

Survey on presence of elephants held Manipur Covered Under All India Tiger Estimation 2018 Exercise for the First Time

DIPR
Imphal, May 5,

K. Angami, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF) said that for the first time, the survey for presence of elephants in the State has been conducted under Project Elephant funded by Government of India at two districts namely Tamenglong and Ukhrul in 2017-18. He was addressing the media persons at the ongoing series of press conference organised by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) at the Moirangkhom office.

He further said for the first time, Manipur is being covered under All India Tiger Estimation 2018 exercise of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Government of India, Tamenglong, Senapati and Ukhrul/Kamjong are covered as these districts have high potential of presence of small resident tiger population. The districts have connectivity through forest corridors with Kaziranga National Park and Myanmar forests.

Angami said that the Forest Department also took up the initiative to set up a Conservation-cum-Captive Breeding Centre of the State bird 'Nongin' in its native area of Shirui, Ukhrul. The department intensified its habitat management of Sangai and promoting ecotourism in Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNLP). As per 2016 population estimation, the population of Sangai has increased to 260 which include 75 Stags, 127 Hinds and 58 Fawns, he added.

He further said the department organised 'Curtain Raiser' during Sangai Festival 2017 at KLNLP in collaboration with the Tourism Department resulting in increase of tourists' in the current year. He said compared to 6,000 visitors in National Park last year, the number of visitors crossed the 10,000 figure during the current year.

PCCF & HoFF said a total of 154 illegal timber seizure



cases were disposed off during 2017-18 (till 31st January, 2018). He said the Indian Forest Act (Manipur Amendment) Bill, 2018 passed in the Manipur Legislative Assembly in February (Budget Session) will help to strengthen the protection network for forest and streamline the regulatory mechanisms for movement of forest produce.

He said Manipur recorded an increase in forest area of 263 sq km in the latest report of India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2017 released by the Forest Survey of India on 12th February, 2018, which is the third highest rate of increase in India after Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

The increase in forest area is a result of conservation, plantations and regeneration take up under various Central and State schemes. He gave credit to the department officials, Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) and people including the villagers for playing an important role. The department collected revenue of Rs 23.50 crore during 2017-18 from April 2017-March 2018 for which he gave credit to the security forces including the para-military and State Police personnel for giving assistance in many cases including in seizing illegal timbers at various locations even at the interior areas of the State.

To increase the forest cover and improve forest, Angami

said the department is taking up afforestation programmes under Green India Mission (GIM), Restocking of Reserve Forest, Social Forestry Plantations, National Afforestation Programme (NAP), National Bamboo Mission and Medicinal Plant Projects in partnership with the villagers of respective areas.

He informed that during 2017-18, the department initiated the works in 556 hectare area under Restocking of Reserve Forest. Social Forestry Plantations are being taken up in 136 hectare to meet the fuel wood and fodder demand during the current year. Under Green India Mission, 7939 hectare area is being maintained to improve the density of degraded forests. Under CAMPA, afforestation was taken up in 6930.74 hectare area with an amount of Rs 32.08 crore and under NAP, 1438 hectare area is being taken up under afforestation with an amount of Rs 3.55 crore during the 2017-18.

Informing that a separate Urban Forestry has been organised and the Division has taken up 19.10 km of road median plantation on important roads of Imphal and Bishnupur (Moirang), he said all the road median plantations are maintained by the Forest Department from 2017-18 excluding the Airport Road which is maintained by the Directorate of Environment. He highlighted

that the more than 9.5 lakh seedlings were distributed to the people for plantations free of costs under 'Vana Mohatsava' programme during 2017-18 and the department is targeting to raise about 25 lakh seedlings during 2018-19.

During the current year, 8 new 'Community Reserves' involving an area of 92.71 sq km have been notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in Senapati and Tamenglong districts which has helped the department to increase the Protected Area Network in the State from 3.8% to 4.2% of the total geographical area. Community Reserves are the decentralised means of management of Protected Area Network where ownership rests with the Village Authority but with commitment for the protection of forests and conservation of wildlife, in return the Forest Department goes to village with some developmental activities.

He said the Central Government under National Mission on Himalayan Studies approved a new ambitious project Nature Learning Centre (NLC) based in Imphal, which will spread its activities across the State by involving village chiefs, civil societies, school institutes, media persons, politicians and administrators towards the cause of protection and conservation.

N. Kipgen, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Climate Change and Forest Conservation Act; H. Brajajani Sharma, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, CAMPA; Anurag Bajpai, IFS, in-charge PCCF, Wildlife and Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife; Mahendra Pratap Singh, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Territorial-I; Heisnam Balkrisna Singh, Director IPR and Smt. W Phajantombi, Joint Director IPR also attended the press conference.

MSAD organises discussion prog. on Communal Harmony

IT News
New Delhi, May 5,

MSAD organised a discussion program on the theme "Communal Harmony in a Multicultural Society: a perspective on communal conflicts during 1990s" with a view on the ongoing political scenario in Manipur and its relevant past.

The said program was organised by taking into consideration the past unfortunate historical events related to communal conflicts among the various communities of Manipur during 1990s. It is a known fact that Manipur was a multi-cultural State with various communities living together in a peaceful co-operative environment, where social harmony and peaceful co-existence was part and parcel of everyday normal life.

Unfortunately the above trend has been distorted with the forceful entry of Indian political system which uses certain religio-culture and ethnic groups as mobilizing tactics for obtaining political power and plays a divisional politics to penetrate deep through our blood. With it, the notion of tyranny of majority with majority determines everything becomes a norm rather than exception and sections of Manipuri society get infected with the same dangerous mindset of dividing Manipur's multi-cultural ethos for their personal political advantages. The above decadent political culture and the successive emotional blackmailing of people by some elites of Manipur had finally culminated into full blown communal clashes among and between various people of

Manipur which could be seen with the unfortunate events of communally organised Naga-Kuki clash in 1992, systematically orchestrated majority political power holder Meitei community killings of Pangals in May 1993 and later on Kuki-Paite clash in 1997. With the above observations, MSAD is of the view that the above scenarios of us getting divided while some agents taking easiest political advantages still keep continuing. Various sections of the society should come together, look back at our past and analyse together the causes of the said and other events keeping aside the theorising of contested histories so that our rich multi-cultural ethos remains intact, where respecting and recognizing different communities living in Manipur as one fraternal community becomes a norm.

Th. Radheshyam inaugurates residential school at Lilong

DIPR
Imphal, May 5,

Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam had inaugurated the Residential School, Lilong, Mairelkhul of Thoubal District constructed under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) having classes from 6 - 8 on Friday. He said the school will facilitate children belonging to the financially weaker section of the society and minorities.

The State has 11 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) and 9 Residential Schools as approved by the Government of India. He said that the benefits provided by the Government for the upliftment of the people belonging to the poor families and minorities including differently abled persons and widows are provided according to the Socio Economic and Caste Census Report.

The Minister also announced that the school will be upgraded to high school from the next academic session. He further added that a proposal to promote both the Residential School and KGBV up to higher secondary is also in the pipeline. He asserted that another new hostel besides the existing one will also be constructed soon to accommodate the students of



Class 9 and 10. The Residential School has a total strength of 50 boys and 50 girls while KGBV is only for girls with capacity of 100 students.

Th. Radheshyam said, now that the school has been inaugurated the duty to safeguard school and its infrastructure is with the people of the area. He urged to the public to extend their support and cooperation to school and the staff for best outcome of the students who hold the key to the future. School should be kept above religion, politics and caste, he added.

The inaugural function was attended by Adhyaksha, Thoubal Zilla Parishad, Hasina Begum, Upadhyaksha T. Nunghsi, District Commissioner, Thoubal District, Haobam Rosita, concern officials, teachers, students, parents and locals. During the occasion books were also distributed to the students. Later, the Minister made a surprise visit at ITI Takyel and inspected the infrastructural development taken up in the premise. The Government plans to upgrade the ITI Takyel as a centre of excellence, he said.

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Problems faced by Indian teachers

I feel that teachers should consider themselves as master of their trade and not a slave of their trade. One should not forget that apart from being a teacher, one is also a member of the society as a mother, wife, girl-friend, daughter, sister and most important as a friend.

There is no secret recipe to achieve eternal bliss of work life balance. It can only be achieved by rigorous time management and making it a daily habit otherwise one should be prepared to feel burnt out which will cause frustration, helplessness and worst professional dissatisfaction.

Personal image and society's expectations
A teacher is expected to project a 'perfect teacher' image. She is required to epitomize calmness and behave like a conservative moral police. Society puts this immense pressure on

teachers as if their every decision, act, and word can inspire or devastate students. So if a parent, student or God forbid the school coordinator spots a teacher having a quiet romantic dinner with her partner, then it won't be accepted as decent behavior as per the moral code of conduct that teachers are expected to follow.

Well, one can try their luck by quoting Amol Palekar's dialogue in Golmaal that the person in question happened to be the twin sibling, but rest assured that teacher will become the talk of the town. Think of the curious kids that we teach. If one of them wants to write an open petition to the school authorities asking why RTE has not been implemented as per Government norms then it would boomerang the teacher for not curbing free thinking and inciting students.

If a student fails, it is the teacher's fault. If a student succeeds, then it is the achievement of the student alone. Teachers shoulder all the responsibility, but get little recognition or appreciation for their students' achievement.

To conclude most of us enter this profession as a new leaf: bright and starry eyed, idealist and ready to inspire the leaders of tomorrow. Once in the profession the reality of teaching hits us, draining the passion and 'joie de vivre' of this noble profession. Even if a teacher tries to maintain their grounds by shielding their students from the problems that plague our system, it seems vain as teachers have no power to solve them and become cogwheels to the entire system and even contributing to the system. The feeling is like the first job a teenager gets in his or her

favorite restaurant. Instead of eating what she loves to eat every day, she prefers not to eat it again after seeing how it was prepared.

I feel rather than finding imperfections, the choice lies in one's hand. It is the personal choice of the teacher to find gratitude in staying with students and enjoying the heat of the classroom.

It is the choice of the teacher to find pleasure in one's threads of work, connection with families of strangers, appreciating the craft of an educator as the rhythm of the years pass by. Above all it is the choice of the teacher to find the purpose of teaching which is to teach children *not to seek the best* but to seek the deepest, the most varied, the fullest, the calmest and the truest.

When teachers would learn to appreciate their choices, battling the Goliaths would seem less overwhelming.

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