

CM attends to around 620 complaints on Meeyamgi Numit Government would launch 'HAKSHELGI TENGBANG' on 1ST Jan. 2018: CM

DIPR
Imphal, December 15: Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh said that the government is planning to introduce a new healthcare scheme 'Hakshelgi Tengbang' (Manipur Health Protection Scheme) on 1st January, 2018. This was stated by him while briefing the media persons on the occasion of 'Meeyamgi Numit' held at Chief Minister's Secretariat today.

Hundreds of people turned up on the Meeyamgi Numit to address their grievances to the Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh at CM's Secretariat. The Chief Minister attended to as many as about 620 complaints and personally met nearly 1500 people from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Speaking to media persons, Chief Minister said that Hakshelgi Tengbang scheme would provide a cashless benefit upto Rs.2 lakh per year per BPL/AYY family on floater basis. He stated that five Companies have participated in the bidding process and one Company has been selected for providing the health insurance scheme to the poor



and needy people of the State. The selected Company in collaboration with the Panchayats/local clubs would conduct a joint survey for identifying the real/needy people. He lamented that there were manipulations in issuing the BPL cards in the past so a fresh survey is being needed to identify the real/needy beneficiaries. He said that if the government rely on the existing BPL/AYY card holders then many real/needy people would be left out and might not get the benefits of the scheme. Camps would begin soon in various areas of the State to identify the poorest of the poor, he added. He believed that widows and poorest of the poor etc. would get proper benefits from the scheme. Chief Minister stressed that among several grievances, many came for providing medical treatment, financial

assistance and seeking livelihood on Meeyamgi Numit. Mentioning on improving health sector in the State, Chief Minister said that a new scheme for persons with disability "CM gi Sotharabasingi Tengbang" was launched recently. However many persons with disability came here today due to lack of proper publicity about the scheme to the people, he added. He further said that officials of Social Welfare Department have been deputed here to assist the needy people and forms are being provided to the needy people.

Stating the importance of Neuro Surgery Department at JNIMS, Chief Minister said that the Neuro Surgery Department would be opened soon. The required infrastructure and machinery have already bought and 6 Nurses are being

given special hands-on training to assist the doctors in Neuro Surgery Department, he added. The Operation theatre is almost ready for use, he added. Condemning the acid attack incident happened in the State, Chief Minister said that such attack is first of its kind in the State and the government would deal the matter seriously. Such attack is 'crime against human', he added. He further stated that the government would provide free medical treatment to the victim. The government is also planning to provide livelihood to the victim's family, he added. To curb such incidents in future, he said, the case would be brought before the Fast Track Court which as set up for crime against women.

Chief Minister stated that programmes/awareness regarding the organ transplant from the dead bodies would be started soon in the State. Seeking people's support, Chief Minister stated that such organ transplant would save many lives in the State.

On the occasion, Chief Minister released a half yearly bilingual journal titled "Phijeggi Mani Laktagee" (The Hidden Treasure). The journal is being published by Relief Centre for the Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons, Manipur.

Lok Sabha adjourned for the day

AIR
New Delhi, Dec. 15: The Winter Session of Parliament began today and Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day after paying tributes to three of its sitting members who passed away recently.

Rajya Sabha witnessed two adjournments till 2.30 PM following opposition uproar over the issues including disqualification of two rebel JD(U) members. Lok Sabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan paid tributes to Sultan Ahmad, Chand Nath and Tasleemuddin and seven other former members. Earlier, the newly elected Congress MP Sunil Jakhar took the oath.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M

Venkaiah Naidu adjourned the House as opposition members trooped into the well of the House protesting against disqualification of rebel JD(U) members Sharad Yadav and Ali Anwar.

Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad and Naresh Agarwal of Samajwadi Party tried to raise the issue which was objected to by the Chair saying that such issues are not for discussion in the House.

Following this the agitating members came into the well raising slogans and forced the Chairman to adjourn the House for 40 minutes till noon.

When the House reassembled again, Mr Azad

raised the issue of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegation during Gujarat Election campaign against his predecessor Dr Manmohan Singh and others over their recent meeting with a Pakistani delegation in New Delhi.

Termining the allegations as serious, the Congress leader demanded suspension of question hour to discuss the issue. This was rejected by the Chair and House was adjourned till 2:30 pm.

Earlier, Rajya Sabha also paid tributes ten of its former members including Air Marshal Arjan Singh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the newly inducted members in the Council of Ministers in both houses.

Consumer Forum rejects complaints against SBI

PIT
Thane, Dec 15: The District Consumer Redressal Forum here has rejected four complaints against the State Bank of India (SBI) pertaining to interest rate on personal loans.

Forum's president Sneha Mhatre and member Madhuri Vishwarupe recently held that SBI's Thane main branch was right in recovering the difference in the interest rate on the personal loan as the loanee had in their agreements at the time of obtaining the loan sought a "floating rate of

interest". Prakash Sawant, Prakash Otavnekar, Anant Mahadik, and Vilas Fadtare had in their complaints said they took a personal loan of Rs 1.98 lakh, Rs 72,000, Rs 2.08 lakh and Rs 1.20 lakh respectively in 2006 and repaid it in 2011.

However, the bank without intimating them debited an additional amount of Rs 15,000, Rs 14,000, Rs 20,000 and Rs 14,000 respectively from their accounts and also closed their accounts in 2013, it was stated.

The four claimed that the bank

erred as it had not intimated them before debiting money from their account.

Hence, they had sought the refund of the amount along with interest.

The complainants had claimed that the bank's action amounted to deficiency in services and between 2011 and 2013 the SBI did not respond.

The bank contested the claims and argued that the complainants had in their agreement opted for floating rate of interest on the loans taken by them.

Name change declaration

I, here to known as Nongmaithem Oken Singh son of Mr. Nongmaithem Ibobi Singh, a self employed, residing at Thoubal Awang Leikai, PO & PS Thoubal, Thoubal District, Manipur have changed my father's name and my mother's name shall hereafter be known as Nongmaithem Ibopishak Singh, vide Affidavit No. 03AA075923, dated 15th Dec. 2017.

It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Sd/-
Nongmaithem Oken Singh
Thoubal Awang Leikai,
PO & PS Thoubal
Mobile No. 8787570848

Supreme Court extends deadline for Aadhaar linkage up to March 31

AIR
New Delhi, Dec. 15: The Supreme Court has extended the deadline till March 31st next year for mandatory linking of Aadhaar with various services and welfare schemes.

In an interim order today, a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra also modified its earlier order with regard to linking of Aadhaar with mobile services. The bench said, the deadline of February 6 next year for the purpose also stood extended till 31st March.

The court said, for opening new

bank accounts, an applicant will not be required to provide Aadhaar number to the bank.

However, the applicant will have to show the proof to the bank that the person has applied for the Aadhaar number. The apex court said, the Constitution Bench would commence final hearing from 17th January on the petition challenging the Aadhaar scheme itself.

The government on Wednesday issued a notification to extend till March 31 the deadline for mandatory quoting of Aadhaar and Permanent Account Number

(PAN) for bank accounts and certain financial transactions. Several petitioners challenging the validity of Aadhaar have claimed it violated privacy rights.

Some petitioners in the top court have termed the linking of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) number with bank accounts and mobile numbers as 'illegal and unconstitutional'.

Recently, a nine-judge constitution bench of the apex court had held that Right to Privacy was a Fundamental Right under the Constitution.

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How did Buddhism spread to Japan

I am a human being and I am not perfect. So, please kindly read the message and not the messenger

By Sanjoo Thangjam

In India several hundred years after the time of the Buddha, Buddhism developed a rich tradition of visual imagery for depicting sacred beings. Based on descriptions recorded in the scriptures, Buddhas are typically shown as human figures with supernatural attributes to represent their spiritually elevated status. The most commonly depicted bodily markings include a bump on the top of the head to indicate wisdom, a mark in the middle of the forehead that also shows great understanding, lengthened earlobes that are a reminder of the Buddha princely youth and a body with idealized proportions and contours. In addition, Buddhas are often, although not always shown as ascetics who wear simple monastic robes and are devoid of decorative shawls, scarves and jewellery. Bodhisattvas, on the other hand, are customarily shown richly ornamented, representing their continued engagement with this world. Buddhist icons offer messages or information to viewers through their hand gestures (mudra). Common gestures include the ones for meditation, teaching, and assuaging fear.

The appearance of Buddhist imagery varies according to when the object was made, contemporary and local stylistic preferences, the materials used and skill of the

craftsmen, and religious requirements. Whereas Zen-related representations often are relatively austere, encourage a contemplative attitude, and can be closely linked to Chinese prototypes, icons associated with the court-supported temples of the Esoteric schools can have multiple arms and heads to express great power and superhuman abilities and be richly ornamented with sumptuous materials and complex layers of decorative patterning.

An age-old East Asian route of trade and influence ran from northern China through the Korean peninsula and across the Korean Straits to Japan. Travelling along this route, Mahayana Buddhism was introduced to Japan from Korea in the sixth century traditionally, in either 538 or 552, as part of a diplomatic mission that included gifts such as an image of Shakyamuni Buddha and several volumes of Buddhist texts. By the seventh century, when the religion was firmly established, Japan had dozens of monastery complexes, various orders of priests and a body of skilled artisans to craft the icons and other appurtenances that the practice of the faith required.

It is said that Vajrayana or Esoteric Buddhist and its attendant pantheon of deities and secret, mystical rituals was introduced to Japan in the early Heian period,

after 794 by a number of Japanese priests. They studied the religion in China and returned home to found influential monasteries, two of which became the centres of the main Japanese Buddhist sects, Tendai and Shingon. Images of wrathful deities, such as Fudo Myo-o (Achala in Sanskrit), were introduced at this time as part of the Esoteric Buddhist pantheon.

In the late Heian period, that is, until 1185 and following centuries, Pure Land Buddhism became very popular. The Salvationist Pure Land Buddhism taught faith in Amida (Amitabha in Sanskrit), the Buddha of the Western Paradise. Believers trusted that the diligent recitation of his name enabled the soul to be reborn in a heavenly Pure Land rather than in a Buddhist hell or other undesirable rebirth. Intense devotion to Amida produced voluminous requests for Buddhist statuary and paintings and in addition to the many temples dedicated to him an additional Salvationist deity popular at this time was Jizo, who had been introduced to Japan centuries earlier as a Bodhisattva in the Mahayana Buddhist pantheon.

Jizo is a deity of compassion and benevolence whose attributed powers expanded as time passed. During the Kamakura period (1185-1333), Buddhism became the faith of all people of all classes. This was due in part to the

many priests who became itinerant evangelists and brought Pure Land Buddhism to the masses.

Zen is the Japanese development of the school of Mahayana Buddhism that originated in China as Chan Buddhism. While Zen practitioners trace their beliefs to India, its emphasis on the possibility of sudden enlightenment and a close connection with nature derive from Chinese influences. Chan and Zen, which mean "meditation," emphasize individual meditative practice to achieve self-realization and, thereby, enlightenment. Rather than rely on powerful deities, Zen stresses the importance of the role of a teacher, with whom a disciple has a heart-mind connection. This allows the teacher to offer the student helpful assistance in his spiritual development. Zen also values intuition instead of habitual, logical thinking and developed expressionistic and suggestive (rather than explicit and descriptive) painting styles and poetic forms as well as illogical conundrums (koan) to stimulate one's intuition. While Zen was first introduced into Japan several centuries earlier, it did not become firmly established until the thirteenth century, when the warrior class began to favor this school of thought.

The writer is a lay Buddhist and Human Rights Activist for People Who Use Drugs (PUDS)