

UG arrested

IT News
Imphal, Jan 25: A team of Moreh Police under the supervision of Additional SP M Mubi conducted search operation at Nepali Village Moreh Ward No. 5. During the search operation the police team apprehended a PREPAK (Pro) cadre identified as Waikhom Bashanta @ Tomba @ Lamjingba, he is about 34 years old and is son of one W. Ibomcha Singh of Kwakeithel Konjing Leikai.

Shops gutted

IT News
Imphal, Jan 25: A total of 11 shops were gutted at Pallel Keithel under Kakching Police Station at around 9 pm yesterday evening. People of the area, Police personnel, Assam Rifles and Fire service jointly struggled and extinguished the fire after 2 hours. Most shops were garment and luxury items store. Cause of the fire could not be established at the moment but it is suspected that the fire triggered from electric short circuit. Amount lost in the fire is yet to be calculated.

Drug peddler

IT News
Imphal, Jan 25: A lady drug peddler was caught red handed by locals of Ahallup in Imphal east while trying to sell heroin drug (No. 4) to youths of the area today morning. Report said that locals of the area has been keeping a kin eye to the lady as her nature was suspicious. When check several packet of heroin powder were recovered for her.

Police vacancies

New Delhi, Jan 25: The Supreme Court has directed Home Secretaries of all states to file affidavits giving details of vacancies in police services at all levels. A bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar today observed that vacancy in police services was an important issue and asked all the states to file the affidavits within four weeks. The Apex court said that if any of the states do not file the affidavit, it will ensure the presence of Home Secretaries along with necessary records to assist the court in disposal of the matter. It was hearing a petition which claimed that law and order situation in the country is deteriorating due to a large number of vacancies in police services at all levels across all states.

This is to inform to all our readers and well wishers that Imphal Times will not have its hard copy publication tomorrow on account of the Republic Day Celebration.

Ex MP Kim Gangte, Former Congress MLA Nemcha Kipgen and Vungzagin Valte join BJP

IT News

Imphal, Jan 25: The political battlefield of 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly Election is now set ready for Congress and BJP with both parties nearing completion of horse trading game. The much talk about political mileage alleged to have been bolster by Congress party in the aftermath of the announcement of 7 new administrative districts including Sardar Hills seems to have been exaggerated speculations as a congress MLA of Kangpokpi Assembly constituency, Nemcha Kipgen who had tender resignation yesterday and former Congress MLA from Thanlon Assembly Constituency, Vungzagin Valte, along with former MP KIM Gangte, who was also a leader of AITC today joined the BJP. A grand reception function of the three high profile



politicians was organized today at BJP Manipur Pradesh Office, Nityapat Chuthek. Source close to the BJP office said that even as some congress ministers, MLAs and Speaker had bull shifted the propaganda of joining to the BJP, there are still some Congress MLAs who will be joining the party in the next two three days. However, the source decline to name the Congress MLAs whom they are counting to welcome in

their party. On the other hand, more BJP aspirant candidates who were denied party ticket have started criticizing the party leadership alleging nepotism, favoritism and sorruption to the allotment of party tickets. Today too a former VP of BJP Yuba Morcha, Mayengbam Ranjit Singh resigned and attack BJP state leadership of disparity in the issuing of party ticket who had been working for the development of the party.

7th National Voters' Day observed

DIPR

Imphal, Jan. 25: The 7th National Voters' Day was observed today at the City Convention Centre, Palace Compound, Imphal. The observation was organised by Chief Electoral Office, Manipur on the theme "Empowering Young and Future Voters". In connection with observation Chief Guest of the function, Chief Secretary Shri Oinam Nabakishore Singh inaugurated a photo exhibition on SVEEP Campaign and launched an Android based Mobile App for electors called "e Manipur Election". Speaking on the occasion, Shri Oinam Nabakishore Singh said the choice of the representatives of the people in the coming 11th Manipur State Assembly Legislative Election, 2017 will have a huge impact in the future. He appealed to the all voters to carefully exercise their choices as the future of the state depends on their choice. Despite economic blockade, the election will be conducted in free and fair manner, he added. Shri Oinam Nabakishore Singh



also administered National Voters' Day pledge to the gathering. As part of the observation, a SVEEP comic book was released and election icon video messages were also screened to the crowded auditorium. Election icons were also felicitated at the function. Prizes were given to the winners of the longest painting competition held for state level schools and colleges. Selected newly enrolled voters were given badges and EPIC (Voter Card). A lucky draw on EPIC (Voter Card) number was also held as part of the observation. Addressing at the observance, Chief Electoral Officer Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan said since 2011 the Foundation Day of the Election Commission of India is observed to encourage

people above 18 years to enroll and exercise their franchise. He said SVEEP is an awareness programme focusing on young voters and welcoming them in electoral participation. Today all the first time voters in all the districts will be given EPIC (Voter Card), he added. Attending the function were Shri Dr. J. Suresh Babu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Shambu Singh, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, LM Khaute, Director General of Police, Manipur, MH Khan, IAS, Principal Secretary, RK Dinesh, Additional CEO, Manipur, Hrisheekesh Modak, Joint CEO, Manipur, Lupheng Kailun, Inspector General of Police, Manipur among others.

Center dispatch 35 tone petroleum product

IT News

Imphal, Jan 25: The Centre has dispatched 35 tonne of petroleum products to Manipur to tackle the crisis arising out of the blockade on national highway which has crippled normal life in the state. According to reports, 70 tonne more petroleum products will be sent soon. The move comes two days after an inter-ministerial meeting, chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath

Singh, reviewed the stock of food grains and petroleum products in Manipur and how to replenish the supply. The Central government has informed the Election Commission about the move as assembly election is due in Manipur on 4th and 8th of March. Since 1st of November last year, the United Naga Council has imposed the economic blockade on the highway.

No news prog. on CR

New Delhi, Jan 25: Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry has informed that Community Radio stations, CRS will not be allowed to broadcast any programmes related to news and current affairs or political in nature. However, they can use All India Radio content, which will be provided without any charges. I&B Ministry has added new clauses in the guidelines for Community Radio.

NE Students' Body Urges Centre to Intervene in Solving Manipur Crisis

Ghy, Jan 25: Expressing serious concern at the deteriorating condition in Manipur and the economic blockade since November 2016, the North East Students Organisation (NESO) has demanded that the Central Government intervene to solve the crisis. At a meeting in Guwahati, the NESO demanded that the Centre bring all those

involved to the negotiating table to amicably resolve the issue. "The organisation would meet Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to request him to resolve the issue at the earliest," said NESO Chairman Samuel B Jyrwa and general secretary S Prakash Singh. The meeting also opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which aims at recognising

all Hindu Bangladeshis as Indian citizens. NESO advisor Dr Samujjal Bhattacharya stated, "The government of India should realise the Northeast is not a dumping ground of illegal migrants, whoever they may be — Hindus or Muslims. The Northeast region will not take burden of any illegal foreigner who came after 1971 as per the Assam Accord."

Marathon race to promote Singju festival held

IT News

Thoubal, Jan. 25: Shingju Marathon race was organized today in connection with the 2nd Shingju Festival 2017 of the Shingju Yokhatpa Lup to be held from 28th January to 9th February at MMRC Unity Park, Khangabok in Thoubal District.

The Marathon race participated by more than 100 participants from various place of the state began at Kakching Lamkhai in Kakching District and ended at MMRC Unity Park, Khangabok. The marathon race was flagged off by M.Rajen, Asst. Command, 8MR Leikul, Former



Minister, Dr. M. Nara and Ch. Ranbir Chairman, Singju Festival Committee at around 10:00 am in the morning. Md. Amir Khan of Yairipok No.20 begged the first position while Md. Sadip of Lilong No.21 and Md. Iqban

of Lilong No.11 begged the second and third positions. 7 others participants who reach the destination within a stipulated time were awarded a consolation prize. Moreover prize distribution function will be held during the Singju Festival.

Rijju lays foundation stone of Integrated Check Post in Meghalaya

ANI

Meghalaya, Jan. 25: Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju has laid the foundation stone of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Dawki, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya in the presence of Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Vincent H. Pala, Meghalaya Home Minister H. D. R. Lyngdoh and other dignitaries. The ICP is being developed by the Land Ports Authority of India and would be spread over an area of 22 acres. The ICP will provide world

class facilities for bilateral trade as well as for movement of passengers across the border and will generate employment opportunities and provide a major fillip to the economy of the State and the region. The work is scheduled to be completed by August, 2018. Addressing the gathering, Rijju stressed on the need for opening up of the borders for trade and commerce in order to bring in prosperity and economic development in the region. "Although the North-Eastern region is geographically

isolated from the rest of India, it shares more than 95 percent of its borders with other neighbouring countries and we should leverage this position to our advantage by maintaining a cordial relationship with our neighbours and fostering bilateral economic ties with them, he added. Others who spoke on the occasion were Vincent H. Pala, High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh, H. V. Shringla, H. D. R. Lyngdoh and senior officials from the Land Ports Authority of India.

'Quota a Government policy, courts can't embark on it' - SC on disability plea

PTI

New Delhi, Jan. 25: Reservation and relaxation for Physically Handicapped category candidates in civil services examination is a matter of government policy and courts cannot embark on it, the Supreme Court said yesterday. A bench headed by Ranjan Gogoi set aside the judgement of the Madras High Court and the view taken by Delhi High Court that "increasing the number of attempts for Physically Handicapped candidates belonging to General Category from 4 to 7 with effect from the 2007 Examination and not proportionally increasing the number of attempts for Physically Handicapped candidates belonging to OBC Category from 7 to 10, is discriminatory and arbitrary". The apex court bench said "the horizontal reservation and relaxation for Physically Handicapped Category candidates for Civil Services Examination, is a matter of Governmental policy and the Government after considering the relevant materials have extended relaxation and concessions to the Physically Handicapped candidates belonging to the Reserved Category

as well as General Category.

"It is not in the domain of the courts to embark upon an inquiry as to whether a particular public policy is wise and acceptable or whether better policy could be evolved."

The bench, also comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan, said "the Court can only interfere if the policy framed is absolutely capricious and non-informed by reasons, or totally arbitrary, offending the basic requirement of the Article 14 of the Constitution."

The verdict came on appeal filed by the Centre challenging two judgements of the high courts which allowed Physically Handicapped students of OBC to avail 10 attempts instead of 7 attempts in the Civil Services Examination.

Both the High Court's had held that since the attempts for Physically Handicapped candidates belonging to General Category have been increased from 4 to 7 with effect from 2007 Civil Services Examination, there should be proportionate increase in attempts to be taken by Physically Handicapped

Candidates belonging to the OBC Category.

The apex court said when the attempts for exams of Physically Handicapped candidates of OBC Category as well as those of in General Category are made equal, there is no question of discrimination as the candidate belonging to OBC Category has already been given ten years relaxation in age which give them a relaxation of three more years.

It said it was not a case of treating "unequals as equal" but a case of extending concessions and relaxations to the Physically Handicapped candidates belonging to General Category as well as Physically Handicapped belonging to OBC Category.

"Physically Handicapped Category is a Category in itself. A person who is physically handicapped, be it Physically Handicapped of a General Category or OBC Category, suffering from similar disability has to be treated alike in extending the relaxation and concessions. Both being provided 7 attempts to appear in Civil Services Examination, no discrimination or arbitrariness can be found in the above scenario", the bench said.