

No proper guideline in State Labour and Employment department

IT News
Imphal, April 9: Much has been taken by the new government to eradicate corruption as well as to streamline good governance in the state. Even though this government has taken up many good cause somewhere, at some department the very word transparency appeared to be another joke.

Nothing has been made clear on who is the Principal Secretary of Labour and Employment department since 2016. Nothing has been officially notified by following proper procedure on who is present chairman of the Manipur Building and Other Construction Welfare Board. Whether the state government notification NO. 5/254/97 - Lab (Pt) dated November 16, 2015 has been amended or not remain as a big question to every citizen. This is being stated as there has been no government notification regarding the replacement of Principal Secretary by Additional Chief Secretary to empower him as the competent signatory for the Labour Department. Source said that after Suhel Aktar has been promoted to Additional Chief Secretary he has been withdrawing fund by signing his promoted designation instead of Principal Chief Secretary, which is a complete violation of the government guidelines.

As according to the resolution number 6(ii) adopted during the 9th meeting of the Board held on 14/4/2016 at 11.30 am at its office premises it was stated that selection of the Skill

Development Training of Registered Building and other Construction workers and their spouse and dependent children/sibling shall be done first by the Welfare Board and then by the training provider. As per source available from the members of the Board it has come to know that except for one applicant.

Report with the Imphal Times said that Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Suhel Aktar has been still acting as the Principal Secretary Labour and another E Tomba Singh has been acting as the Secretary of Manipur Building and other construction workers welfare board. Some of the members alleged that huge amount of money has been sanctioned even though members have knowledge of only one applicant for Skill Development Training. Question arises now is that, who are those selected candidates for the skill development training programme and how many of

CM to inspect developmental works at Ukhrul

IT News
Imphal, April 9: Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren will visit Ukhrul district to take stock of the developmental works being taken up at the area tomorrow.

Earlier the Ukhrul based civil society organisation had announced to organise a reception programme for the new chief minister. However, the TNL, one of the apex body Tangkhul community had stated that they will not organise the reception programme however they will give no objection if any government authority organised such reception function.

Mention may be made that this is perhaps the first time that Chief Minister of Manipur has been accepted at Ukhrul district in 15 years. There were incidents at which civil society organisation boycott earlier government ministers and even the chief minister.

Addl. Chief Secretary is running the department at his will; withdraw money using his signature violating official procedure

them had applied. The source further added that during an enquiry conducted for fraudulence case against an Inspector of the Labour Department Identified as I. Subashchandra, Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Suhel Aktar and Secretary E Tomba had recovered a sum of Rs. 1,75,000/- from him. The money was reportedly collected using fake receipt book. However, whereabouts of the money recovered has not been let known to the members of the board.

On the other hand, there are also reports that some of the Inspector of the Labour department are issuing card to applicants by skipping the official procedures.

What is more interesting is that the existence of Board members Manipur Building and Other Construction Welfare Board has been ignored and all activities are being carried out at the will of Mr. Suhel Aktar and Secretary E Tomba. It is also learnt that both, Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Suhel Aktar and Secretary E Tomba are still signing on financial matters.

Question now arises is - how could official procedure be violated by a top class bureaucrat even after knowing that he is not the competent authority to sign for financial transaction. Something seems to be not right in this department government.

Handloom, handicraft training becomes boon for school dropouts in Sikkim

ANI
Gangtok, April. 9: With an endeavour to preserve and propagate the art and craft skill of the local artisans of Sikkim and to provide job opportunities to the school dropouts, the directorate of handicrafts and handloom in the state has taken an initiative to generate employment opportunities. Many youngsters, especially girls, stop going to school in Sikkim due to financial problems and lack of adequate facilities.

However, to empower women and check dropout rate in the region, the directorate is generating employment opportunities by providing

skill training on handloom and craft making. Girls of different age groups are acquiring the training without any hindrances, thus making them self-reliant. "After completing the training, I will try to open a private enterprise and would also like to teach the children from my village if they are interested in learning," said a trainee. As many as 100 young girls are getting trained in the institute.

Various techniques of weaving items are being taught to the girls under proper guidance of trained instructors.

"Girls come here for training with a hope to do something.

Parking allocation

IT News
Imphal, April 9: State Transport Department has allotted space available at Nagamapal on the covered Naga Nalah between Khuyathong to Maharani Bridge has parking lot for LMVs, 2 wheelers and three wheeler with immediate effect. An order has been issued in the regard. The allocation is made after due consultation for solving the traffic problem in the city.

Memorandum submitted

IT News
Imphal, April 9: Candidates who had appeared in the 2013 batch Manipur Police Constable today staged a protest rally from Keishampat till Chief Minister Bungalow and submitted memorandum demanding immediate declaration of the result whose recruitment test has been completed.

The rally was staged by the The All Manipur DPC completed candidates of Police constable. Police team intervene them near Nityapat Chuthek and allow only some representative to submit the memorandum to the chief Minister.

Bandh and blockade costs Rs 2,616.23 crores per day

IT News
Imphal, April 9: The State has been losing Rs 1672.9 crore per day on every bandh or general strike and Rs 943.33 crore per day on every economic blockade, according to social researcher Serto Tondana Kom. Speaking to media persons at M a n i p u r Press Club, Majorkhul, Imphal, Serto Tondana Kom said that he conducted the survey in consultation with many experts to evaluate the economic losses suffered by the State on account of the frequent bandhs and blockades.

According to the Census reports of 1991, 2001 and 2011, the total population of Manipur was 18 lakhs, 22 lakhs and 28 lakhs respectively.

The decadal population growth rate varies from 4.56 lakh to 5.61 lakh and the average annual growth rate is 61.475 per year. Calculated at this rate, the total population of Manipur is expected to reach more than 31 lakh by 2016. Out of them, around 15 lakh constitute the working population.

The lowest rate of daily wage fixed by the Ministry of Labour is Rs 280.

According to data received from the Intelligence wing of Manipur Police, there were 116 days of bandh or general strike in 2016 and there were 11 days of bandh or general strike till March of this year.

There were 103 days of economic blockade in 2016 and 76 days of economic blockade till March of this year, Serto said. As per the projected per capita income of Manipur in the year 2016-2017, the total amount is Rs 67,207, a total for all sector of primary, secondary and tertiary sector.

With the impact of bandh and general strike on the economic of the state and quantified, the state loss per capita income for all sector with combine of the daily wages of Rs 280 is Rs 13,18 Crores per day.

According to the Manipur IGP (Intelligence) report, when calculated at this rate, the State lost Rs 1,528 crores in 2016 due to the bandh and general strike of 116 days and Rs 144.9 crore in 2017 till March, due to the 11 days of bandh and general strike. The total loss of economy due to bandh and general strike during 2016 and

till March of 2017, the State lost Rs 1,672.9 Crores, Serto elaborated.

There were 103 days of economic blockade in 2016 and 76 days of economic blockade till March of this year.

Quoting the All Manipur Road Transport Drivers and Motor Workers Union general secretary M Anil Meitei, Serto said that around 360 trucks have been shipping in goods per day to the State.

Assuming that the State's per capita income is Rs 67,207 in 2016-17 till March, it was found that the State lost Rs 943.33 Crores every day on account of economic blockade.

In total, the State lost Rs 542.81 crores in 2016 and another Rs 400.52 crore this year till March, on account of economic blockade.

Therefore, the total loss from 2016 to 2017 till March due to Bandh and general strike and Economic blockade is Rs 2,616.23 crores, Serto said.

Although the negative impacts of bandhs and blockades on the economy of Manipur are understood by most people, many organisations and individuals have been using bandhs and blockades as effective tools for exerting pressure on the Government. Out of the total 365 days, 224 days were affected by bandhs and blockades in 2010, Serto continued.

What is more disturbing is the State's failure to respond immediately when some organisations call bandh or blockade. As such, bandhs and blockades have become a chronic issue in the State.

If the survey report can open eyes of a few people, all the efforts invested to compile the report would be considered fruitful, Serto Tondana Kom who hails from Hermontlang village, Samuilamlan Block, Churachandpur district. Serto Tondana Kom had already published another survey report which said that the people of Manipur lost Rs 35 crore on account of taking other routes when the new Sanjonthong bridge was under construction. In regards to the economic loss of the state due to the bandhs and blockade, the survey report will be submitted to Chief Minister of Manipur and other department concern.

Man drown

IT News
Imphal, April. 9: A person was found drown at a pond located between two temples at Khabam Lakpam Mandop in Keishamthong Elangbam Leikai, here in Imphal West late yesterday evening at around 10 pm.

Report said people of the locality rushed out of the houses after they heard a heavy splash at the pond. However as no one was seen inside the pond all were asking one another about the splash at water. When took a closure look a pair of slipper was found floating. At the same time some of the locality saw an aged person sitting at the nearby pond some hours back. As he was not seen anywhere people keep on looking at the pond. Later he was seen get down at the pond. Later, locals of the area informed the police and the dead body was pulled up.

As per an Adhaar Card with his photo the deceased was written as Takhellambam Joykumar of Sega Road Takhel leikai. Polic deposited the body at RIMS morgue.

Namami Brahmaputra: A celebration like never before in Assam's history

ANI
Guwahati, April. 9: Regarded as the lifeline to millions of people of the region and a source of livelihood to many, the mighty Brahmaputra is the most important natural treasure intrinsic to the economic and socio-cultural aspects of the state. However, to bring forth the renaissance of the river and as a mark of campaign and to create awareness among people and let the world know about the essence of the river in bringing prosperity to the lives of the people, 'Namami Brahmaputra' or obeisance to Brahmaputra a festival like never before was recently organised by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal-led Assam government. Brahmaputra has been at the

core of Assam's folklore, inspiring literature, music and art. Many poems and songs have been dedicated to the mighty river and for the people, their very lives revolve around it and its streams and tributaries.

Lakhs of visitors from across the country and the region gathered on the bank of the river to be a part of the celebration with much spirit and joy.

President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the festival calling it the lifeline of the people of northeast.

"Brahmaputra river passing through different states ultimately going into Bangladesh near Dhubri and to meet and reach its destination the confluence at Bay of Bengal. It has witnessed rise

and fall of mighty empires; it has shown heroism indomitable spirit of men and women living on the banks of Brahmaputra," President Mukherjee said.

The festival is aimed at showcasing the trade, tourism and cultural possibilities of the state along Brahmaputra River.

"We all know Brahmaputra is our civilization, culture, economy and the lifeline. It has given special status to the people of Assam in the map of the world. So now being the son of the soil it is our duty to glorify our Brahmaputra its resources, its potentialities and prosperities," Chief Minister Sonowal said.

"Naam Proxongo" accompanied by 'taal' and 'khol', marked the obeisance being paid to the mighty river

by the Satradhikars. Brahmaputra 'Aarti' by the priests reverberated the atmosphere and offered the visitors a mystical overview of the beautiful river.

The festival was celebrated in 21 districts of Assam along the Brahmaputra in its entire stretch from Sadiya to Dhubri, celebrating the existence of life-sustaining River.

Moreover, in Dibrugarh district of Assam, thousands converged on the boundless white sands of the Brahmaputra at Kacharighat to celebrate the indomitable spirit of the life-giving river. "Brahmaputra is the source of life for many. This river is not only spreading a cultural message but can also be a source of trade and tourism potentialities of the state. To

make it successful work is in full progress. For strengthening river linkages, this is one of the platforms I would say," said a visitor. Varieties of cultural dance, music, art forms, and cuisine, handloom-handicrafts etc. of various communities of the state were the major highlights of the five-day long festival.

On the second day of the festival, Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama made his congenial presence.

"In the year 1959 I first came from Tibet through Arunachal so there is an emotional bond with the people of the state. I feel very happy. Hence I want to extend my greetings and good wishes to the people of the state. Under the able governor and Chief Minister I think your future is more

prosperous and more united," said his holiness, Dalai Lama. Along with the northeastern states dignitaries, Bhanu Singh Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, who attended the inaugural event as the guest of honor, said that Brahmaputra is pride of South East Asia and there should be cross country event to promote the mighty river.

Besides these, foreign delegates from Japan, China, Thailand, Vietnam and a host of other nations also marked their gracious presence in the festival.

Moreover, a special tribute was also paid to the legendary singer Late Dr Bhupen Hazarika whose words, thoughts and his deep tribute to the mighty river was always reflected in his beautiful composition of songs.