

Govt. to strictly monitor progress of developmental activities

DIPR
Imphal, April 1: To ensure effective and efficient utilization of funds of various developmental activities in respect of State Plan/CSS during 2016-17. The State Government has advised all departments to comply instructions and take up necessary measures so as to ensure completion of developmental works in time. In this connection, Principal Secretary (Planning) Shri Vineet Joshi has issued an office memorandum to be complied by all the Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Commissioners, Secretaries and heads of Departments on March 30, 2017. The office memorandum

instructed the top level officers to upload progress of all the works costing Rs 50 lakh and above taken up during 2016-17. The progress report must be backed by photographs showing the progress of work through geo-tapping in the website of the State Planning Department in respect of CSS/State Plan. The office memorandum further conveyed that a mechanism is being worked out in consultation with IT Department/Consultant to facilitate the departments to upload the required information in the website of Planning Department. It further mentioned that the photographs to be uploaded on the website would inter-alia

show status, before start of the work, during the currency of the work (4-5 photos) and final work. The photographs should be taken in such a way that it may clearly convey the work scope and its progress. The progress of works along with photographs showing latest achievement must be uploaded on regular basis, the office memorandum said and cautioned that the respective HODs must be personally liable for the said instructions. The office memorandum conveyed that the instructions had been issued in order to ensure effective and efficient utilization of funds of various developmental activities in respect of State Plan/CSS during 2016-17.

CM appealed to transporters' associations to ply along NH2 without waiting for convoy

An enquiry to be conducted to find the causes of recent accidents

DIPR
Imphal, April 1: Chief minister shri n. biren singh today appealed to transporters' associations (both goods and passenger) to ply along nh2 without waiting for convoy as there is no blockade and also assured them to give security cover along the national highways by foot patrolling with the irb/mr personnel. Chief minister's appeal was made in a meeting with the members of manipur truck owner welfare association and united bus owners' welfare association held at chief minister's office in which parliamentary secretary (transport) shri khamshir vashum, chief secretary shri



o. nabakishore singh, addl. chief secretary (home) shri suresh babu, commissioner (transport) shri m. lakshmi Kumar attended.

In the meeting chief minister informed the transporters' associations that the centre has been given green signal to raise 4 irb battalions for highway protection force and regarding the issue of disturbance of vehicles with the manipur registration number within nagaland which was brought to the notice of the cm from the transporters' association shri n. biren assured that he is going to meet nagaland cm and assam cm together with union

home minister in guwahati and sign an agreement with nagaland cm to ensure free movement of manipur vehicles in front of union home minister.

The meeting also discussed about the incidents of recent road accidents along the two national highways and instructed the chief secretary to conduct an enquiry to find the causes of the road accidents. In view of the increasing number of road accidents, he also instructed the commissioner(transport) to take up the road safety measures like marking of zebra crossing, traffic signs in front of schools, road diversions,

curves etc. from tomorrow and also to ban the use of gas horns in and around imphal city. He also instructed the chief secretary to initiate an enquiry into the failure of traffic signal lights installed in some parts of imphal city. Chief minister also stressed the need to build foot bridges at certain locations where traffic congestion is high in the imphal city area and to review the mode of giving driving license.

The manipur truck owners' welfare association was led by its president h. ranjit and the united bus owners' welfare association of manipur was led its president I.

LICI Kaching Branch donates Computer Set

Kachching, April 1: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LICI) to commemorate its 60th year of operation in the country has presented two sets of computers to Martin Grammar School Kachching as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration by the LICI Kachching Branch.

The presents were made as a mark of sharing the responsibility of improving the lives of the people of the country and the state, especially the future generations. Speaking at a simple ceremony yesterday at Martin Grammar School Kachching with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LICI) Kachching Branch Manager L. Leisan handing over the two computer sets to Pukhrambam Somarendra Singh, Secretary of School Managing Committee. M. Manihar Singh, Headmaster- Martin Grammar School and staffs along with P.Ranakumar Singh, President and Secretary L. Mahes Kumar Singh of Life Insurance Agent's Association Kachching Branch and students were present at the celebration.

Sale and registration of stolen vehicles will be impossible soon

TNN
New Delhi, April 1: Soon you will be able to find out whether any second-hand vehicles you are buying is not a stolen one or involved in any crime. This will be possible as the Cabinet on Friday approved changes in the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, which includes having a national register of all vehicles. Sources said the updated details of vehicles such as the chassis number, engine number, make and year of manufacture will be available in the national register and this will help in checking the credentials while approving the ownership transfer of all vehicles. This will also make it almost impossible for interstate gangs involved in stealing vehicles from one state and selling them in other states with forged documents. The Cabinet also approved fixing the immediate compensation to road crash victims - Rs 5 lakh for death and Rs 2.5 lakh for serious injuries - besides increasing the compensation for hit and run cases from present Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh. In the first case, the insurance company concerned will contact the victim's family members to settle the case before proceedings start in the Motor Accident Claims

Tribunal (MACT). This amount has to be paid within one month. TOI had first reported this earlier this week. Road safety activists have criticised this move. Those who pursue cases in the MACT will get compensation within three months. The bill also provides for bringing drivers and other co-workers engaged in transport vehicles under the coverage of third party insurance compensation. This will improve the social security of contractual workers in transport firms. The changes in the Bill also include using Aadhaar details for online verification of all applications

and strict penal provisions for faulty design and poor maintenance of roads resulting in crash or death. To avoid the long process of legislation for changes in the law, the Bill proposes 10% annual increase in penalties for traffic and transport related offences and setting up of a road safety board. Road transport ministry officials said the bill aims to check corruption in RTOs, extending validity of transport licence to five years from the present three years besides computerised vehicle fitness regime. There will also be norms for scrapping old vehicles.

PM Modi to hold delegation-level talks with Malaysian PM in New Delhi

AIR
New Delhi, April 1: Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak was given ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi this morning. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Mr Razak at the ceremonial reception. The visiting dignitary arrived in New Delhi from Chennai last evening. Mr Modi and his Malaysian counterpart will hold delegation level talks today.

The two leaders will discuss entire gamut of bilateral relations including terrorism. A number of bilateral as well as commercial agreements are likely to be signed during the visit. Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak's high level delegation consists of several Cabinet Ministers and Senior Officials. He will also be accompanied by a large business delegation consisting of many of the top companies and businessmen in Malaysia.

ATMs, Credit, debit cards set to disappear: Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant

IANS
New Delhi, April 1: With India embracing applications of technologies at an accelerated pace, digital transactions will be done through mobile wallets and biometric modes and credit and debit cards as also ATMs were set to disappear, Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has said. "Technology will be a key driver of India's growth," Kant said while launching the Trade and Investment Facilitation Services (TIFS) of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) here on Friday evening. "Physical banking in India is almost dead and it is adopting pervasive technologies with such an accelerated pace that in next three to four years, the digital transactions would move through mobile wallet and biometric modes," he said. "Credit cards, debit cards and

ATMs will disappear." Kant said that India was growing 7.6 per cent annually in the midst of a very barren barren economic landscape across the world. "The population in America and Europe will keep getting older while that of India will keep getting younger," he said. In terms of ease of doing business, he said that in the last year "we scrapped 1200 laws". Stating that India was larger than 24 European countries, Kant said that states should appear as champions of growth. He declared that India would continue to globalise and dismantle rules and regulations that adversely affected inbound investments. It would also create conditions for expansion of its economy. "Despite (US President Donald) Trump talking of

protectionism (of US economy), there is no talk of protectionism here," the Niti Aayog CEO said. "India believes in globalisation and it will continue to globalise and shall never talk of protectionism. As a result, it will emerge as an economy that would attract investments and growth and make India a hub of economic engagements par excellence." Stating that there is energy and dynamism in the young start-up sector, he said that India has become the centre of innovation in many ways.

"Around 1500 companies have located their innovation centres in Hyderabad and Bangalore... India is the centre of frugal engineering." Kant also said India would see a lot of urbanisation in the times to come and technology would play a key role in this.

Income Tax: 12 changes that kick in today

Zee News
New Delhi, April 1: For lakhs of employees working in government organisations and private entities, the dawn of the new financial year (2017-18) beginning on 1 April marks the changes to personal income tax slabs the government had introduced during the Union Budget in February this year. By the end of last month, the Lok Sabha had completed the budgetary exercise and also cleared the Finance Bill. Besides this, the amendments introduced in the Finance Bill was also passed by the Lok Sabha. Other than the income tax rates, employees will also have to take note of other important aspects of tax related matters that will be applicable in this financial year. Here are the 10 important income-tax changes that tax payers need to take note of for this financial year: 1) To put more money into the hands of employees, the government has cut tax rate by half to 5 percent from 10 percent for employees in the yearly income group between Rs 2.5 and Rs 5 lakh. The move is expected to help them save tax of up to Rs 12,500 a year, according to The Economic Times. A tax saving of Rs 14,806 a year, including surcharge and cess, will

be available for income above Rs 1 crore a year. And for people whose taxable income is between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 50 lakh, tax savings amount to Rs 12,900. 2) A simple one page form will be introduced for filing tax returns to tax payers with income up to Rs 5 lakh and excluding any business income. The I-T department will not scrutinize those who are filing their tax returns for the first time in this category. 3) Delay in filing tax return for this financial year (2017-18) will attract a penalty of Rs 5,000, if filed by 31 December, 2018, and the penalty will be higher if filed beyond this date. However, for small tax payers with income up to Rs five lakh, the penalty has been restricted to Rs 1,000. 4) For investment under Rajiv Gandhi Equity Saving Scheme, no deduction will be available from the assessment year 2018-19. The previous UPA government had introduced this tax-saving scheme in the Union Budget for financial year 2012-13 with an aim to encourage first-time investors in the securities market. 5) Long-term holding period for an immovable property has been reduced to two years from three earlier. Hence, the new law coming in place will ensure that an immovable

property held over for two years will be taxed at a reduced rate of 20 percent, with various exemptions eligible on reinvestment, the ET report said. 6) Looking to cash in on long term capital gains tax may not be fruitful as beneficial amendments would result in lower profits on sales. The government has changed the base year for indexation of cost to 1 April, 2001 from 1 April, 1981. 7) Tax exemption on reinvestment of capital gains in notified redeemable bonds will be available for individuals in addition to investment in NHAI and REC bonds. 8) For rental payments in excess of Rs 50,000 a month, individuals will have to deduct a five percent TDS (tax deducted at source). According to tax experts, this move will enable the government to bring people with large rental income into the tax net. This will come into effect from 1 June, 2017. 9) The government has also made Aadhaar compulsory while applying for PAN and filing income tax returns from 1 July. In fact, the Centre in a bid to curb black money from the system has limited cash transactions at Rs two lakh against the originally proposed cap at Rs three lakh. 10) Individuals will not have to pay any tax in case of partial withdrawals from National Pension System

(NPS). The proposed changes allow NPS subscribers to withdraw 25 percent of their contribution to the corpus for emergencies before retirement. Remember that withdrawal of 40 percent of the corpus is tax-free on retirement, the NDTV report says. 11) Apart from the changes to income tax rates, individuals will also have to brace for higher insurance premium starting today on cars, motorcycles and health insurance beginning this financial year, as the regulator IRDAI has given its nod for insurers to revise commission of the agents. The change in premium after modification will be limited to +/- 5 percent of the existing rates. The increase will be in addition to the enhanced third party motor insurance rates, which too will come into effect beginning this month. 12) For lakhs of customers of India's largest commercial bank State Bank of India, penalty will be charged starting today, if a minimum balance of Rs 5,000 is not maintained every month. In metropolitan areas, there will be a charge of Rs 100 plus service tax, if the balance falls below 75 percent of the MAB of Rs 5,000. If the shortfall is 50 percent or less of the MAB, then the bank will charge Rs 50 plus service tax.