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'In Assam, there is no violence, and all communities and tribes are living peacefully' KA Assam's fastest developing district: CM

HT Bureau DIPHU, April 21: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday lauded Karbi Anglong's progress, declaring it one of Assam's fastest developing districts. Emphasising the state's tranquility, Sarma affirmed that Assam witnesses no violence, with all communities and tribes coexisting harmoniously.



showcasing the people's allegiance. Expressing contentment over Karbi Anglong's High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) results, Sarma commended the district's impressive 81% pass rate, signaling progress in educational outcomes.

cautioning against further encroachments. On electoral prospects, Sarma exuded confidence, predicting a substantial vote share of 3 to 4 lakh for the BJP from the Diphu seat. In a subsequent rally at Dongkamukam, Sarma underscored the BJP's governance in Delhi, Dispur, and Diphu, highlighting the party's widespread influence.

Shah holds roadshow in Assam's Silchar

SILCHAR, April 21: Braving rain, Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday led a colourful roadshow in Silchar, the most important town of Assam's Barak Valley bordering Bangladesh, for BJP candidate Parimal Suklabaidya. Accompanied by Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Shah was standing atop a decorated vehicle which had Prime Minister Narendra Modi's picture in front. The 2-km long roadshow began at the District Sports Association point in the heart of the town at 5 pm and covered Central Road, Premtala, Ambikapatty and Hospital Road before culminating at Radhamadhav Road.



Naba Sarania's nomination cancelled

KOKRAJHAR, April 21: The nomination papers of Kokrajhar MP Naba Kumar Sarania, who was looking for a third consecutive term, were cancelled on Sunday, officials said. Returning Officer Pradeep Kumar Dwivedi told reporters the nomination papers of Sarania were found invalid, and hence cancelled. "Out of the 16 nominations filed till the last day on April 19, 15 were found valid. The candidates who are willing to withdraw their nominations can do the same by 3 pm tomorrow," he said.

PM Modi takes swipe at Sonia Gandhi's Rajya Sabha entry

JAIPUR, April 21: In a veiled attack on Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said those who cannot win elections have "fled the field" and have come to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. Addressing an election rally in Rajasthan's Jalore, Modi said the country is punishing the Congress for its "sins" and the party that had once won 400 seats is unable to find candidates to contest 300 seats in this Lok Sabha election.



existed before 2014 to return. "The Congress has hollowed out the country by spreading termites of nepotism and corruption. And today, the country is angry with the Congress and is punishing it for these sins. The youths are so angry that they do not want to see the Congress' face again."

Indian-origin mayoral candidate wants to run London like a 'seasoned CEO'

LONDON, April 21: Tarun Ghulati, the Indian-origin candidate in the race to challenge Sadiq Khan from winning a third term as Mayor of London, has said that the citizens of the UK capital have been let down by all the major political parties and he wants to run London like a "seasoned CEO" which delivers profits for all.



our London, our home," he said. Safety on the streets of the city is among his other major priorities, with visible community policing and more officers patrolling on the beat on the agenda.

and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) across the city, also make up Ghulati's key policy planks. "We did not want ULEZ, LTNs or 20mph speed limits and many other poor policies... Climate change is happening and we need to mitigate its effects but that cannot be done by making everyone live 15 minutes from home or to penalise commuters in areas with little public transport. What changes we need to make must be paced with public opinion, not imposed in an arbitrary way on wallets coping with the cost of living," said Ghulati, who has called London his home for 20 years.

Delhi HC to hear Kejriwal's plea against ED summons today

NEW DELHI, April 21: The Delhi High Court will on Monday hear chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's petition challenging the summonses issued to him by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with its probe into an excise policy-linked money laundering case. Kejriwal, arrested by the agency on March 21 after the high court refused to grant him interim protection from coercive action, has also challenged the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act with respect to arrest, questioning and grant of bail.

Bhupen asks Himanta to resign if Gaurav wins

GUWAHATI, April 21: Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah on Sunday asked chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who has been claiming that BJP will win all five seats of first phase polling, to resign if Gaurav Gogoi wins from Jorhat constituency. Addressing a press conference here, Borah also criticised Sarma over his dance moves in campaign meetings and said he should join films if he wants to entertain people.

Leaders of INDIA bloc are either in jail or bail: Nadda

lenging him: will he resign if Gaurav Gogoi wins from Jorhat?" asked the Congress leader. During the first phase on April 19, voting took place in Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Kaziranga, Sonitpur and Jorhat, from where Gogoi contested against sitting BJP MP Topon Kumar Gogoi. No BJP national figure came to campaign in Jorhat, and the entire campaign was led by the chief minister, who addressed multiple meetings and held several roadshows covering all the 10 assembly segments in the constituency.

HUBBALLI (KARNATAKA), April 21: Accusing the INDIA bloc as a group of dynastic politics, BJP national president J P Nadda on Sunday said the members of 'Ghamandia' (arrogant) parties are either on bail or in jail. He said if there was one party which has respect for democracy, it is the BJP as it allows ordinary people to rise and become leaders.

People are absolutely fed up with politics of fear and tyranny: TMC MP CAA an overused political tool, says Sushmita Dev

SILCHAR, April 21: Senior Trinamool Congress leader Sushmita Dev claimed that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is an "overused political tool that stands exposed for its ineffectiveness". In an interview with PTL, the Rajya Sabha MP alleged that a lot of Hindus were excited when CAA was passed in Parliament but now it has become "khoda pahar nikla chuha" (much ado about nothing) as people are being asked to submit passports and school certificates of Bangladesh.

in Assam is "based on lies", and those who led it will be answerable to the people. "After bringing the law, the BJP-led Centre kept it hanging for four years as an ineffective piece of legislation and now they have made it an almost impossible option (for people) due to its rules and regulations," the former Silchar MP said. "During the updation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, we Bengali Hindus had to prove that we are Indians by submitting Indian school certificates and other documents but in CAA, we are being asked to submit documents from Bangladesh," she alleged.



she alleged. "The CAA, therefore, stands exposed... it is an overused political tool which is going nowhere," Dev said. CAA rules were notified on March 11, over four years after it was enacted on December 11, 2019. It seeks to grant Indian nationality to persecuted Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian

immigrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who sought shelter in India before December 31, 2014. The TMC MP said that price rise is a major issue in polls, and people are "absolutely fed up with politics of fear and tyranny". "You cannot write freely on social media, you cannot speak out against the government... anger and frustration are growing. Contrary to the surveys that have come out, I believe people of the country are not happy with the current regime and a churning is underway in the entire nation," she claimed. Dev said that it was not (CONTD. ON PAGE-2)

BEPAR TERANG COACHING CENTRE, HANJANGLANGSO GOOD NEWS FOR UPSC & APSC EXAMS ASPIRANTS OF BOKAJAN SUB-DIVISION COMPETITIVE EXAMS COACHING AND GUIDANCE BY BEPAR TERANG COACHING CENTRE, HANJANGLANGSO Coaching and guidance headed by Mr. DILIP KUMAR LEKTHE, who is behind the success of: Ms. Arnika Lekthepi, ACS, presently Election Officer, Hamren Mr. Sidhanta Killing, AFS, Forest Ranger (APSC Recruitment) 6 MONTHS APSC CCE COACHING STARTED FROM 1ST APRIL, 2024 (MORNING SHIFT: 8AM TO 11 AM) REGISTRATION FOR 2ND BATCH GOING ON (EVENING SHIFT: 2PM TO 5 PM) Contact Us: 70998 24738 Office Address: 1st floor, Sarihajan Bazar Committee Building, Hanjanglangso



# Heroin recovered in Karbi Anglong

**HT Correspondent**  
**BOKAJAN, April 21:** The police have recovered heroin from a couple at Kara Rongpi in Karbi Anglong.

The accused have been identified as Philip Basumatary (22) and a young woman, Kikeusanu Keretsu. Basumatary is a resident of Sunday Market in Lahorjan in Karbi Anglong.

On Saturday evening the police intercepted a motorcycle bearing the registration number 'AS 01 BX 3933' and recovered two identical plastic cases containing heroin weighing 23.950 gms. In this case a couple has been apprehended.

Police officials that further investigations into the matter are on at present.

# Village headman killed in West Karbi Anglong

**HT Bureau**  
**DIPHU, April 21:** In a tragic incident unidentified miscreants killed the village headman of Thepli Aram village under Jengkha Police Outpost in West Karbi Anglong district.

The victim has been identified as Rostom Tisso (65 years) of Thepli-Aram village.

According to the victim's elder son Mongol Tisso, on the evening of had gone to attend an election meeting organised by the Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC) in the village on Saturday. The meeting lasted up to 7 p.m. After the meeting Tisso along with another village headman Mohon Bey had headed out to their homes.

Later someone informed the deceased's family that he had been lying dead in a pool of blood by the roadside. The miscreants had reportedly beheaded the victim. The body has been sent for autopsy to the Diphu Medical College and Hospital here.

# Gohain Baruah remembered for his unmatched contributions to enrich Assamese literature

## Assamese literary icon Padmanath Gohain Baruah remembered in Sonitpur



**HT Correspondent**  
**TEZPUR, April 21:** Several organisations paid rich tributes to noted Assamese litterateur and the first president of the Asom Sahitya Sabha Padmanath Gohain Baruah on the occasion of his 78th death anniversary on Sunday.

The Tezpur Sahitya Sabha, Baan Theatre, Asamiya Bhasa Unnati Sakhini Sabha, Padmanath Gohain Barua Sakha Sahitya Sabha and several other socio-cultural and literary organizations paid tribute to the literary icon during a daylong programmes organised in Tezpur on Sunday.

Gohain Baruah was a novelist, poet, lyricist, dramatist of excellence, analyst and a thought provoking writer. He was also the first chairman of the Tezpur Municipality Board.

As part of the daylong commemoration programme conducted by the former secretary of the Tezpur Sahitya Sabha, a book launching cum memorial lecture programme was also held at the Tezpur Sahitya Sabha Bhawan here. Two books were released by Bhupen Saikia, president of the Sonitpur Zila Sahitya Sabha and Bhubaneswar Saharia, president

of the Tarun Asam Sangha.

Launching the short story collection titled 'Patar Aror Juj' authored by Maya Sarma, a veteran writer of Tezpur, Bhupen Saikia in his deliberation lauded the effort of the author and said that her stories always convey the distinctive qualities of a well read short story. Discussing the astounding journey of Edgar Allen Poe as founder of short stories Saikia said that the short story was the innovative creation of nineteenth century.

He also mentioned the contributions of Lakshminath Bezbarua as a short story writer and said that he published his first short story 'Seuti' in Jonaki. Further, he also remembered the notable contributions of Padmanath Gohain Barua in shaping the state's literary arena and the Assamese society as a whole. He felt aggrieved for not discussing the contributions made by Gohain Barua widely amongst the Assamese people and urged all to pay attention to that concern.

While launching the collection of limericks titled 'Akuki Limericks and Apodeeya Padya' by Hareswar Goswami, noted writer

Bhubaneswa Saharia analysed the impact of limericks in society and facts of its journey from the inception. Expressing deep concern over rapid decrease of the reading habit among Assamese people he encouraged all to read more books and also discussed unmatched contributions made by Padmanath Gohain Barua to the Assamese language literature and society.

President of the Baan Theatre, Bankim Sarma remembered the contributions made by Padmanath Gohain Baruah towards the Assamese literary world and the Assamese society.

"The great literary legend Padmanath Gohain Baruah had left no stone unturned to overcome the hurdles and obstacles that existed in the then Assamese society, educational arena and the literary field. Gohain Barua was the backbone of Assamese language, literature and the society. He penned the first Assamese novel 'Bhanumati' followed by his second novel Lahori. To meet the need of the Assamese students and teachers he wrote a number of textbooks on history, geography, moral science, teachers hand book and a book on physical exercise

# Husband stabs wife to death at Balijuri



**HT Correspondent**  
**BISWANATH CHARIALI, April 21:** The police have arrested on man for stabbing his wife to death in the Dakhin Balijuri area of Biswanath Chariali.

According to sources, the accused, Thungi Santhal, a resident of Dakhin Balijuri had reportedly stabbed his wife, Joonmani Santhal to death at his residence on Saturday night. A heated argument broke out between the couple regarding a particular family issue. The furious husband, who had been drunk

stabbed his wife with a sharp knife and escaped from his house. They have two children.

When the incident came to light in the morning, the village headman informed the police. A team of police opersonnel headed by Bhaskar Jyoti Saikia, officer-in-charge of the Itakhola outpost reached the site and launched a manhunt to apprehend the accused. The husband was later arrested by the police and taken into custody. The body was sent for autopsy, the report of which is awaited.

# RPF rescues 16 minors from trains, stations

**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, April 21:** The railway protection force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) successfully rescued 16 minors during its ongoing checking drives conducted from April 13 to 19 at different trains and railway stations.

During the period of 2023-24, 654 minors comprising of 409 boys and 245 girls and 69 women were rescued by RPF in coordination with the government railway police (GRP), Childline and NGOs. The rescued children and women were handed over to respective Childline, NGOs and GRP for further legal proceedings.

Also, during the same period a total of 12 human traffickers were arrested and 32 persons including 25 minor boys, four minor girls, two males and one female were rescued from them.

In an incident of on April 18,

RPF team of Katihar, rescued three destitute minor boys at the Katihar railway station. Later, the rescued minors were handed over to their respective parents after proper verification. On April 16, RPF team of Chaparmukh, while conducting check in train the Deoghar - Agartala Express at the Chaparmukh Station rescued one runaway minor girl. Later, she was handed over to the Child Welfare Committee of Nagaon for safe custody.

Preventive measures are being taken to take action in case of children in need of care and protection, who are found in trains and railway premises. RPF carries on a relentless fight against criminals in protecting railway passengers, remains vigilant for suspected persons involved in human trafficking as well as the movement of children in a suspicious manner, travelling alone, without proper guardian etc.



PHE Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah campaigns for AGP-BJP alliance candidate Javed Islam at Dhubri on Sunday. UB Photos

# Ram Navami celebrated at Margherita

**HT Correspondent**  
**MARGHERITA, April 21:** A huge religious rally was taken out at the Margherita Dirok Tea Estate to celebrate 'Ram Navami' on Sunday.

Over 5000 people from the tea tribe community of the Dehing Tea Estate, Margherita Tea Estate, Namdang Tea Estate, Ledo Tea Estate, Segunbari and Dirok Tea Estate partook in the rally.

Since 2007 Ram Navami has been celebrated at the Dirok Tea Estate in Margherita in Tinsukia district every year. During the occasion a mass wedding ceremony was also organised for underprivileged youths of the tea tribe community this year, where a total of 31 couples got married.

Binud Munda member of the Ram Navami reception committee said that the festival, which began on April 17 concluded on Sunday with a huge religious rally attended by about 5000 people.

"Many people from the tea tribe community are getting converted to other religions. Through this festival we have tried to bring the brothers and sisters on one platform so that our civilization, culture, tradition and religious beliefs remain intact," said Munda.



# Book released in Biswanath

**HT Correspondent**  
**BISWANATH CHARIALI, April 21:** Ti Din Kota Gaye a Nepali collection of stories compiled by eminent physician of Biswanath Chariali, Narayan Chandra Upadhyaya was released at a function held at the conference hall of Basanta Smriti Sangsthan on Sunday

The book was unveiled by Khemraj Nepal, a retired teacher and Sahitya Akademi's translation prize awardee writer. At the very outset of the programme, Tikaram Upadhyaya Nirvik lit the ceremonial lamp in front of the portrait of late Basanta Nepal and offered floral tributes followed by a welcome song performed by Prem Biswakarma.

# Hanuman Janamotsav to be celebrated in Hojai

Three-day grand celebrations being held to mark Hanuman Janamotsav at Shri Laxminarayan Mandir



**HT Correspondent**  
**HOJAI, April 21:** The Hanuman Janamotsav Samity under the aegis of Marwari Panchayat will hold the silver jubilee celebrations of the 'Hanuman Janamotsav' with a grand three-day celebration at the Shri Laxminarayan Mandir in Hojai from April 22 to 24.

The Shri Laxminarayan Mandir was established in 1935. The temple has the idol of Lord Hanuman, Shri Laxminarayan, Sri Ram along with Goddess Sita, Laxman and Hanuman, Lord Shiva along with his family. Outside the temple there is an idol of Mata Shitala, footprints of Ramdev and Lord Bhairav.

The programme will commence from April 22 at the temple with a Ramayan Paath at 10:30 am. This will be followed by a cultural procession, where a large number of enthusiastic women, men, children will participate. The cultural procession will be taken out from Balaji Engineering through J.K Kedia Road in Hojai. Artists, adorned as revered deities such as Hanuman, Shiva, Ram, Laxman and others, will

add a divine touch to the procession along with devotees carrying the flag of Lord Hanuman.

The venue in which the silver jubilee celebrations will be held will be illuminated with colourful lights and fluttering flags, heightening the festive spirit. On the next day on Mahapurnima, the events will commence with the ceremonial worship and Abhisekh of Lord Hanuman, followed by a grand Aarti scheduled marking the pinnacle of the spiritual engagements. In the evening, a dance performance by the children of the community will enthrall the devotees.

This will be followed by offerings being of laddos being made to the presiding deity. The concluding day of the celebrations will include a Hawan, Ponawathi followed by Aarti and Sunderkand Paath. Bhajans (devotional songs) will be sung by artistes Sweta Kaushik from Kolkata and Rahul Soni from Bhalgalpur. The Hanuman Janamotsav Samity has requested all the devotees to take part in the auspicious event.

# SVEEP Icon Rakesh Banik visits Dima Hasao



**HT Bureau**  
**HAFLONG, April 21:** With an aim of generating awareness among the voters of Haflong-ST Legislative Assembly constituency, state SVEEP ICON Rakesh Banik visited Dima Hasao district where Lok Sabha elections will be held during the second phase on April 26.

A cycle rally was organized by the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) cell where around 700 ladies participated from different walks of life.

Rakesh Banik, the para-cyclist and state icon of Assam Election, 2024, created awareness among the

voters through a cycle rally under SVEEP activities in the district. Requesting all the citizens to participate in this exercise of democracy he said, "I hope that each one of you will participate in the electoral process by exercising your democratic rights during the election time in order to establish a healthy government in the state".

The rally started from Haflong circuit house to the rotary of the district commissioner's office. The event was also attended by Shukram Chauhan, assistant commissioner and nodal officer of SVEEP Dima Hasao and Purabi Phonglo, deputy director of DIPRO and media and publicity cell.







# Police took control of the situation after a brief struggle Imphal based women organisation lambasts govt



**IMPHAL, April 21:** A powerful women based organisation in Imphal lambasted the government for not ensuring 'free and fair' election in the first phase of the Lok Sabha held on April 19.

A chaotic scene erupted at Khwairamband Keithel in the heart of Imphal, the main business hub of Manipur, after the police attempted to foil a press conference planned by the women vendors on Sunday. The press conference was

to be hosted by the Khwairamband Ima Keithel Coordinating Committee. However, it was stalled by a police team who arrived minutes ahead of the press conference.

The women vendors, who protested against the action of the police, had a heated argument with the police, resulting in the eruption of the chaotic scene.

With reinforcement, the police took control of the situation after a brief struggle.

Talking to the reporters while the women vendors were still confronting with the police, convener Laishram Mema of Khwairamband Ima Keithel Coordinating Committee questioned if there is still democracy in Manipur.

The convener of the organisation strongly criticised the way the election for the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency was conducted on April 19 while asking if it was conducted in a free and fair

manner.

"What was the motive behind sending free hands to the armed youths to disturb the poll process and why the armed security personnel guarding the polling stations remained as mute spectators?" she asked.

Mema said sensing a large-scale violence, the committee had earlier urged the government to postpone the poll in Manipur.

However, sidelining the voices of the committee as well as other organisations, the government conducted the election forcibly as a result of which armed youths indulged in violence activities and even women were assaulted physically, she pointed out.

Alleging that the security forces guarding the polling station did nothing to stop the armed youths from booth capturing and firing inside the premises of the polling station, she questioned the purpose of the armed security personnel deployed at the polling stations. (NNN)

# EVMs placed in strong rooms under strict surveillance in Mizoram

**AIZAWL, April 21:** All Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used in Mizoram Lok Sabha polls have been sealed and kept in designated strong rooms under strict surveillance, a senior election official said on Sunday.

Polling for the lone Lok Sabha seat in the northeastern state was held on April 19, while the votes will be counted on June 4.

Mizoram Additional Chief Electoral Officer H Lianzela said that the EVMs and the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines were brought from all polling stations to the designated strong rooms in Aizawl and 10 other district headquarters by polling officials on Friday and Saturday.

He said that there are 40 strong rooms in the state, one each for one assembly constituency, which are guarded by security forces to prevent any unauthorised access or tampering, he said.

Votes will be counted on June 4 along with the rest of the country, he said.

The election department has set up 13 polling centres, including 3 in Aizawl, across the state.



There are 40 counting halls, one each for one assembly segment.

Post-poll scrutiny of EVMs and VVPAT machines was held on Saturday.

The election department said that a total of 56.87 per cent polling was recorded in the Lok Sabha polls, excluding those voted through postal ballots and the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS).

Of the total 8.56 lakh electorate, 4.87 lakh exercised their franchise, it said. More than 3,500 police personnel and 12 companies of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) were deployed in the Lok Sabha polls and polling was held under a peaceful atmosphere, the department said.

Six candidates, one each from ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), main opposition Mizo National Front (MNF), Congress, BJP, People's Conference (PC) party and an independent candidate are in the fray. (PTI)



Chief electoral officer of Meghalaya Dr BDR Tiwari addressing media, informing about polling process. UB Photos

# Sit in demonstration against firing in Imphal

**IMPHAL, April 21:** A sit-in demonstration staged in Imphal's Singjamei on Sunday registered a strong protest against a gun attack by armed miscreants at the house of a leader of Imagi Meira, a women-based pressure group, on the Saturday night.

Two motorcycle-borne youths opened fire some rounds of guns at the house of Imagi Meira convener, Th Sujata at Singjamei Thokchom Leikai under Singjamei police station of Imphal West district on Saturday night, around 9.20 pm. No casualty was reported in the firing that came hours after the convener addressed a press conference denouncing the incidents of violence, threats and intimidations of voters and political party workers during the April 19 poll of the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency.

Voting at several polling stations across the valley districts were marred due to the unlawful activities of the armed miscreants.

Noting seriously the incidents,



Sujata had, during the press conference held on Saturday, demanded immediate actions to nab the armed miscreants.

She had also set a three-day deadline to the government and the concerned authorities to translate into action the demands raised by the pressure group.

Hours after she had addressed the press conference, two armed miscreants opened fire at her house at Singjamei Thokchom Leikai.

After the shooting incident, a team from Singjamei police station came to the house and took stock of the situation. A case was registered against the unknown persons.

While relating the firing incident at his house with the earlier press conference she had addressed, Th Sujata sought to find out the culprits who attacked her residence while talking to the media today.

She further demanded that resolving any issue with her or the

## Civil Services Day CM Rio lauds dedication of civil servants to public service

**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, April 21:** Chief minister Neiphiu Rio greeted civil servants on Civil Services Day. In a message, he lauded the dedication of civil servants to public service, which contributes to our Nation's progress.

Chief minister Rio hoped that they remain committed to upholding the dignity and integrity of the Nation. The Government of India celebrates National Civil Services Day on April 21 every year in India every year to acknowledge and honour the work of civil servants engaged in public service who are the backbone of the nation's administration. This day commemorates the address by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of independent India where he referred to civil servants as the steel frame of India.

# Nagaland CM and Dy CM rally behind NPF candidate in Manipur LS poll campaign



**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, April 21:** Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio and deputy chief minister Taditui Rangkau Zeliang, leaders of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), a coalition partner of the BJP and the regional Naga People's Front, participated in Lok Sabha election campaigns in Manipur on Saturday.

The two NDPP leaders addressed the campaign event at Maram Bazaar in Manipur's Senapati district, which borders Nagaland to the north.

They lent their support to NPF

candidate Kachui Timothy Zimik, who is contesting in the multi-cornered race for the Outer Manipur Parliamentary seat reserved for scheduled tribes. The election for this seat is scheduled for April 26.

During his speech, the Nagaland chief minister emphasized the importance of preserving Naga traditions among Nagas residing both in Manipur and Nagaland.

He urged voters in Manipur to cast their ballots in favor of the NPF candidate, aiming to realize the longstanding aspirations of the Nagas for the benefit of future generations.

Senapati district, comprising three assembly segments - Mao, Karong, and Tadubi, will also go to the polls on April 26.

It boasts 142,688 voters across 220 polling stations, making it the district with the largest electorate among the eight districts covering 13 assembly constituencies.

The 13 assembly segments, including Jiribam AC, Tengenoupal AC, Phungyar AC, Ukhrol AC, Chingai AC, Karong AC, Mao AC, Tadubi AC, Tamei AC, Tamenglong AC, Nungba AC, Tipaimukh AC, and Thanlon AC, fall under the Outer Manipur PC and will vote on April 26.

In addition to the NPF candidate Kachui Timothy Zimik, other contenders for the Outer Manipur Lok Sabha seat include INC's Alfred Kanngam Arthur (Palm), and Independent candidates Alyson Abonmai (Diamond) and S Kho John (Trumpet).

# Meghalaya: HNLC maintains silence over peace talk with govt



**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, April 21:** The future of peace talks between the Meghalaya government and the banned Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLG) remains uncertain as the militant outfit has not responded to the government's recent appeal.

The Meghalaya government wanted to resume dialogue after HNLG's top leaders missed the last round of talks. Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong reiterated the government's commitment to peace and urged the HNLG to "re-

# Power outages likely as theft cripples Likimro Hydroelectric Project

**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, April 21:** Parts of Nagaland may face power disruptions following the collapse of a transmission tower near Kiphire district.

According to the Power Department, the incident occurred at the 66kV Kiphire-Likimro Transmission Line, a crucial link for the Likimro Hydroelectric Project (HEP).

The collapse reportedly took place owing to an alleged theft of tower parts.

The executive engineer of the Transmission Division stated the department is working to rectify the situation and urged the public to refrain from such actions.

The police have been approached to investigate the incident.

The 66kV Kiphire-Likimro Transmission Line collapses near Pungro town in the Kiphire district.

# Speeches & promises of INDI alliance, nothing but mere drama: Tripura CM

**HT Bureau**  
**GUWAHATI, April 21:** Tripura chief minister Manik Saha on Sunday said that the people of the state have realized that the speeches and promises made by the INDI alliance for the elections are nothing but mere drama.

"When PM Modi visited Agartala, he said 'picture abhi baki hai.' We can assume what awaits us when Narendra Modi will take charge again as PM," he said.

The chief minister also noted that before 2014, there were significant concerns about the country's future.

He claimed, "Under the UPA government's rule, corruption was rampant. Our soldiers were attacked, and our parliament itself came under attack. An unstable situation prevailed. However, after Narendra Modi assumed office as Prime Minister in 2014, the country's situation changed rapidly. He demonstrated effective governance."

"We witnessed how China encroached on our territory during the UPA government's tenure. But when Narendra Modi took office, no one dared to encroach on our land. PM Modi emphasized that without developing the Northeast, overall national development is not possible. He introduced the HIRA Model and Act East Policy," said Saha.

Saha also highlighted PM Modi's focus on the welfare of the people through various development schemes.

"The INDI alliance claims that there is no democracy, but we see them holding rallies and giving speeches where no one comes to listen, as people have understood that their promises are merely theatrical", he remarked.

# Fresh poll only in six polling stations was against the number demanded by the Manipur Congress and RPI (Athawale). 11 polling stations in inner constituency in Manipur recommended for repoll

**HT Bureau**  
**IMPHAL, April 21:** Amid hordes of condemnations pouring in on the incidents of violence at various polling stations on poll day, the chief electoral officer (CEO) Manipur on Saturday recommended repoll in eleven polling stations in Inner Parliamentary constituency.

The polling stations recommended in Inner Parliamentary constituency for fresh polls were 3/11 Moirang Kampu Sajeb Upper Primary School, 5/31 Khongman Zone 5, 10/1 Iroisemba Upper Primary School (Eastern Wing), 10/6 Iroisemba Upper Primary School (Western Wing), 10/7 Iroisemba Upper Primary School (Middle Wing), 18/22 Kaidem Makha, 3/21 S Ibobi Primary School, 4/43 Bamon Kampu Upper Primary School, 4/46 Irlilbung High School (South Wing), 4/45 Irlilbung High School (South wing) and 4/44 Pioneer Academy (Bamon Kampu).

Citing interruption by mobs during the polling that led to the destruction of EVMs in these polling stations, the CEO Manipur office made the recommendation for fresh



polls, in a letter to the Election Commission of India (ECI) on April 19, the poll day itself.

The CEO office made the recommendation based on a report submitted by the Returning Officer (RO) of the Inner Manipur Parliamentary.

The RO stated that the polls taken on April 19 in these polling stations were vitiated to such an extent that the results of the poll there cannot be ascertained.

The fresh poll only in six polling stations was against the number demanded by the Manipur Congress and RPI (Athawale).

The MPCC had demanded fresh polls in as many as 36 polling stations while the RPI (A) in 20 polling stations where they alleged malpractices like proxy voting and disturbances by armed miscreants during the poll hours.

The MPCC demanded fresh polls in three polling stations in Heingang Assembly segment and Khurai Assembly segment, four in Kshetrigao AC, five in Thongju AC, six in Keirao AC and one each in Andro AC and Yaikul AC.

Amid incidents of violence, the voting for the Inner Manipur Parliamentary seat was held on Friday along with 15 Assembly segments falling under Outer Manipur Parliamentary seat with an overall 68.62% voter turnout record.

The office of the chief electoral officer (CEO) Manipur said it has recorded an overall turnout of 68.62 % at 5 pm. It added that in the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency, 72.32% voter turnout was recorded while 61.98 % in the Outer Manipur (ST) Parliamentary constituency. (NNN)







## Zendaya says she and Tom Holland once got out of getting a speeding ticket



**LOS ANGELES, April 21:** "Euphoria" star Zendaya says she and Tom Holland once dodged a speeding ticket after the traffic police recognised her partner from their "Spider-Man" movies.

The two-time Emmy winner made the revelation on the talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" where she stopped by to promote her upcoming romantic sports drama "Challengers".

Zendaya recalled she and Holland, who co-starred in three "Spider-Man" films, were once getting late for a spin dance class.

While Holland played Peter Parker/ superhero Spider-Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Zendaya played Michelle/ MJ.

"Tom and I were rushing to a spin class ... with my mother. I was not going to do the spin class. He was going to do the spin class because I don't do that. But we were going a little fast because we were running late," she said.

But when they were pulled over for speeding, they were able to dodge the ticket.

"They recognised that he was Spider-Man, and we were fine. We got a warning, and everything was OK," the actor added.

Zendaya and Holland, both 27, were first romantically linked in 2021 when the paparazzi took photos of them kissing in a car in Los Angeles.

Two months later, Holland made their relationship official on Instagram when he shared a photo of the two of them on Zendaya's birthday. "My MJ, have the happiest of birthdays. Gimme a call when your up," the caption read. (PTI)

## 'Do Aur Do Pyaar' not a film about infidelity: Director Shirsha Guha Thakurta



**MUMBAI, April 21:** Infidelity is a "loaded term" and that's not what her film "Do Aur Do Pyaar" is about, says director Shirsha Guha Thakurta, who has delved into the realities of urban relationships in her feature debut.

"Do Aur Do Pyaar" follows Kavya and Ani, played by Vidya Balan and Pratik Gandhi, a married couple who falls back in love with each other despite indulging in extramarital affairs after a trip to Ooty brings back memories.

Guha Thakurta, who has been an ad filmmaker for 15 years, said she has attempted to tell a story about growing out of love without attaching any connotation to it.

Guha Thakurta, who has been an ad filmmaker for 15 years, said she has attempted to tell a story about growing out of love without attaching any connotation to it.

"It's not a film about infidelity, it's about love. If it's not working for you anymore, you're in your right to find love where you do. The word infidelity has a connotation that is not really positive. Infidelity is a loaded term. We have tried to make sure people don't see it (infidelity) as something we are either promoting or calling it wrong or right," the debutante director told PTI in an interview here.

"Urban relationships go through this (growing out of love). I don't think we speak enough about what happens when love becomes old. These are interesting and important questions that we as society need to ask or accept what our reality is," she added.

"Do Aur Do Pyaar", also starring Sendhil Ramamurthy and D'Cruz, released on Friday. The romantic comedy received good reviews from critics but got a slow start at the box office.

What is heartening, Guha Thakurta said, is that some people picked up on the nuances in the film.

"Some wrote that, 'We don't judge any of them'. For me, that was one of the biggest things we've tried," the 40-year-old said.

"It was important to not make it sad and see the light hearted ness of it, because it can get serious. The whole film shouldn't be like that. Then you're making some serious statements and people might not want to even watch it," she added.

Guha Thakurta said the makers Applause Entertainment and Ellipsis Entertainment Production had already decided to cast Balan as Kavya when she boarded the film. (PTI)

## Malayalam hit 'Manjummel Boys' to stream on Disney+ Hotstar

**NEW DELHI, April 21:** Malayalam survival thriller "Manjummel Boys" will have its digital premiere on Disney+ Hotstar, the streaming platform has announced.

The hit movie, written and directed by Chidambaram, hit the theatres on February 22 in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and received widespread acclaim from audience and critics.

"Manjummel Boys" also became the highest grossing Malayalam film by earning over Rs 200 crore and surpassing the record set by "2018", India's official entry to 2024 Academy Awards.

Disney+ Hotstar shared the update about the movie's premiere on Saturday evening. It will announce the release date on the platform later.

"The boys are coming soon on Disney+ Hotstar. #ManjummelBoysOnHotstar #ManjummelBoys #DisneyPlusHotstar #ComingSoon," the streamer said in the post.

Based on a true incident and produced by Parava Films, "Manjummel Boys" revolves around a group of friends from a small town called Manjummel near Kochi who decide to have a vacation in Kodaikanal.

Soubin Shahir, Sreenath Bhasi, Balu Varghese, Ganapathi S. Poduval, Lal Jr, Deepak Parambol, Abhiram Radhakrishnan, Arun Kurian, Khalid Rahman, Chandu Salimkumar, Shebin Benson, and Vishnu Reghu round out the cast of the film. (PTI)



## 'The Office' follow-up series adds Domhnall Gleeson, Sabrina Impacciatore to cast



**LOS ANGELES, April 21:**

The new iteration of classic sitcom The Office has found its first two cast members in British actor Domhnall Gleeson and The White Lotus star Sabrina Impacciatore. ADVERTISEMENT Sources told entertainment news outlet Variety that Impacciatore and Gleeson are attached to the project, which remain in development at Universal Television. The two actors will be part of an ensemble cast, like the beloved American mockumentary series, which starred Steve Carell,

Rainn Wilson, John Krasinski and Jenna Fischer, among others.

The Office, which was a remake of the British series of the same title, ran on NBC from 2005 to 2013. The updated take comes from The Office creator Greg Daniels, who has partnered with Michael Koman, best known for the reality show Nathan for You.

No platform is yet attached to the project as the studio wants to make sure the take is right before setting it up at a network or a streamer. (PTI)

## There's more hunger in me: actor Rajkummar Rao

**MUMBAI, April 21:** It has been 14 years for Rajkummar Rao in the movies and the actor says he continues to be hungry for challenging roles quite like his upcoming film "Srikanth", in which he plays the visually impaired industrialist Srikanth Bolla.

The actor, who made his film debut with 2010's Love Sex Aur Dhokha, has carved a niche for himself with films across genres like Shahid, Trapped, Bareilly Ki Barfi, Newton, Stree, and Monica, O My Darling, among many others.

In Srikanth, Rao essays the role of the titular industrialist who pursued his dreams despite his visual impairment, ultimately founding Bollant Industries. Directed by Tushar Hiranandani,

the film will hit the screens on May 10.

"I don't really plan. Whatever character, film I'm doing at that moment, that's (becomes) my dream role. I'm only focused on that character and that story. I'm sure there's much more ahead for me."

"Like, two-three years ago I didn't know that I would be able to do 'Srikanth', but it happened. (Today) There's more hunger in me as an actor, and there's more fire. There'll be way more challenging characters (coming) my way," the National Award winner told PTI in an interview here.

Asked if he would like to do an action film or a potboiler movie, Rao said he didn't have any such desire.

"But if somebody offers me a

film like that with a great story attached to it and somebody sensible is making it, then I don't mind it," he added.

The 39-year-old actor, who has been part of critically-acclaimed biographical projects like Shahid, Omerta and Bose: Dead/Alive, said there is a "duty" towards the real-life character he plays on screen.

"In biopics, you're portraying a real-life character. Some people know that character, if not all. So, there's always that comparison. If you hit it right, you'll get a lot of love because people would be like, 'Wow, he's actually recreated the same person for us on screen'."

"But if we hit it wrong, then there's a big problem. It's not a responsibility, but there's some duty towards the person whose life

you're portraying because he has his people around who know him for such a long time. So, there's some kind of duty towards his life," he said.

Rao was Hiranandani's first choice to play the lead role in "Srikanth" and the actor said he was a bit scared initially to take up the role.

"I love challenges. And, something that scares me excites me even more. And 'Srikanth' did that to me. I've never played a visually impaired man before. I didn't know if I would be able to do it."

"But that's the fun where you push yourself out of your comfort zone. There was so much research that had to be done. Whenever I get an opportunity like that, I totally cherish it," Rao said. (PTI)





