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Polling in five states in

April-May

NEW DELHI, March 4 (IANS): Assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry will be held in April and May, Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi announced on Friday.

The Model Code of Conduct comes into effect immediately from now onwards.

While Assam will have a two-phase election on April 4 and 11, West Bengal will see balloting on seven dates: April 4, 11, 17, 21, 25 and 30 and

In contrast, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry will see polling on a single day: May 16. Votes polled in all five states will be counted on May 19, Zaidi told media persons

"The Model Code of Conduct comes into existence with immediate effect in all the poll-bound states," he said.

The none of the above (NOTA) option will now have a symbol on the electronic voting machines (EVMs) for the upcoming assembly elections.

"For the first time, the commission has provided a new symbol, designed by National Institute of Design (NID), for the NOTA option. This new symbol will facilitate the voters in casting their vote," he said.

In order to facilitate the electors in identifying the candidates, the commission has prescribed an additional measure by way of adding provision for printing the photograph of candidate also on the ballot to be displayed on the EVM and on postal ballot papers.

"This will also take care of likely confusion when candidates with same or similar names contest from the same constituency. For this purpose, the candidates are required to submit to the returning officer, their recent stamp-size photograph as per specifications laid down by the commission," Zaidi said.

Many of the poll-bound states will be using the photograph of the candidates on the ballot papers for the first time.

The commission has also taken various measures to ensure free and fair elections by creating an atmosphere in which each elector is able to access the polling station, without being obstructed or being unduly influenced or intimidated by anybody.

"Based on the assessment of the ground situation, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and State Armed Police (SAP) drawn from other States will be deployed during these elections," he

State is seeking 40 Assembly seats for providing LT reservation: CM

O.P. CHETTRI

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on Friday said the SDF government wants the Sikkim Legislative Assembly resolving the Limboo-Tamang seat reservation issue.

"In these few months, stand by the Chief Minister people are confused that whether our government will advocate seat reservation for Limboo-Tamang

communities from within the existing 32 Assembly seats or after increasing the Assembly seats to 40. Our government has never lied to the people and it has been clearly mentioned in our party's election manifesto and also in Burman Commission report that the State government will advocate seats for the Limboo-Tamang communities with increase of 40 seats in the Assembly," said the Chief

Chamling was addressing the 24th SDF foundation day function at Jorethang for the constituencies of south and west districts.

The ruling SDF legislator party has already adopted a JORETHANG, March 4: resolution seeking expansion of the Assembly to 40 seats based on the Burman Commission report so five seats can be accommodated for to be expanded to 40 seats for Limboo and Tamang communities. The reiteration of this

> comes despite various Limboo and Tamang groups demanding that the two communities are given reservation from the existing 32 seats. They are seeking five seats from the 17 general seats of the 32-seater The Chief Minister was accompanied by his wife Tika

Maya Chamling, cabinet ministers and senior party leaders at the Jorethang function attended by a large number of SDF workers. In his address, Chamling mentioned that the present

impasse on Limboo-Tamang seats would have never come since Sikkim could have become a tribal State in 1976 itself. However, the past governments committed a historical mistake that time, he



Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, accompanied by his wife Tika Maya Chamling, cuts the celebratory cake during the 24th SDF foundation day programme at Jorethang. Also seen in the picture is Speaker K.N. Rai. SE Pic

Limboo-Tamang communities their constitutional right but it the high powered committee matter.

"It is our government that and we will always stand for is a Central matter," said constituted by the State brought tribal status to the their rights. Seat reservation is Chamling. He informed about

government on the tribal seat

a report and bring it to the

The committee will make Contd. on page 7

DARJEELING DISTRICT TMC CANDIDATES



Bhaichung Bhutia is TMC candidate from Siliguri

Former Indian football captain Bhaichung Bhutia (in SE file picture) was announced as the TMC candidate from Siliguri constituency for the West Bengal Assembly elections 2016.

TMC president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday released the party candidates for the 294 seats of the West Bengal Assembly within an hour of the election schedule being declared by the Election Commission of India.

Former GNLF leader Shanta Chettri is the TMC candidate from Kurseong constituency while JAP president and incumbent MLA Harka Bahadur Chettri will contest from Kalimpong seat on a TMC ticket.

The Darjeeling TMC candidate is Sardha Subba. The West Bengal Assembly elections will be held in six

phases – April 4, 11, 17, 21, 25 and 30 and May 5. Though it is a six-phase election, polling will take place on seven dates. There are 294 seats in the West Bengal Assembly. The counting will be taken up on May 19.

Bhaichung was also the TMC candidate from Darjeeling parliamentary constituency for the Lok Sabha elections 2014. He lost to GJM-backed BJP candidate S.S. Ahluwalia by a huge margin.

Political experts observed that Bhaichung will face a tough challenge to win from Siliguri considering that he lost the Lok Sabha polls and that the TMC also lost the Siliguri Municipal Corporation elections.

Meanwhile, local TMC leaders are confident of winning all the three Assembly seats from Siliguri due to developmental works done by the TMC government. Shanta Chettri is contesting

JAP president announced as TMC candidate from Kalimpong

This proves that Harka and JAP are fronts for TMC: GJM

Our Correspondent

DARJEELING, March 4: The announcement of Harka Bahadur Chettri as the TMC candidate from Kalimpong on Friday has stumped 5. The three hill subdivision supporters of his fledgling Jan Andolan Party (JAP) while giving an opportunity to the GJM to claim high moral ground in hills politics.

Harka, the incumbent Kalimpong MLA, had floated JAP in January after revolting against his former party GJM. The announcement of

Harka as the TMC candidate has proved that he and his JAP were only a front for the TMC, said GJM assistant secretary Binay Tamang to media here. "We have nothing to say

announced from Darjeeling and Kurseong as a party can field a candidate of its choice. However, the announcement of Harka as the TMC candidate from Kalimpong proves that the JAP is functioning under the TMC. We have always been saying that JAP was the 'Team B' of and today's announcement proves it," said

Tamang today. The TMC candidate for Darjeeling is Sardha Subba while former GNLF MLA

from Kurseong under the TMC banner.

Polls for the 294 seats of West Bengal Assembly will take place in six phases starting from April 4 to May will have voting conducted on

"People should understand that JAP is against the demand of Gorkhaland and will work against the community," Tamang added. Harka could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

When contacted, JAP

Bureau member Anmole Prasad said, "We would not like to comment on our party president being declared as the TMC candidate from Kalimpong as the whole thing about the TMC candidates is not very clear now and we have to understand it first. As for our party, it was clear from the beginning that Harka would be our candidate from Kalimpong for the upcoming

> Regarding the GJM's comments, Prasad said, "They should understand and comment. We have our own political party which has its own agendas."

Assembly elections.'

Meanwhile, Sardha Subba said she would give her best as the TMC candidate from Darjeeling. She is presently the president of the TMC



GJM assistant secretary Binay Tamang speaking to media. SE Pic

The announcement of Harka as the TMC candidate from Kalimpong proves that the JAP is functioning under the TMC. We have always been saying that JAP was the Team B' of TMC and today's announcement proves it," - Binay Tamang

(Hills) women's unit. Similarly, Shanta Chettri expressed her happiness on being declared as the TMC candidate from Kurseong. She, a former MLA from Kurseong, is the working president of

TMC (Hills).

Sikkim mourns demise of P.A. Sangma

SE Report

GANGTOK, February 4: Sikkim Governor Shriniwas Patil and Chief Minister Pawan Chamling have expressed their deep sadness on the sudden demise of former Lok Sabha Speaker P.A. Sangma.

following a heart attack. He was 68. Sangma presided over the 11th Lok Sabha as Speaker from 1996 to 1998. He also remained Chief Minister of Meghalaya

Sangma passed away on Friday morning at New Delhi

from 1988 to 1990. In his condolence message, the Governor expressed his

sadness on the sudden demise of Sangma.

"Late Sangma was a seasoned parliamentarian with impeccable reputation as a grassroots leader. With his sudden demise, the country and Northeast in particular has lost a political stalwart and a statesman who always held interest of the Northeast region as paramount throughout his political career. Northeast will always cherish his idea of India which spilled over his home State of Meghalaya and reverberated across the country," said the Governor.

"At this time of bereavement, I join the people of Sikkim and the entire North East fraternity to offer my deepest condolence. I pray to the almighty for bestowing strength to the family members to cope with

this great loss," said Patil.

Similarly, Chamling expressed his sadness on the untimely demise of the former Lok Sabha Speaker and hailed Sangma as one of the greatest leaders from the Northeast in national politics.

The Chief Minister said Sangma always stood for the Northeast region and fought

for the causes of the region. "His concern for the underprivileged, his tireless efforts to eradicate poverty and remove socio-economic inequalities endeared him to the masses. Indeed, he was a man of the masses with an international standing. And it was the human side of him which brought him a large number of friends and well-wishers," said Chamling.

The Chief Minister said the passing away of Sangma is an irreparable loss to the nation, particularly to the Northeast region.

"My thoughts go to the bereaved family members and I offer my heartfelt condolences to them. May God give them strength and forbearance to bear this great loss. I pray for eternal peace of the departed soul," said Chamling in his condolence message.

Former Lok Sabha speaker P.A. Sangma passes away

NEW DELHI, March 4 2013.

(IANS): Former Lok Sabha speaker P.A. Sangma died following a heart attack here on Friday morning. He was 68. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his tenure as Lok

Sabha speaker would remain unforgettable. Sangma presided over the 11th Lok Sabha as speaker from 1996

to 1998. He also remained chief minister of Meghalaya from 1988 to 1990

Sangma was elected to the 16th Lok Sabha from Tura constituency on the National Peoples Party ticket, the political outfit he launched in

Lok Sabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan read out an obituary and the house observed two minutes' silence

before it was adjourned for the Pranab President Mukherjee condoled Sangma's death and said: "In passing away of Shri Sangma, the nation has lost an eminent public figure and multi-faceted

Modi said in a statement that Sangma was a self-made leader whose contribution to the development of the northeast was monumental.

"Sangma's tenure as Lok Sabha Speaker unforgettable. His down to earth personality and affable nature endeared him to many," he added.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi said "the nation has lost a tall leader and the northeast has lost an

BJP president Amit Shah tweeted: "Saddened by the sudden demise of former loksabha speaker PA Sangma My condolences to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace."

Sangma was born on

important voice".

September 1, 1947 in village Chapahati in Meghalaya After completing his graduation from St Anthony's College, at Shillong, he went to Dibrugarh University in Assam for his Master's degree in International Relations. Subsequently, he also received a degree in Law.

He leaves behind his wife, a daughter and two sons.

Budget impact: Car

prices goes up CHENNAI, March 4 (IANS) Promptly passing on the "infrastructure cess" proposed in the union budget 2016-17 to car buyers, several manufacturers have hiked the

Honda Cars India Ltd on Friday said it has revised the prices of its various models effective from March onwards after the levy of

prices of their models effective

March 1.

V model.

infrastructure cess. The price hike by Honda Cars ranges from Rs.4,000-6,000 on its Brio model to Rs.66,500-79,000 on its CR-

The price hike on Jazz model ranges between Contd. on page 7

Lobbying begins for Rajya Sabha

seats in three north-east states

Five Greater Gangtok constituencies observe SDF Day at Kajitar

DICHEN ONGMU

GANGTOK, March 4: Five Assembly constituencies of Greater Gangtok - Shyari, Upper Burtuk, Gangtok, Arithang and Upper Tadong jointly celebrated the 24th foundation day of ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) party at Kajitar, Lower Sichey area here today. State Roads & Bridges minister G.M. Gurung was present as the chief guest of the

celebration. Addressing the gathering, Gurung dwelt on the Limboo-Tamang Assembly seat reservation issue recording the SDF's resolve to provide seats the State; hence, its residents to the two communities. He stated that the SDF brought the Scheduled Tribes status and will provide seat reservation for the two communities.

gathering on the high powered committee formed by the State government to look into the matter and take the party and its leader constructive decision, which would be further forwarded to suggestions on the issue.

SDF party is working that the Chief Minister has to the left-out communities demand and other political and income tax exemption for issues through memorandums P.A. Sangma today.



The SDF foundation day function at Kajitar. SE Pic

said Gangtok is the crown of fulfilling them. should be firm without being distracted in the name of

formative years, Gurung also shared the struggles faced by he said. Gurung informed the its founders. He also welcomed the opposition members and maintained that attracted them.

Lok Sabha member P.D. Gurung also stated that reservation issue. He stated decision, he informed.

the business community. He and is working towards

"Limboo-Tamang communities have been recognised as Scheduled Tribes and seat reservation is their Recalling the party's right. The SDF party will take a firm decision on this issue,"

Rai also spoke on the State

government constituted high powered committee which the policies and principles of will submit its report on the seat reservation issue. The report will be placed before the State cabinet and the Central government. The Rai added that the opposition Legislative Assembly and minister also sought is trying to politicise the forwarded to the Central Limboo-Tamang seat government for the final

The parliamentarian also towards according tribal status vigorously pursued the mourned the passing away of former Lok Sabha Speaker Minister's contribution and

Chief Minister's love for Sikkim, he added.

Pintso Chopel Lepcha stressed on supporting the Chief Minister's vision and staying united as unity is the biggest strength. "In one and half year as opposition members, we realised that Pawan Chamling is the only leader who is and will take Sikkim and its people in the right direction," he said.

The Gangtok MLA said there must be a sense of belonging and people should look after Gangtok's infrastructures and maintain its beauty.

Party leaders K.T. Gyaltsen, N.K. Pradhan, D.B. Thapa, Kalawati Subba, Ringzing Ongmu, Mingma Sherpa, councillors and panchayat members and party supporters from all the five constituencies attended the function

Earlier, the party president's foundation day message was read out to the public, which was followed by cultural performances. The gathering also observed two-Shyam Pradhan said the minute silence to mourn the aspirants for the post, Das opposition legislators didn't passing away of former Lok join the SDF for their personal Sabha Speaker P.A. Sangma gains but to support the Chief and also other past members of the SDF party.

GUWAHATI, March 4 work for the people. We joined the SDF because we liked its policies and principles and

(IANS): With the issuance of a statutory notification on Friday for the March 21 elections to four Rajva Sabha seats from Assam, Tripura and Nagaland, lobbying has started in the three states ruled by different political Elections to a total of 13

AGARTALA/KOHIMA/

Rajya Sabha seats from Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab would be held on March 21. Officials said the President of India and the Central

Election Commission have issued separate notifications for these elections. In Tripura, the lone Rajya Sabha seat falling vacant is held by the ruling Communist

Party of India-Marxist (CPI-

M). The term of sitting

member Jharna Das (Baidya) ends on April 2. "The CPI-M Tripura state committee will meet in Agartala on Sunday to finalise its candidate for the Rajva Sabha seat," CPI-M central committee member and state

told IANS. A party source said that (Baidya) is likely to be renominated.

party secretary Bijan Dhar

In Assam, two Rajya Sabha members of the Congress - Naznin Faruque and Pankaj Bora - whose terms also end on April 2, also are keen for the second terms.

Sources in the ruling Congress said some ministers are engaged in a signature campaign in support of nomination for a serving bureaucrat.

According to a senior Congress leader, those vying

Raiva Sabha seats include state party president Anjan Dutta, former union ministers Paban Singh Ghatowar and Ranee Narah, Dwijen Sarmah, Kirip Chaliha, Bishnu Prasad and

Abdul Muhib Mazumdar. According to sources, a prominent media baron has also been sending feelers to both the Congress and and All India United Democratic Front led by prominent Muslim leader and moneyed trader Badruddin Ajmal.

In Nagaland, the Naga People's Front (NPF), the dominant regional party of the ruling Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN), has choosen

for the nomination for the two K.G. Kenye as the party candidate for the lone Rajva Sabha seat, which fell vacant following the death of

Khekiho Zhimomi. The Nagaland unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is also an electoral ally of the NPF-led DAN government, said it has three candidates willing to contest the solitary seat.

The BJP's Nagaland unit general secretary Eduzu Theluo said his party would also likely field a candidate from among M. Chuba Ao (former state unit president). retired IAS officer H.K. Khulu and former minister T.A.



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No: 131/SPSC/2016

Date: 02/03/2016

Employment Notice

Applications in prescribed forms are invited from though there are several the eligible local candidates for filling up of 03(three) posts of Assistant Geologist under Mines, Minerals & Geology Department, Government of Sikkim. The candidates are advised to visit the S.P.S.C. website for detailed Advertisement, eligibility conditions, category-wise no. of posts and download the application form, from our official Website i.e. www.spscskm.gov.in.

> (Bimla Rai, Smt.) Controller of Examinations Sikkim Public Service Commission

R.O.No.: 401/IPR/PUB/Classi/15-16 Date: 3.3.16

Summer Leadership Programme at The Doon School, June 2016 Registration is also opened for 'Open Morning Programme' and Bespoke

Individual Tutors for Prospective Parents and their Sons



Monday, 22nd February 2016 - The Doon School, India's pre eminent boarding school and alma mater of stalwarts like Rajiv Gandhi and Amitav Ghosh amongst many others has announced its Residential 'Summer at Doon Leadership Programme' from 1st June to 15th June, 2016 at The Doon School's beautiful estate in Dehradun, India. The programme is open for all aspiring young boys and girls in grades 9-12 who are passionate about making a positive impact on the world around them. Applications for this programme closes on April 15, 2016.

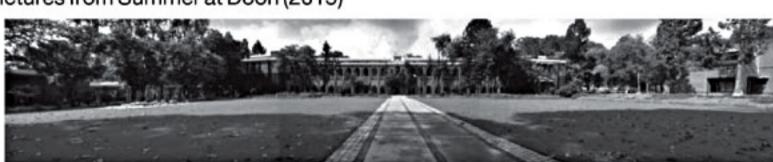
The Doon School is also delighted to welcome prospective parents and their sons to see the school and meet the admissions department and tour the school either as part of a small group, a bespoke tour or as part of the Open Morning programme which was successfully piloted in November 2015. The school has two entry points at Class 7 and Class 8 only.

Benchmarked with the world's leading youth leadership programmes, this dynamic and thought provoking course will be a blend of Socratic dialogues, leadership case studies, creative experiential learning, motivational lectures, outdoor adventures, self-reflection and group interaction. A critically important element will be social service and social responsibility, and their relationship with leadership. This programme will ensure that boys and girls receive a profound understanding of what successful leadership is all about and what is required to demonstrate it in the twentyfirst century in the context to developing society and an increasingly globalized world. The course will be taught by specialist staff from Aspire, in conjunction with the teaching community from The Doon School.

'The Doon School has long been associated with innovative thinking and leadership and is passionate about being at the forefront of educational opportunity for its students. The Summer at Doon leadership programme builds naturally on The Doon School's mission since its founding in 1935, which is 'to attract and develop exceptional students and teachers from all backgrounds to serve a meritocratic India; inspire them to be just and ethical citizens; train them to be wise and principled leaders; and prepare them to enter one of the strongest fraternities - for life.' said Dr Peter McLaughlin, Headmaster, The Doon School.

The course opened in 2014 and received rave reviews. A past parent has said, "My daughter was overwhelmed with emotion, when they took part in a community service project to a village adopted by the school. She participated in building a brick house and toilet for an old widow living alone with her granddaughter in a thatched hut without a toilet. It is not just about teaching them to fulfill their aspirations, but about them developing a sense of gratitude for what they have. No words can thank you for your initiative and vision."

Pictures from Summer at Doon (2015)



For more details about the Summer Leadership programme, email Ms Abia Qezilbash -summer.doon@doonschool.com or Tel. +91-(0)135-2526516 or view the website www.doonschool.com/summer.doon/leadership

For further details about the Open Morning Programe and bespoke individual tours as well as all admissions enquiries please do not hesitate to contact Mr Madan Kothari at admissions@doonschool.com or telephone him at: +91 135 2526406 or mobile: +91 8979639477

ABOUT THE DOON SCHOOL

The Doon School offers the Indian School Certificate and the IB at Class 11 and 12. Indian boys apply from all over India and from outside of the country. The school specializes in being an all boys' boarding school and boys apply to top universities in India as well as Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada as well as Russell Group universities in the UK and Ivy League and well known liberal arts and colleges in the US.

Boys also take part in an extensive student exchange programme with schools from Australia and Singapore to the UK and US.

The school has a whole school approach to social service and leadership within its curriculum. Its alumni feature past pupils who have made their mark in all areas of professional life, from politics to the arts. The school launched its 'Summer at Doon Leadership' programme in June 2014.

The Doon School is in membership of HMC and the International Boys School Coalition. Please view the school website www.doonschool.com

Personalities felicitated on SDF day at Rangpo



SDF leaders with the felicitated persons. SE Pic

SANJAYAGARWAL

functionaries. RANGPO, March 4: West Pendam constituency level personalities for their function to mark the 24th dedication and contribution foundation day of Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) party was held at Rangpo Bhupal Das Rai from West bazaar today. State Urban Pendam, C. K. Chettri from Development minister N.K. East Pendam and Ms. Subba was the chief guest Champa Devi from Rangpo. and zilla adhyakshya east The chief guest handed over

of the celebration. Also them. Gopal Baraily, former MLA that it was not possible to

and a host of party area while staying in the opposition party and his main During the programme, the aim to enter politics was to party felicitated three work for development of his

constituency.

Baraily, it may be towards the party. They were mentioned had won from the constituency on a SKM ticket in the 2014 assembly election and later joined the SDF in October 2015.

Neeru Sewa recited the Bimal Dawari the observer the citation and shawl to party president's foundation day message on the occasion. Gopal Baraily maintained Artistes from various organisations also presented cultural programmes.

Army recovers vehicle at Ranipool



SE Report

Today's celebration was

also the first SDF Day

function for the seven MLAs

who had joined the SDF from

opposition SKM in October

2015. Among them, Timothy

William Basnett (Upper

Tadong), Shyam Pradhan

(Arithang) and Pintso Chopel

Lepcha (Gangtok) were

present at Kajitar and also

congratulated the SDF

president, founding members

and all party workers and

stressed on the need of

constructive development and

Timothy W. Basnett

addressed the function.

promotion of Sikkim.

GANGTOK, March 4: A recovery team from the Black Cat division of the Indian rendering free traffic Army recovered a civilian movement on the national owned car which got stuck on highway, informs a press NH10 during wee hours of release.

Friday. The recovery team reached the location near Ranipool and lifted the vehicle out of the road channel

Neeru Sewa, K.K. Thatal initiate development in the Limboo literary magazine released



SE Report

present were area MLA

GANGTOK, March 4: The briefly about the magazine and 10th issue of 'Sellengo' - a Limboo literary magazine published annually by the Limboo students of Pelling senior secondary school - was launched recently during the morning assembly of the school.

Limboo language teacher Santosh Subba explained thanked the contributors.

The magazine is edited by student San Bir Limboo.

School in-charge D.R. Sharma, senior most faculty Dilu Chettri and teachers Y.N Rana and Lakching Bhutia jointly released the magazine.

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMBINED MEDICAL SEERVICES EXAMINATION, 2016

The Union Public Service Commission will hold the Combined Medical Services Examination, 2016 on 12th June, 2016 (Sunday). The examination will be held at various centres across the country.

Candidates are required to apply only through online mode. No other mode is allowed for submission of application. For details regarding Eligibility Conditions, the Syllabus and Scheme of the examination, Centres of examinations Guidelines for filling up application form etc. aspirants must refer to the Detailed Notice of the examination on the following path in the Commission's website:-

-Examination----Notification-----Archival www.upsc.gov.in.---

"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply

davp 55101/14/0043/1516

Obituary



PA SANGMA

By PD Rai

Purno in Assamese (and other languages) means complete, and Purno Agitok Sangma led a complete life.

A political stalwart and a man of the masses, Sangma was a nine-time member of Lok Sabha and the Speaker in the 11th Lok Sabha from 1996-98. He also served with distinction while leading various Ministries in the central government. As the Chief Minister of Meghalaya from 1988 to 1990, he was instrumental in enabling the state to achieve rapid growth. A multi-faceted personality, Sangma had been a lecturer, a lawyer and a journalist prior to joining politics.

In ascending the chair of the Lok Sabha speaker, Sangma achieved a string of firsts first to be unanimously elected as Speaker, the first from the opposition, the youngest Speaker (at 49 years), and the first tribal. An amiable and affable personality, he will be remembered as the man who ran the parliament with a smile.

Sangma's stint as speaker saw the formation of a Standing Joint Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women. He facilitated constitution of a Joint Parliamentary Committee for considering the Constitutional (Eighty-first) Amendment Bill seeking to enhance the presence of women in Parliament. Perhaps his experience of living in the matrilineal state of Meghalaya was an inspiration.

He also was supported by the BJP/NDA as candidate for the post of President during the elections of the electoral college in 2012 when Pranab Mukherjee was the UPA candidate

I had the pleasure of working closely with Sangmaji in the North-East Members of Parliament Forum (NEMPF). Under his Chairmanship, the NEMPF championed several issues important to meet the aspirations of the people of the North-East region. The forum presented a 10-point agenda highlighting proposals for the holistic development of the region to the Prime Minister. He was a strong advocate for building strong institutions to facilitate the development of the region.

A political titan of the North-East and champion of development, Sangma will forever be remembered as an agent of social change and flag bearer of the idea of India. His door was always open to the many young people who sought his guidance.

In his demise, the nation has lost a tall leader, and I a mentor and a friend. Rest in Peace.