

# Thirty per cent turnout in Meghalaya by-polls till noon

**SHILLONG, AUG 23 /--** About 30 per cent votes were cast till noon in the by-elections to two Assembly seats in Meghalaya today, chief election officer F R Kharkongor said. By about noon, about 35 per cent of the 30,231 voters in South Tura constituency exercised their franchise and over 25 per cent of the 29,685 voters in Ranikor seat cast their votes, he said. The voting began at 7 am and will end at 5 pm.

Although he is not a voter in South Tura, chief minister Conrad K Sangma, who is contesting from the seat, accompanied his mother Soradini K Sangma and sister Agatha K Sangma as they cast their votes, he said. The largest polling station in South Tura constituency was Matchakolgre with 1,377 voters and the smallest was Leper Colony with 151 voters. In Ranikor constituency, Rangthong with 817 voters was the largest booth, while Nongbahjrin-Mawthabhab with only 12 voters was the smallest one, Kharkongor said. The by-elections to the

two seats were necessitated following the resignations of former Assembly Speaker and five-time Congress MLA Martin M Dango, who joined the United National People's Party (NPP), and South Tura MLA Agatha K Sangma. Dango resigned on June 21, while Sangma quit on July 2. Chief Minister Sangma, who is currently a Member of Parliament from Tura, is contesting from South Tura seat to become a member of the state Assembly. Son of former Lok Sabha Speaker

and chief minister Purno Sangma, he became the chief minister on March 6 with the support of the BJP and regional parties. He is pitted against the Congress candidate Charlotte W Momin and Independents - John Leslee K Sangma and Nris Khabul A Sangma. In Ranikor seat in South West Khasi Hills district, NPP's Martin M Dango will face United Democratic Party (UDP) candidate Pius Marwein, People's Democratic Front (PDF) chairman P N Szym and Congress candidate

Jackiush Sangma. In the Assembly elections earlier this year, Ranikor had recorded 89.5 per cent voters turn out, while South Tura had recorded 73.59 per cent, an election official said. Security has been tightened for the by-polls with deployment of four companies of the central armed police force each in both the constituencies, he said. The Border Security Force (BSF) has been asked to keep extra vigil as Ranikor constituency borders Bangladesh, he said. (PTI)



Leaders of different political parties at an all party meeting held at State Election Commission office on Thursday -Arijit Ganguly

## Vajpayee's ashes immersed in Assam's Brahmaputra, Barak rivers

**GUWAHATI, AUG 23 /--** Ashes of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee were today simultaneously immersed in the mighty Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in Assam's Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Dhubri and Silchar. Amidst recital of all faith prayers, one of the urns was taken in a specially prepared boat for immersion in the ashes in the midst of Brahmaputra with Vedic rites by chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, state BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass and other senior party leaders. The immersion took place in the Brahmaputra adjacent to Lachit ghat in Guwahati with "Ataji Amar rahe" slogan-ranting there.

The four urns containing the ashes of Bharat Ratna Vajpayee were brought to Assam on Wednesday by Dass from New Delhi after receiving them from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party national president Amit Shah at a function in Delhi on April 21. After being kept overnight in BJP state headquarters office at Hengrabari here the urns were placed in the opposite Karbi Field for people to pay tribute to the former Prime Minister.

The procession to immerse the ashes in Guwahati began at around 1 pm passing through R G Baruah Road, Chandmari and Latastil playground where the urn, received by chief minister Sonowal at the Airport from Dass and taken on a specially decorated truck, was kept for people to pay homage to the departed leader who had passed away on August 16 in Delhi.

From there the chief minister, his Cabinet colleagues, party president, MPs and MLAs, party leaders and workers along with people walked behind the truck carrying the urn the two km distance to Lachit Ghat for immersing the ashes in the Brahmaputra.

The three other urns sent to different parts of the state were also simultaneously immersed with that in Guwahati. One of the urns was taken to Dibrugarh by minister Tapan Gogoi, another by minister Bhabesh Kalita to Dhubri for immersion in Brahmaputra flowing across the state, while the third was taken by minister Parimal Suklabaidhya to Silchar for the ashes to be one with the other major rivers. Sonowal said four urns were sent to Assam as Vajpayee had a special bond with the state and North-East region contributing for their development. (PTI)



Raja Jaiswal the main accused in the robbery at ongoing metro project at Newtown was arrested by police from Hatigara, New Town on Thursday -Arijit Ganguly

## Fresh low pressure trough likely to bring more rain in Odisha

**BHUBANESWAR, AUG 23 /--** Respite from downpour is likely to be short-lived in Odisha with the meteorological department today predicting the formation of another low pressure area on the Bay of Bengal on Sunday.

Though rainfall subsided on Wednesday, the fresh bout of low pressure is expected to trigger showers in several parts of the state this weekend, an official at the Meteorological Centre here said. Heavy rain is predicted in the coastal

areas from the night of August 25, while parts of Puri, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, Bhubaneswar, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Jharsuguda are likely to experience showers the day after, he said. Altogether, 13 districts of Odisha receive sporadic rainfall in the past 24 hours, with Malkangiri district receiving the highest rainfall at 8.1 mm, a statement issued by the Special Relief Commissioner's (SRC) office said. The average rainfall in

the state was recorded at 0.6 mm today, it said. "With this, the cumulative average rainfall of the state from June 1 till date comes to 11.7 mm, a surplus of 8.9 per cent over the long-term average rainfall," the SRC statement said. Seven districts have received surplus rainfall of more than 19 per cent, whereas 22 districts have received normal rainfall during the period, it said, adding that Deogarh is the only region in the state to have suffered a deficit by 20.2 per cent. (PTI)

## State Notes

### Three youths run over by train in Bihar

**BEGUSARAI, AUG 23 /--** Three youths were today run over and killed by an express train here when they were trying to cross a railway track, a GRP official said. The Gandhidham bound Kamakhya Express from Assam knocked the three youths down at around 10 am when they were crossing tracks near Lakhminia station, Begusarai GRP station chief Haroon Rasheed said. Lakhminia station falls under the Baruni-Khagaria rail section of the East Central Railway zone. Rasheed said the deceased have been identified as Mohd Shamsul, Raj Kumar Poddar and Mohd Insaq. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination. (PTI)

### Odisha supplementary budget

**BHUBANESWAR, AUG 23 /--** Odisha government today approved a proposal to present the supplementary budget in the state's Legislative Assembly, which begins its monsoon session from September 4. Finance Minister S B Behera said a council of ministers' meeting chaired by chief minister Naraiah Patraik, approved the proposal. It would be presented on the first day of the monsoon session that will continue till September 20, officials said. "Since the state government has been announcing its own new welfare schemes on health, social security and food security, additional financial allocations have been made in the budget," Behera said. The council of ministers approved a supplementary budget of Rs 12,768 crore, sources in the state's finance ministry said. (PTI)

### Ex-Arunachal CM donates 1 month's salary for Kerala relief

**ITANAGAR, AUG 23 /--** Former Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Nabam Tuki has decided to donate his one month's salary towards the relief work in flood-hit Kerala, Tuki, who is the present MLA of Sagalee, shot off a letter to the secretary of the state government on Wednesday to remit his August salary to the account of Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund. Tuki said his small approach would help at least a few aggrieved people in Kerala, who are in dire need of financial support. The southern state is facing its worst flood in 100 years. The heavy rains and consequent floods have claimed 231 lives since August 8, causing an estimated loss of Rs 20,000 crore to the state. Mourning the demise of the flood victims, he said, "At this hour of grief and sorrow, I joined the rest of the nation to pay homage and condolences to the bereaved families." (PTI)

### Two die, one falls ill after consuming wild mushrooms

**BARIPADA, AUG 23 /--** Two members of a tribal family in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, police said today. The three had eaten mushroom for dinner last night at Kainphalia village. They complained of nausea, vomiting and stomach pain in the wee hours today, said Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Betnoti, G C Sethi. They were taken to the Community Health Centre (CHC) at Betnoti where a woman and her brother-in-law (husband) were taken to the SDPO said. The husband of the woman is undergoing treatment and his condition is stated to be serious, police said. The bodies were sent for post-mortem and a case of unnatural death was registered, the SDPO. The wild mushroom which the family had purchased from the local haat was suspected to be poisonous, police said. An investigation is in progress. The deceased were identified as Laxmi Hembram (37) and Vudhan Hembram (23), while Basu Hembram, aged around 40 years, is undergoing treatment, police said. (PTI)

### Lalji Tandon sworn in as Bihar Guv

**PATNA, AUG 23 /--** Veteran BJP leader Lalji Tandon was today sworn in as the 39th Governor of Bihar. He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of Patna High Court Mukesh R Shah at Raj Bhavan here in the presence of chief minister Nitish Kumar and deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi among others. Tandon replaced Satya Pal Malik, who took over as the governor of Jammu and Kashmir earlier in the day. Born in Lucknow on April 12, 1935, Tandon began his political career in the 1970s. He served as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council for two terms. Upon the BJP's ascension to power in UP, he also served as a minister on more than one occasion. Known to be close to Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Tandon won the Lucknow Lok Sabha seat in 2009, the same year the former prime minister announced his retirement from active politics on account of poor health. (PTI)

### Three killed, 35 injured as bus overturns

**JAMSHEDPUR, AUG 23 /--** Three persons were killed and 35 injured when a bus overturned here on the border of East Singhbhum district early today, police said. The bus was on its way to Raxaul in Bihar when the driver lost control over the vehicle and it overturned near Jamsola chok, about 90 km from here, they said. One person died on the spot while two others succumbed to injuries in hospital today. The injured were first rushed to primary health centre in Baharagora. The doctors at the health centre referred them to government-run M G M Hospital here. Altogether 15 injured persons were admitted in M G M hospital while several were discharged after first-aid, they added. (PTI)

**KOLKATA, AUGUST 23 /--** Train services were disrupted on Seoraphuli-Tarakeswar section for nearly one hour as a group of people obstructed railway track at Seoraphuli (near LG gate 4A) since 11.35 am in protest against poor condition of road surface near the level crossing gate. It is however, stated that work for repairing of road surface near LG gate 4A has already been started by the Railway Administration. Normal train services were resumed at 11.53 am when the obstructions were lifted. (EOIC)

## ER RPF assistance for passengers in distress

**KOLKATA, AUG 23 /--** Eastern Railway (ER) Railway Protection Force (RPF) rendered all sorts of help to the passengers in distress in addition to their duties. Following are some instances of assistances rendered by ER RPF to the passengers in distress:

- Rescued woman from committing suicide
- On duty RPF of Sealdah Division rescued one woman aged about 25 years found loitering near Railway track at Diamond Harbour Railway station.

On being asked, she disclosed her identity when it was learnt that she wanted to commit suicide. Later on, she was handed over to her husband.

- Rendered help to injured persons
- ER RPF rescued an injured person named, Tara Hansda (Male, 40 who fell down from Train No. 53401 UP (Sahibganj - Malda Town Pgr.) at New Farakka Railway station.

Against receipt of information, an injured person lying near Down

Main Line of Bhagalpur Railway station was sent to hospital at Bhagalpur after giving first-aid.

- Offer help to flood victims of Kerala at Howrah Station Officers and staff of RPF of Howrah and Medical Team of injured persons named, Tara Hansda (Male, 40 who fell down from Train No. 06337 (Guwahati - Kochuveli Special) at Howrah Railway station and rendered assistance to flood victims of Kerala by providing food and other necessary items. (EOIC)

## Eighty-five-day long Manipur Varsity agitation called off

**IMPHAL, AUG 23 /--** The 85-day long agitation at Manipur University was called off today by the protesters in the interest of students, Manipur University Students' Union president M Dayaman Singh said. The students of the university had been demanding the removal of vice-chancellor A P Pandey and constitution of an independent enquiry committee to look into the allegations of administrative and financial lapses made by the v-c.

The agitation was called off in the interest of students and particularly after the HRD ministry agreed to all the terms included in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on August 16, Singh said. The Manipur University Teachers' Association and the Manipur University Students' Union said it was for the authorities to decide when the classes would resume in the university. The MOA was signed by the Manipur University Students' Union, the Manipur University Teachers' Association, the Manipur University Staffs' Association and representatives of the HRD Ministry and Union president M Dayaman Singh said. The HRD Ministry through the registrar in-

charge Prof M Shamkesho Singh had issued a press release, saying that the ministry had agreed to all the demands raised by the protesting bodies. M Dayaman Singh said as they have called off the protest, the university authorities can now initiate steps to hold MA exams and declare pending results of final year college students. He however, maintained that their demand for removal of Pandey remains and any effort to reinstate him will not be accepted.

The Manipur University Students' Union had started the agitation on May 30 which had paralysed all academic activities in the Central university. When asked about all those deans and heads of departments who had resigned during the course of the agitation, M Dayaman Singh said the matter will now be taken up by the authorities concerned. Six deans, the PRO and 29 out of 31 head of departments had resigned after the agitation began.

The HRD ministry had set up a two-member inquiry committee to investigate the allegations of administrative and financial irregularities against Pandey. (PTI)

## Assam CM mourns death of veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar

**GUWAHATI, AUG 23 /--** Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal today condoled the demise of veteran journalist, author and human rights activist Kuldip Nayar. "Termining Nayar's death as an irreparable loss to the nation, Sonowal in a statement said he would always be remembered for his contributions to society. Late

Nayar was widely respected for his newspaper columns and his contributions to the field of journalism in the country were invaluable. His writings enlightened the readers on many pertinent issues of our times," he said. His books are great sources to knowledge about the political and social evolution of the country, the chief minister said adding

that as a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha and High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, he made notable services to the nation. Sonowal also conveyed his deep sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul. Nayar (95) passed away at a private hospital in New Delhi today. (PTI)

## Metro Motor man fails suicide bid, saves a precious life

**KOLKATA, AUG 23 /--** On August 23 around 10.19 am one male person aged about 31 years attempted to commit suicide in front of a Dum Dum bound Metro (ID 47 AC-1) at UP platform of Sova Bazar - Sutanuti

Metro Station. On seeing the suspicious movement of the person, the motorman of the train immediately applied the emergency brake to stop the train to avert the mishap and thus saved the precious life. In

the meantime, the on-duty prompt RPF staff at the station rescued the person from the edge of the platform and took him away from the spot. Later, he was handed over to the local Police Station. (EOIC)

## Swimming competition by CLW Sports Association



Ram Prakash, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, CLW giving away prizes to the winners of swimming competition on Wednesday -EOI Photo

**CHITTARANJAN, AUG 23 /--** Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) Sports association had organised a swimming competition among the children of Chittaranjan schools in association with Basanti Institute on August 22 in the swimming pool of Basanti Institute. The various categories of this event were, boys and girls under 10 years, boys and girls under 15 years and boys and girls

under 17 years. In total, about 54 participants attended the competition. The events included Freestyle, Breast stroke and Back stroke in 50 meter and 100 meter category. Srikant Rai, principal chief material manager of CLW inaugurated the competition near the swimming pool of Basanti Institute. On this occasion, Dr. Alok Majumdar, president of CLW Sports Association, Ram Prakash, principal chief electrical engineer, R. Yadav, chief vigilance officer, D. C.

Choudhury, chief engineer, S. C. Sawaiyan chief mechanical engineer/loco and other officers were present. Medals and certificates were awarded to the victorious swimmers in the competition by Srikant Rai, principal chief material manager and Ram Prakash, principal chief electrical engineer. D. C. Choudhury, chief engineer; R. Yadav, chief vigilance officer, S. C. Sawaiyan chief mechanical engineer/loco and Dr. Alok Majumdar, CMO.