

The first Media Exposure Tour to Thailand in connection with "Act East Policy" flagged off today by Manipur chief secretary O. Nabakishor



'It is impracticable to change commander at war field' - reason behind extending tenure of Chaoba

IT Exclusive
Imphal, March 22: While signaling a bright future for the party in the state, Th Chaoba, President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Manipur Pradesh has reiterated that it is unfeasible to change the commander in the middle of the battle field. Chaoba stated this to a representative of Imphal Times at the BJP state head office today while referring to the

recent buzz about the change of state BJP leadership. The Presidentship of Th Chaoba has been extended in a special 'arrangement' following a directive from Amit Shah - National President, BJP. "As per the directions of BJP National President, Amit Shah, upcoming Municipal and Nagar Panchayat elections in Manipur will be conducted under the leadership of State President, Th Chaoba Singh. This arrangement will continue till further instruction," reads a notification by Arun Singh, National General Secretary and Headquarter In-charge. **REASON BEHIND EXTENDING TENURE** During the last three years of Th Chaoba's tenure as president of BJP, Manipur Pradesh, the party was able to garner momentum and support from the public. Soon



after Th Chaoba assumed the office of BJP, Manipur Pradesh President on 22 December, 2012; the party fought the 16th Lok Sabha election in the year 2014 and the party managed to secure convincing number of voters in both Inner and outer parliamentary segments. In a blow to the ruling Indian National Congress, the BJP under the leadership of Th

Chaoba managed to field around 120 candidates in all the six ADC segments in the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) election which was held in the month of June 2015. Another reason for extending the tenure of Th Chaoba 'till further instruction' from high command of BJP is the performance of the party at the recent by-election of Thangmeiband and Thongiu Assembly Constituencies, where BJP won both the seats, which are considered as politically vital centres of Manipur. In the recently held local body election of the state to 18 Municipal Councils and 8 Nagar Panchayats, the party secured 62 council seats and took over the administration in 9 (nine) councils and a coalition at Kwakta. Support of voters and

improving performance of BJP is the indication of the growing confidence in the party and their loath to Congress and its misrule, Chaoba said. In search of an alternative to Congress, many former high level officers, bureaucrats, ministers and a Chief Minister has joined the party. In the history of India's politics a veteran CPI leader of the state also joined the saffron fold. **THE MOMENTUM AND CONFIDENCE** Chaoba also informed that for the first time in the state the party has been able to touch 4,70,000 membership mark during mass enrollment drives in the last three years of his tenure. With this 20 percent of membership spread across the state and the gaining momentum of people's faith to BJP, the party could form government in upcoming state assembly election.

KSDDC bandh disrupts vehicular movement



IT News
Imphal, March 22: The bandh called by Khouasubung Sub-Division Demand Committee (KSDDC) demanding creation of Khouasubung as headquarter of the newly formed Thangting Sub-Division has disrupted vehicular movement at Kwakta area today in the morning. According to report from Moirang Police station, around 200 bandh supporters

blocked road at Kwakta bazaar today morning around 10 and vehicular movements were disrupted for some time. However, police has successfully dispersed the protestors and able to restore normalcy. However, a short tussle between the police and bandh supporters was reported during the bandh. Later, the protestors even staged sit-in-protest at the area.

12-hours Bandh called along Imphal-Sagolmang road

IT News
Imphal, March 22: JAC against the torture of Nongsum Village has imposed bandh along Imphal-Sagolmang road against the state government for sitting silent while the villagers of Nongsum Village suffers in the hands of KNA and KLA. During a press meet, Convenor of JAC against the torture of Nongsum Village K Ibungobi said to the media persons that the state government has not taken up any steps to control the situation arising between the villagers of Nongsum Village and the cadres of KNA and KLA despite submission of memorandum. The JAC imposed the bandh along the Imphal-Sagolmang road from 6am to 5pm of March 23 and will continue to protest until the government set up a police out-post at Nongsum Village to safeguard the villagers, he added. Ibungobi further said that on March 21, some cadres of the two militant outfits caused fear and panic to the villagers and even interrogated a few villagers.

Speaker inaugurates State journalists' Sports Festival

IT News
Imphal, March 22: Manipur Assembly Speaker Thokchom Lokeshwar lit the flame of the state Journalists' sports festival and hoisted All Manipur Working Journalists' Union's (AMWJU) flag today morning at Manipur Press Club complex to inaugurate the 6th Journalists' Sports Meet organized by AMWJU. The flame which signifies the commencement of the Yaosang Sports Festival of Journalists was brought to Manipur Press Club Complex by the Speaker along with JNIMS Director Laishram Deben and AMWJU President Wangkhemcha Shyanjanj followed by a large number of journalists and reporters by a torch lit with the sacred flames from Kangla. While speaking to the media



crowd on the occasion, Speaker Th Lokeshwar encouraged media fraternity to bring out the truth without any fear or hesitation in the society while appealing to omit or hide out any information which will be a challenge to Manipur's integrity. He further urged to share distinctive role of media and work together in transforming the current society to a better one for the coming

generations. "Let us start the change within us before telling others to change", said the Speaker. Meanwhile as a mark to encourage journalists' sports he announced a cash reward of Rs 20,000 for the overall team champion while JNIMS Director Laishram Deben announced the deployment of a medical team along with an Ambulance at the sporting site during the meet.

Sharmila refused to furnish bail for her release

IT News
Imphal, March 22: from channu sharmila expressed her desire to meet Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi today after appearing before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal West. She further added that India is turning out to be a country ruled by violence and religious

ideologies, so almost every single effort in development projects will be useless. She also iterated that the world know the rule of the Indian government as even a survey of Happiness Index revealed India at the bottom of the list. Sharmila also disclosed that the court has allowed her release on bail but she refused, as according

to her, even the arrests for agitations by Anna Hazare and Baba Ramdev were released without any condition so she refuses to be released by furnishing bail. Sharmila is required to appear in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate located in the main building of the Patiala House Court Complex, New Delhi on 29 and 30 of this month.

BJP demands to restructure IFCD

IT News
Imphal, March 22: On the occasion of World Water Day which is being celebrated across the globe on March 22, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Manipur Pradesh on Tuesday has demanded the state government to restructure the obsolete Irrigation & Flood Control Department (IFCD) in tune with Central Government's mandate

on national water policy. Speaking to Imphal Times, General Secretary (Admin) of state BJP Unit, Moirangthem Anisikumar Singh has categorically stated that the present Congress government in Manipur has failed to frame water policy for the last 14 years. "Water is must and it can change lives", said the BJP leader while adding that the state is facing

acute water scarcity due to state government's failure of "water governance". While suggesting that IFCD should be restricted and named as Department of Water Resources Management, he said that rain water harvesting, water budgeting for the state with proper planning and technology is the need of the hour.

Rajnath Singh rules out withdrawal of Assam Rifles from Myanmar border

PII
Shillong, March 22: Home Minister Rajnath Singh today ruled out withdrawal of Assam Rifles from Indo-Myanmar border and its replacement with another paramilitary force, saying no such decision has been taken yet. "We have not taken any decision yet. Whenever we take any such decision, we will let you know," he told reporters here on the sidelines of a 'Sainik

Sammelan' organised on the occasion of 181st Raising Day of Assam Rifles. There have been reports that the central government may entrust the task of guarding this border to another border guarding force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). Border Security Force was earlier being considered for the task and it had also prepared an assessment report in this regard. India and Myanmar share an

unfenced border of 1,643 km adjoining Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km) and Mizoram (510 km) and permit a "free movement" regime up to 16 km along the border. Assam Rifles, raised in 1855, functions under the operational command of the Union Home Ministry. The Home Minister is on a two-day tour of Meghalaya beginning yesterday.

Meira Shanglen inaugurated

IT News
Imphal, March 22: Keishamthong A/C MLA, Laishombi Ibombcha Singh inaugurates a Meira Shanglen (a gathering hall for women torch bearers) for Elangbam Leikai Apunba Nupi Organization (ELANO) constructed at the bank of Nambul River at the locality. Thongam Banbir, President, ELYC, Ph Memchatombi, Councillor, Ward No-II (IMC), Elangbam Dolendra, Sr Advocate, Meisnam Joychandra, Ex Councillor, Ward No-II (IMC), Onam Ranjit, Social Worker, Ema Leirik, President Kanglei Mei and Sumati Devi, Former President, ELANO among others took part in the inaugural function.

Media Exposure Tour to Thailand flagged off

IT News
Imphal, March 22: The first media exposure tour to Thailand in connection with "Act East Policy" of government of India has been flagged off today by Manipur chief secretary O. Nabakishor and DGP LM Khaute along with DIPR director S Somorjit from DIPR complex today. Altogether 13 editors from both hill and valley and print

and electronic media are participating in the tour which begins from 22 to 29 of March. Chief Secretary O Nabakishor, flagging off the tour said that this tour would be the opening of a new chapter in the history of editors of the state. He further added that the knowledge gained from the study tour would be shared through media.

He further added that China and North Korea were less developed compared with India in the late 1960s but their hard work makes them surge ahead of India in development. He added that we need to study their hard work and have to apply the knowledge gained from the study tour in our state to bring development to the society.

Can Narendra Modi honour Manipur by accepting ILP and removing AFSPA before 2017?

Ningombam Bupenda Meitei
Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not be unhappy to see what has happened to Congress governments, which are democratically elected by the people, in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the present

political events unfolding in Manipur's Congress party. What precisely is to ask Narendra Modi, is to know whether his government in New Delhi will accept and extend ILP (Inner Line Permit), passed unanimously by Manipur Assembly, in Manipur and remove AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Powers Act) 1958 from Manipur before the next state assembly election of Manipur in 2017? Can Modi sarkar do it for Manipur and the people of Manipur? Can it be done in 2016? It was under the leadership of

the UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and the then Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, along with the then Chief Minister of Manipur Okram Ibobi Singh, that AFSPA was removed from the seven assembly segments of Imphal valley of Manipur. It was essentially the Indian National Congress which heard the voices of the hearts of the people of Manipur that had led to the removal of such act from some portion of the state. It was again the same Congress government in Manipur which tabled the 3 bills [the Protection of

Manipur Peoples Bill, 2015; the Manipur Land Revenue & Land Reforms (7th Amendment) Bill, 2015 and the Manipur Shops & Establishments (2nd Amendment) Bills, 2015] in Manipur Assembly and they were passed unanimously by the Manipur Assembly, in entirety, with no dissent, with officially recorded in the records of Manipur Assembly, to it on the floor of the House. It was indeed the realisation of the public's real demand of safeguarding Manipur and the indigenous people of Manipur by the Indian National

Congress government in Manipur. What has Indian National Congress party done for the people of Manipur? The Congress government did remove the AFSPA from the major portions of Manipur valley and introduced the historic 3 bills of Manipur to be unanimously passed by Manipur Assembly. It was the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh who assured of ST (Scheduled Tribe) status to Meiteis/Meeteis to the team from Manipur led by the then Lok Sabha's Member of Parliament

Dr. Th. Meinya in Prime Minister's Office. The Indian National Congress' dream of developed Manipur with safeguarded indigenous people of Manipur is essentially the major reason that has made the three terms of Congress government led by Okram Ibobi Singh a grand possibility. In fact, the number of Congress MLAs kept increasing in the three successive terms from 2002 to 2017. Ibobi Singh could, perhaps, become like the legendary Jyoti Basu of West Bengal. 2017 will and shall decide it. (Contd. on page 2)