other Ministers, Assembly Speaker Lalrinliana Sailo,

legislators and senior officials were present on the occasion, he said.

The function was presided over by State Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuaungo, younger brother of the new Lokayukta chairman.

Mr. Lalsawta is a 1981-batch Bihar cadre IAS officer. He

was the Principal Secretary of the Finance department in the State from 2008 to 2011. After returning to Bihar, he was made the State Vigilance Commissioner, the official said, adding that he retired in 2015.

The Lokayukta would function from a rented building here.

## Delegation of Young MPs and Political Leaders from Bangladesh Calls on the President

PIB  
Delhi, March 12,

A delegation of young Members of Parliament and political leaders from Bangladesh called on the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (March 12, 2019).

Welcoming the delegation to India, the President said that he was delighted to meet the next generation of politicians from Bangladesh. India and Bangladesh are tied together by shared history, culture and

familial ties.

The President said that India recognises that a strong, prosperous and progressive Bangladesh is in India's fundamental national interest.

The two countries are confronted with common challenges. Our shared aspirations should lead us to find the best ways to jointly harnessing our resources and capacities. He urged members of the delegation to be ambitious in thinking of new ways in which our partnership can help drive development and create shared prosperity.

## KUMNOU - Manipur's first of its kind spring festival to attract art & music lovers from across the globe

*KUMNOU- the one-day special event will be the region's first ever event to bring together a diverse talent from the world of music, food and art to celebrate the arrival of spring*

IT News  
Imphal, March 11,

The Giving Tree in association with Spirit Adventure have announced KUMNOU, a brand new one-day annual event that will take place in Imphal, Manipur on 22nd March 2019 in Hapta Kanjeibung. This will be the first edition of KUMNOU which will bring together a diverse talent from the world of music, food and art to celebrate the arrival of spring.

KUMNOU which literally means 'New Year' in

Meiteilon, the official language of the state of Manipur, will be an annual event celebrating and welcoming spring while also receiving the constant changes happening around the world in a positive light. Scheduled to take place on the second day of Yaoshang(Holi), KUMNOU will have eclectic food offerings along with the best of music and artworks under one roof for a never like before experience where people from all walks of life can come together and connect.

The event will have the most diverse line-up of artists from different corners of country. Kumnou will also celebrate the first ever acoustic performance of Soulmate, one of the best blues rock band from Shillong. Besides Soulmate, KUMNOU will have headliners like Kutumba (Instrumental folk band from Nepal) MC Kaur, Pulpy Shilpy performing alongside talents like Songs of Khamasom, Siyom Ensemble, Mangka (Laihui), Heeyairen Thokchom and many more. KUMNOU will also see graffiti wall art and

installation from artist representing the celebration of spring at the event which will be a fascinating experience for all the art lovers planning to be part of the festival.

The event will be directed by Oja Mangangsana Mayanglambam, Founder of Laihui Ensemble who said, "KUMNOU as the name suggest will be a true celebration of the springtime and the awaking performance of the nature as well as the demonstration of the coming together of deep rooted tradition and modern

culture."

"With the much awaited spring season upon us, it is that time of the year when we see a new cycle of life everywhere around us. The event will be a representation of the new Manipur where people from across the world will get to experience and connect with each other breaking all the barriers that has been there. We cannot think of a better way for people of Manipur to celebrate spring. KUMNOU will be showcasing the beauty of Manipur during the best season and sharing

an experience of the transformed and renewed Manipur," said Bobby Laishram, Founder of The Giving Tree who is organising the event with Spirit Adventure.

The event which will showcase the diverse art and culture of Manipur and India also look at promoting tourism in Manipur. KUMNOU which is scheduled during the festive season is expected to attract tourist from different parts of the country and abroad while helping in the growth of the local economy.