

## Rashtrapati Bhavan, Mughal Gardens to remain close from Jan. 20 to 28

**PIB**  
**New Delhi, Jan 18:** Rashtrapati Bhavan, Mughal Gardens and Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum Complex will remain closed for public viewing from January 20 to 28, 2017 due to rehearsals for the forthcoming Republic Day Parade/Beating Retreat Ceremony and address by the President to both Houses of Parliament. The Change of Guard Ceremony will also not take place on January 21 and 28, 2017.

## Good will mission apprises Manipur Gov' to end UNC's issues

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Jan 18:** Delegates of Good Will Mission today urged the Governor of Manipur Dr. Najma Heptula and apprised her about the need of her initiation to end the over 2 months long economic blockade of UNC along the national High Ways. Eight delegates of the Good Will Mission today meet the governor and apprised her the present problems being face by the common people due to the economic blockade on High Ways by the UNC. During the meeting Manipur Governor Dr. Najma heptula Assures all possible help to resolve the issues of the UNC in consultation with the government of Manipur. When heated argument about deciding a place to hold talk between the government of Manipur, UNC and the Government of India is being taken place Union Home Minister had sent a letter to the government of Manipur



stating that it is the State government that is responsible to end the economic blockade and that the state government should initiate peace dialogue with the UNC in the presence of Union Government representatives if desired so. Following the directives the Chief Secretary of Manipur O Nabakishore had intimated the UNC to hold tripartite talk with the government of Manipur here in Imphal on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Covenor of the Good Will

Mission Ningthouja Lancha hile speaking to media persons said that the member organization of the mission welcomes the initiative of the Manipur government and that the members are ready to extend all sort of help to the government. Earlier UNC has been rejecting any talk with the government of Manipur at Imphal and the Manipur government too rejected any talk with the UNC at Senapati as it would amount

to violation of the government protocol. The UNC and Manipur government are "yes" if the dialogue could be held at new delhi but if the talk is held at New delhi than the central government has to initiate. The differences has been sorted out as the Union Home Ministry has stated that the matter about talk with the state government and that state government should initiate dialogue with the UNC.

## Air pollution problem very serious: Supreme Court

**New Delhi, Jan 18:** The Supreme Court has warned that the problem of air pollution is very serious and solutions need to be found urgently, rather than in years. A bench of Justices M B Lokur and P C Pant said that some of the victims of air pollution are due to inefficient systems and non-implementation of norms. The observation came yesterday after amicus curiae and senior advocate Harish Salve said there was a need to ensure 100 per cent compliance of Pollution Under Certificate, PUC and linking them with the insurance of vehicles done every year.

The bench asked the Centre to furnish a status report regarding show cause notices issued to PUC centers and directed the Environment Pollution Control Authority to inspect all 962 PUC centers in Delhi and submit the report about their functioning. The Centre informed the court that consultations among all stakeholders is being done regarding banning of petcoke and furnace oil as industrial fuel in Delhi-NCR region. The apex court asked the Centre to file the status report with regard to banning of petcoke and furnace oil on the next date of hearing on February 6.

## Cold wave tightens grip across North and West India

**New Delhi, Jan 18:** Cold wave tightened its grip across parts of north and west India with most of Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir Valley receiving snowfall and rain. In Himachal Pradesh, mercury dropped by few notches and tribal and high altitude areas froze under sub-zero temperatures. The region received widespread rain since yesterday and snowfall occurred at isolated places and key tourist resort of Manali. In Jammu & Kashmir, the latest spell of snowfall in Srinagar and other areas has affected the normal activities across Kashmir Valley. The Srinagar Jammu national highway shall remain closed for the 3rd consecutive day today. State Meteorological Department has forecast light rain and snowfall at most places in Kashmir Valley and several other areas across the State till today evening. Kashmir University has suspended class work in all teaching departments and campuses for ten days till 29th January. Our correspondent reports that all University examinations scheduled to be held today and tomorrow have also been postponed. National Capital Delhi

continues to reel under the cold wave conditions with mercury plunging to new levels. The day temperature yesterday plunged to a two-year low. The maximum temperature was recorded 15.7 degrees Celsius which more than 4 degrees Celsius below normal. According to Met Department, the chill in northwest India is being caused by a cold air outbreak from the north, in the aftermath of a western disturbance passing through the region. The spell is likely to last another two-three days. Five trains are arriving late, eight are rescheduled and one was cancelled due to foggy weather conditions. Two international and nine domestic flights were delayed due to fog. Intense cold conditions also continue in Rajasthan. Ground frost occurred at isolated places over south Punjab, south Haryana and north Rajasthan. Dense and very dense fog occurred over west Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Punjab. Cold conditions continued in Odisha affecting normal life in many parts of the state, with Phulbani in Kandhamal district registering the lowest temperature at 6.8 degrees Celsius.

## Combing operation

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Jan 18:** A team of Imphal West district police commando led by OC Patsoi under the supervision of Additional SP (Ops)/ IW Dr S. Ibomcha Singh today conducted search operation at new Keithelmanbi area near the camp of 9 Sector Assam Rifles along NH-37 at around 10.30 am. The police team cordon Mahakabui Namching Village and conducted search operation at each houses. A suspect was picked up for verification. Another team of Imphal West district police commando also conducted search operation at Dharmasala at Thangal Bazaar. 15 persons who did not possess proper verification documents were picked up for further verification.

## Sailors on Loktak in despair

**Courtesy: Pothashang**  
**Imphal, Jan 18:** Sailors on the Loktak Lake has suffered stopping their sailing business since the past about ten days as the wind carried up the floating swamps (Phumdi) and deposited by the shoreline. Dweller at Moirang area who depends their livelihood on the lake specially the sailors has been cursed by the wind with the widely covered mass of the swamps but cutting their source of earning. Locals who take up sailing business under the banner 'Loktak Lake Tourism Development Co-operative Society, Ltd' has been providing boating service to the tourists and local visitors with the promotion of tourism



at Loktak. The boats carry ten to twelve persons at a time and sail along. Some larger boats carry twenty five persons. The sailors drew the attention of the Loktak Development Authority to cleanse the swamps. "We will starve if the phumdias are not clean up quickly. We have been facing hardships since last year with

decreased visitors during the ILP issue and lost our hope during the last Sangai festival as there were no tourists due to the blockade tension in the state", said a sailor. While we had been buying petrol at high price to run the boats the nature has again come to our way of life, added the sailor.

## RBI Governor to appear before Parl standing committee

**New Delhi, Jan 18:** Reserve Bank of India, RBI Governor Urjit Patel is likely to appear before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance today. The committee, headed by former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Veerappa Moily, has called Mr Patel to brief the panel about government's demonetisation drive. The secretaries of finance ministry are also likely to appear and brief about demonetisation and its impact. Mr Patel has been summoned days after the United Forum of Reserve Bank Officers and employees wrote a letter to the RBI governor alleging that the image of the central bank has been dented beyond repair post the government's demonetisation move.

## DEO Bishnupur holds first-phase training

**DIPR**  
**Imphal, January 18:** The District Election Office, Bishnupur district has conducted a two-day training programme on account of the coming 11<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly Election. Concluded today, the first phase training was

being held for the presiding officers and polling officers. Experts, district and block-level administrators enlightened the officers on the use of EVMS, VVPATS and also spoke on the issues of proxy voting, security etc. DEO M Harekrishna assured that all necessary

arrangements such as proper security, fooding and other essential amenities will be met for the polling and presiding officers at the level best. It can be mentioned that this first phase of the training was simultaneously held at four different halls within the district.

## NSCN-K reiterated stands, says no dialogue without sovereignty

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Jan 18:** SS Khaplang led NSCN today reiterated its stand saying that "Sovereignty is the basis of the Naga struggle and no dialogue or political process could ever be contemplated without sovereignty being the sole basis. A statement issued by Lt.Gen.Niki Sumi, Western Military Supervisor of NSCN/GPRN said that fickle minded people have for some time been theorizing the concept

that GPRN's abrogation of cease fire with India has deferred the prospective solutions between GOI and various Naga groups engaged in the talks. It said that GPRN shall neither be a party to any of the group's solutions nor shall we create any obstructions. It is purely the prerogative of the GOI and the negotiating groups to hatch out any settlement as may be agreed upon, it added. "The NSCN/GPRN commitment to Naga

Sovereign struggle should not be made a scapegoat for the elusive solution or in other words, the NSCN/GPRN cannot be blamed for their failure to arrive to a solution", the statement added. It added that the only concern of the NSCN/GPRN is that the sacrifices of the thousands Nagas may not go in vain and that the spirit of the Naga martyrs may not haunt and taunt them as consequent to any solution they conceive.

## Tripura tribal forms forum against Citizenship Bill

**ANI**  
**Agartala, Jan. 18:** With just a year left for the assembly election in Left-ruled Tripura, two tribal-based political parties, Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT) and Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) have declared the formation of a new forum under the banner of 'All Tripura Indigenous Regional Parties Forum (ATIRPF)' to step up their activities and push their demands. ATIRPF would organise 'Delhi Abhiyan' and called for a strike in the state both in coming month to press their demands to the central government opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016. ATIRPF on February 8 called

for a strike in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) area and a six-hour-long sit-in demonstration at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on February 21 press their demand to the central government. "The CPIM has commented against us terming our forum as unholy, we protest against it. If the minority microscopic tribal gets united for their development what is illegal in it, why do they hate this unity? If the CPIM dreams that they shall be in power always that is wrong. They should have been welcomed the unitedly fight for the rights of the weak rural tribal section," people but they have condemned it. We are very sorry and protest against this," said Bijoy Hrangkhaw, senior member of

the newly formed ATIRPF and former MLA. Meantime, the Tripura unit of the BJP has welcomed the newly formed ATIRPF which basically is a union of non-left tribal parties in the opposition. Central observer and state in-charge of BJP Sunil Deodhar said: "CPIM had win in election as two tribal parties fought separately. Now they getting together in the long term are uniting of the anti-CPIM forces for us. However, if it is also their view or not we do not know, but from this angle this is good for us. Now if they have any confusion and when it is felt necessary we shall discuss it with them. But we shall not allow the anti-Left forces to get divided."

## Nominations for assembly elections in Punjab, Goa to end today

**New Delhi, Jan. 18:** Nominations for the assembly elections in Punjab and Goa will end today. Nominations for Lok Sabha by-polls to Amritsar seat in Punjab will also end this evening. Both the states will go to polls on 4th of next month in a single phase voting. While Punjab has 117 assembly seats, Goa has a total of 40 seats. Scrutiny of nominations will take place tomorrow and last date of withdrawal of candidatures is Saturday.