

## **NORTH EAST NEWS BULLETIN**

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### **HEADLINES:-**

- Election authority decides to set up 94 Special Polling Stations across Manipur to facilitate voting in upcoming Lok Sabha polls by internally displaced persons who are taking shelter in different relief camps due to ethnic violence.
- Nagaland cabinet meets Eastern Nagaland Gazetted Officers Association and other senior government officials and holders of important offices from Eastern Nagaland and discusses demand of Eastern Nagaland People's Organization for Frontier Nagaland Territory.
- Special Police Officer in Tripura temporarily suspended from service for being charged with violation of the election model code of conduct.
- Congress releases manifesto for Lok Sabha elections; major highlights of manifesto include guarantee of national minimum wage at 400 per day, one lakh rupees per year to every poor family, reservation of 50 per cent seats for women in central government jobs, legal guarantee for Minimum Support Prices and national caste census.
- Commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for upcoming Lok Sabha elections commenced in all districts of Manipur.

### **SPECIAL POLLING:**

In Manipur, the election authority has decided to set up 94 Special Polling Stations across the State to facilitate voting by Internally Displaced Persons who are taking shelter in different relief camps due to the ethnic violence that started in May last year. The authority has taken up various measures for the seamless voting on the polling day and maximum participation of voters in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election. For the phase-I polling, the Election Commission has decided to set up 85 Special Polling Stations spread across seven districts including two hill districts - Churachandpur and Kangpokpi. While the Internally Displaced Persons will cast their votes at nine Special Polling Station to be set up in three districts including one valley district - Jiribam. The election officials have distributed more than seventeen thousand four hundred ID forms in all the relief camps for hassle free voting by the inmates of relief camps. So far, around nine thousand nine hundred forms have been submitted to the polling officials.

### **MEETING:**

In Nagaland, the state cabinet has met the Eastern Nagaland Gazetted Officers Association and other senior government officials and holders of important offices from the Eastern Nagaland at Kohima and discussed the demand of the Eastern Nagaland People's Organization for Frontier Nagaland Territory. The cabinet also urged the organization to persuade the citizens to participate in the electoral process of the country. Speaking to media persons, Nagaland Power Minister, KG Kenye said, the discussion was healthy, free and fair during the meeting wherein the state government presented a brief report from the time when the aspiration of

ENPO started in 2010 till date. Different members also presented their views and opinions.

**SUSPENSION:**

In Tripura, a Special Police Officer has been temporarily suspended from service for being charged with violation of the election model code of conduct. A statement from the state election department said, the police officer was charged with taking part in a political party programme on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. The Superintendent of Police of West Tripura district, Dr Kiran Kumar issued the suspension order yesterday. It is the first such incident wherein a police official was suspended.

**MANIFESTO:**

Guarantee of national minimum wage at 400 per day, one lakh rupees per year to every poor family, reservation of 50 per cent seats for women in central government jobs, legal guarantee for Minimum Support Prices and national caste census are the major highlights of the Congress manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections. The manifesto was released by Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge and senior party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday. The Congress also promised development of infrastructure and removing poverty by improving the fortunes of 23 crore people over the next decade. The party has also promised abolition of application fees for government jobs, cashless health insurance up to 25 lakh rupees for universal healthcare and filling up around 30 lakh vacancies in sanctioned posts at various levels in the central government. The poll document also talks about carrying out investigations into the Electoral Bonds scheme.

**EVM:**

In Manipur, the commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections has commenced in all districts from yesterday. Speaking on the occasion of the launching of Signature Campaign on Electoral Participation in Imphal, Manipur Chief Electoral Officer, Pradeep Kumar Jha said, 64 engineers from the Electronics Corporation of India Limited have arrived in Manipur and they have been allocated across all districts of the State for commissioning of EVMs and VVPATs. All seven observers appointed by the Election Commission of India have arrived and they are overseeing preparations of the Lok Sabha elections in the state. Enforcing agencies have been putting all measures including opening of mobile checking and drive to avoid unfair means during the election process. Jha said that 118 Model Polling Stations will be set up across the State and there will be a total of 806 women managed polling stations and four polling stations will be exclusively managed by polling personnel belonging to the PwD category.

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