

Manipur Governor S. Shanmughanathan and Chief Minister Okram Ibobi on their way to attend the Assembly session today



JNU row: SC declines to hear Kanhaiya Kumar's bail plea

New Delhi, Feb.19: The Supreme Court today transferred the bail plea of JNUSU President Kanhaiya Kumar to the Delhi High Court and asked it to expeditiously deal with the matter. The top court, while declining to entertain the petition said, its direct intervention will be a dangerous proposition. Supreme Court bench comprising justices J Chelameswar and A M Saprore while transferring the bail plea of Kanhaiya, who has been charged with sedition, took an assurance from Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar that in the "prevailing extraordinary situation" pertaining to this matter, the Centre and the Delhi Police Commissioner would provide adequate safety and security to the accused and a stream of lawyers who will be appearing in the High Court. The bench which asked the High Court to expeditiously deal with the matter did not give any specific date for listing it. The Supreme Court permitted the counsel for Kanhaiya to amend his petition, which is to be filed in the Delhi High Court.

Dead body found

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19: The Dead body of a man was found today around 11 am near Pallei Laitok Ching under Tengnoupal Police Station of Chandhel District. Identity of the dead body wearing black T-shirt and trouser and bearing a bullet injury on the head is yet to be ascertained. A red bicycle was also found near the dead body. Meanwhile, according to a reliable source, the dead body is suspected to be one of the cadre of UMLA GI group.

CM presents budget for 2016-17

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19: The Chief Minister of Manipur, Okram Ibobi Singh has presented the full budget of the Government of Manipur. Before the house, O Ibobi Singh, who also holds the Finance portfolio, placed the budget estimates for 2015-16 at Rs 9728.61 crores, which has been revised to Rs 10293.03 crores showing increase of Rs 564.42 crores. Out of the Revised Share for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) as part of the Central assistance to State Plan started from 2014-15 onwards. Plan expenditure for 2015-16 was placed at Rs 3954.88 crores in the budget estimates which has been increased to Rs 4319.52 crores in the revised estimates. For 2016-17, the total receipts is estimated at Rs 10499.83 crores, out of which revenue receipts are estimated at Rs 9367.71 crores and capital receipts at Rs 1132.12 crores. Total estimates of State's own tax and non-tax receipts assumed in the budget estimates are Rs 667.20 crore

and Rs 191.22 crores respectively. The capital receipt estimated at Rs 1132.12 crores is based on the likely inflows from various sources of borrowings. He also proposed a total expenditure of Rs 10518.05 crores for the year 2016-17 (BE) out of the Consolidated Fund of the State, out of which Rs 5948.26 crores is under Non-plan, and Rs 4569.78 crores under plan which includes Rs 2768.83 crores under CSC. In order to improve on the robust health sector, Rs 5 crores has been earmarked for construction of an Accident/Trauma Centre at JNIMS while Rs 2300 lakh is earmarked for construction of 150 capacity Resident Doctor's (Boys) Hostel at JNIMS. Rs 125.24 have also been provided towards roads and bridges including other transport infrastructure during the fiscal period 2016-17. In order to develop infrastructure for tourist destinations and circuits at different centres, Rs 33.67 crores has been provided.

In all, Revenue account is estimated to be in surplus for the thirteenth consecutive year, fiscal deficit is estimated at (-) Rs. 747.34 crores which is 3.46 % of the GSDP. The total outstanding debt is projected at 39.41 % of the GSDP during 2016-17.

Legislators pose with Gov on photo session

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19: Legislators of Manipur legislative Assembly today convened a photo session with the Governor of Manipur by the adjourning the house for 50 minutes soon after the Governor address the house. Governor of Manipur V Shanmughanathan, started his speech at 11.55 am and concluded at 11.50 am. Later, the Speaker of the house Th. Lokeshwar adjourned the house for 50 minutes to have a photo session with the Governor till 12.40 pm.

Governor addresses 13th Session of the Manipur Legislative Assembly State to have 24X7 power supply by March 2017

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19: The 13th Session of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly begins today. Addressing the members of the Assembly for almost one hour, Governor of Manipur, V Shanmughanathan in his speech mentioned about the various development works taken up by the government. The Governor further informed that the state is working towards providing 24X7 power supply by March 2017. "I am happy to inform that the earlier constraints faced by Manipur in drawing of power through inter-state transmission lines has been removed with the operationalisation of 400 KV/DC Transmission Line from Silchar to Imphal during March 2015," said Shanmughanathan, in his opening speech of the Assembly session. In view of the anticipated quantum of future power demand, the Governor said that the state government has taken up construction of a new 400/132 KV Sub-station at Thoubal Khunou. In the past 1-2 years, a number of 132 KV, 33KV Power Sub-stations have been constructed and made operational in power deficient areas of the state. Further, he also said that a Customer Care Center has been made functional in 13 towns including Imphal city in order to redress the grievances of customers. Currently, the Customer Care Centers deals with pre-paid related complaints only, but it would be open for all electricity



related complaints shortly; and the online web-portal of Manipur State Power Distribution Company Limited (www.msmdl.com) has been made operational to facilitate online bill payment, online prepaid recharge, latest news and announcements of the company, added Shanmughanathan. **PREPAID ENERGY METERS** To reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses (AT & C Losses), pre-payment energy meters are being installed. About 1.14 lakh pre-payment Energy meters have been installed so far against a target of 3.5 lakh consumers by this year end. In addition, 84,496 Post-paid electronic Energy meters have also been installed replacing defective and old Energy Meters, said the Governor. **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES** Giving a glimpse about the various developmental projects taken up in the Commerce & Industries sector, the Governor said that the State Government has started setting up Industrial Estates in each of the 9 (nine) districts under financial assistance of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) and NEC. Following the Make in India initiative of the Government of India, the State Government has launched Make in Manipur on November 26, 2015, to provide employment and generate additional income in micro and small enterprises. Now the focus of the State Government is made on development of handloom clusters and formation of handloom weavers' group as a viable production group for becoming self-sustainable in the Annual Plan 2016-17. **SECURITY MEASURES** Regarding the 'delicate' law and order situation in the state, Shanmughanathan said that the Manipur Police has been able to keep the law and order situation under control and maintain public order. State and Central Security forces have also been able to curb the activities of underground groups to a large extent. The Police Department has set up a Dog Squad, in view of the law and order situation of the state especially the activities of the UG groups planting IEDs and the menace of drug trafficking, said the Governor.

Restaurant owner, lovers shot; owner condition critical

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19: Three unknown persons shot two lovers and the owner of a restaurant at around 11.30 am today morning inside a restaurant called Ningthibi Restaurant located at Khurai Angom Leikai near Laiching Hill corner under Lamlai Police Station. Report said that one among the three persons who came in a grey colour two wheeler Activa vehicle came inside the restaurant and enquired what the two lovers (- a 14 years old girl and a 25 years old man) were doing. Before the two lovers could answer properly the person allegedly took out a 9 mm pistol and fired towards them. The girl sustains bullet injury at her left hand after a bullet hit and penetrated and the man was hit by another bullet in his face. On seeing it the owner of the restaurant identified as Romita (about 35 years) tried to intervene but the person turned towards her and shot 3 bullets at her abdomen. Her condition is stated to be serious.



According to report, the man who was dating the 14 years old girl was a married man and presently running a VG Higher Secondary School and

is identified as Yumnam Suraj (age 35) son of Y. Mohendro of Kongpal Chingangbam Leikai. He also has a 1 year old son. All the injured are undergoing treatment RIMS and Raj Hospital.

Blast condemned; protest staged

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19: Locals of Chingmeirong Mamang leikai in Imphal West today staged a sit-in Protest in front of Eastern Hero showroom in protest against yesterday's blast at the showroom. Mention may be made that unknown miscreants blasted a bomb in front of the showroom at around 11.30 pm. No one hurt but portion of the shutter of the showroom was partially destroyed by the impact of the blast. The protest today while condemning the

blast appealed those concerned not to repeat such act in future. They also question on how such blast could be occurred when there is strict security measures being taken up at the area in view of the 13th session of the 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly. Owner of the showroom Sinam Pritam (age 48) son of Tomchou while speaking to reporters said that he had not received any threat from any individuals or any underground group.

State scores highest in reducing Infant Mortality Rate

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19: Manipur is categorized as a high performing State in terms of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) with only 10 per 1000 live births," said Governor of Manipur, V Shanmughanathan while addressing the 13th session of 10th Manipur Legislative Assembly on Friday. The state has been receiving the top Award in the country for maintaining the lowest IMR, along with Goa for the

last three consecutive years. To protect the well-being of expecting mothers and child, free referral transport service for pregnant women and infants upto 1 year has been launched and from April to September 2015, 9,649 mothers and 6,736 ASHAs benefited under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) scheme in the state, informed the Governor. He also added that Mission Indradhanush Programme phase I was successfully

completed by achieving 85 percent and the phase II has been completed successfully upto fourth rounds.

Workshop

T News
Silchar, Feb. 18: Department of Life Sciences & Bioinformatics Departments has organised a two day workshop & hands on training on "Dehydration of Flowers, Foliage & Floral Craft" on 16 and 17.

Manipur Civil Services Examination, its unpredictability & more

By : Shougrakpam Ratnamani Singh
The speed at which the Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC) has cancelled the Manipur Civil Services Combined Competitive (MCSCC) Examination, 2015 notification must have left many candidates baffled. It is really surprising that the protest against the eligibility criteria began when the preliminary examination scheduled to be conducted on February 28, 2016 is round the corner. These criteria were not new ones and the MPSC had conducted the same examinations earlier with the same criteria. Then, why did the protest erupt this time? One of the reasons is that this time, for the first time, the MPSC had accepted online applications for the examination and this led to a large number of candidates hailing from other states apply for it thereby creating an impression that this would make things tough for Manipuri candidates to clear the examination. **Was the protest justified?** It is true that several State Public Service Commissions do prescribe some eligibility criteria for their State Civil

Services Examinations which often place other candidates hailing from other States at a disadvantage. This is often done by including the state language(s) of the concerned state other than English as one of the eligibility criteria. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, Marks secured in the Hindi compulsory paper are included in deciding one's rank in the merit list. However, the intention may not be to make candidates hailing from other States ineligible for the examinations altogether. The MPSC could have done that the same thing if it were farsighted. However, having notified, it should have stuck to its position and should not have cancelled the examination even though some groups had raised their voices against the examination process. What were these groups doing for so long? If these groups were really interested in promoting fairness in the recruitment process and the interest of all Manipuri candidates, why haven't they raised any voice against the unfair advantage enjoyed by a few optional subjects in the main examination which has made the idea of having a level playing field in the examination process almost

impossible? (Please refer to my earlier article, dated 10th December, 2014: **Need for a level playing field in Manipur Civil Services Examination**, which is inter-alia available at <http://e-pao.net/channel.asp?what=education>) It is also pertinent to keep in mind that out of the 82 vacancies notified in this particular examination 38 had been reserved from Manipuri Candidates (2 for SC Candidates, 22 for ST candidates and 14 for OBC candidates) which means that candidates hailing from other States could have competed for the remaining 44 vacancies only. Have we become so fearful/ afraid of competing with others that we have decided to compete with ourselves only? If the rules of the game are fair, why cannot we be brave enough to compete well and win/lose bravely? Yes, we could have asked for some changes in future examinations in view of the new experience gained but this time we should have allowed the MPSC to conduct the examination with the hope that the recruitment process would be a fair one - Does the MPSC enjoy such a reputation of fairness? Don't

they say Caesar's wife must be above suspicion? **Hidden cost of a cancelled examination** This is not for the first time that the MPSC had cancelled an examination. Whenever, an examination such as this is being cancelled, it involves significant hidden costs which are often ignored - the cost of cancellations of air/train tickets of a large number of applicants residing outside the State which may run into a considerable sum of rupees in lakh; the cost of time & expenditure incurred in submitting the applications; the cost of public money spent by the Commission etc. It also creates inconvenience to a large number of working candidates who have applied for leave and planned their leave accordingly. Does the MPSC think that as long as things are convenient for it, it is ok even if it inconveniences a large number of candidates because its officials do not have to spend even one rupee from their pockets? Yes, it is the public money that the Commission spends and there is no fixing of accountability with respect to the cancelled examinations. So, who is the ultimate loser? Your guess is as good as mine! (Contd. on page 2)