

Chief Minister distributed loans amounting Rs 54 lakhs to 45 beneficiaries

DIPR
Imphal, Dec. 31: Chief Minister N. Biren Singh handed over loans worth Rs. 54,36,000 to selected 45 beneficiaries which included farmers, entrepreneurs etc. of different districts at Chief Minister's Secretariat today. The loan amounts were given to the 34 beneficiaries for piggery farming, 10 beneficiaries for dairy farming and one beneficiary for embroidery that included two persons who came on previous Meeyamgi Numit for providing financial assistance



and others under Area Development Scheme. The

loan assistance ranging from Rs. 92,000 to Rs. 10 lakh was provided under the Manipur State Co-operative Bank Ltd. Speaking to media persons, Chief Minister said that the government is for the people and the sole purpose of having a government is to serve the people and work towards development of the State. He mentioned that after meeting different sections of the society on Meeyamgi Numit and Hill Leaders' Day on every month, the government thoroughly discussed with some banks for providing loans to needy people and it was decided that the government would extend

help and financial assistance to those needy people of the State. Chief Minister mentioned that if the beneficiaries repay the bank loans on time then they would get 50 percent grant/subsidy of the loan amount and they would get more loans in future too. He appealed the beneficiaries to abide the rules and regulations of the banks so that they could repay the loan amount on time. Chief Minister stated that we, Manipuris, have some drawbacks and weakness as we consider that the bank loans are being provided for free and we don't have to pay

off the loans. We should always remember that the beneficiaries have to repay the loan on time, he added. Chief Minister appealed those banks which are operating in the State to extend help and provide financial assistance to the potential and talented people, entrepreneurs. He said that banks don't belong to the business community and government employees only. The present government would not tolerate those banks that don't support and extend their help for the welfare of the people of the State. He mentioned that the government has already taken a decision that those banks that assist poorest of the poor people of the State would be definitely getting support from the government. On the occasion, Chief Minister conveyed his best wishes and warm greetings to the people of Manipur for a happy and prosperous New Year 2018. MLA of Yaishkul AC Th. Satyabrata, Principal Secretary Vineet Joshi, officials of Manipur State Co-operative Bank Ltd were present during the distribution of loans to the beneficiaries.

Greeting by Governor, Chief Minister, others on New Year -2018

Dr. Najma Heptulla
Governor of Manipur

Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh



It gives me great pleasure of wish the people of Manipur a very Happy New Year -2018. The dawn of a new year is always significant as new resolutions are made, looking to the future with hope. We look forward to a better tomorrow learning from our experience and achievement of the past. As we step on the threshold of 2018, let us all resolve to work hand-in-hand for creating harmony and peace in all parts of Manipur during the coming year. I join the people of Manipur in celebrating New Year's Day, 2018 and hope that everybody will be blessed with good tidings for a more prosperous and peaceful new year. Once again, my best wishes to all the citizens of Manipur a very "Happy New Year-2018".

On the joyous occasion of the New Year, 2018, I convey my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the State. New year is an occasion to celebrate and look ahead towards a bright future. With the advent of New Year, let us resolve, reaffirm and commit ourselves towards building a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous Manipur. May this New Year bring happiness, peace and prosperity in everyone's lives.

Th. Shyamkumar minister
MAHUD, Town Planning, Forest & Environment, Horticulture, Soil Conservation
I convey my very best wishes and sincere thanks to all of you as we wrap up an eventful 2017 and shift our momentum into the next calendar year. The past 12 months have been marked by noteworthy achievement and changes. As we reflect on the past year, I believe that we have many reasons to have enormous pride in our accomplishments and look forward with enthusiasm to next year. This is a time to realize that throughout history our strength as a State has come from the mutual understanding and co-existence that made up rise together. The unity that prevails without communal division in the celebration of this New Year, participating in traditions and visiting of relatives helps in strengthening peace and unity among all. What is special in this New Year celebration is the spread of festivity amidst the commitment to good governance that transcends differences of ethnicity, caste and community, with important strides being taken to realize the need for unity among all our people. I extend warm greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. Let 2018 be a year of peace, progress and harmony.

Thoubal police destroys seized liquors worth around Rs. 1.3 lakhs

IT News
Imphal, Dec 31: Thoubal Police today destroyed seized liquors worth around Rs. 3.4 lakhs at its office premises today. Officer in Charge of Thoubal Police Rishikesh said that the destroyed liquors were seized during the month of November and December. The liquors are being disposed today as today falls as last day of 2017 and most people enjoy using illicit liquors. Rishikesh appealed people to inform police if such illicit liquors are found selling.

litres of country made liquor were seized and in December 540 litre of country liquors were seized while conducting drive at various places. The value of country made liquor destroyed today is around Rs. 62,200/- while, Indian made foreign liquor destroyed cost around Rs. 70,000/-.

In November, a total of 702

MeT dept forecasts cold wave conditions in North India

New Delhi, Dec 31: MeT department forecast cold wave conditions at many places in North India including Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Bihar and north Rajasthan, apart from Telangana, North Interior Karnataka.

In Uttar Pradesh, heavy fog continues to disrupt transport network in most parts of the state for the third consecutive day today. Low visibility has led to pile up of vehicles and accidents at the National Highways in the state. Dense fog and cold wave have slowed down the normal life.

Our Lucknow Correspondent reports that Muzaffar Nagar was the coldest place with 4.2 degree Celsius, while Behraich recorded 4.4 degree Celsius temperature. People in the national capital Delhi witnessed a blanket of thick fog in some parts of the city this morning. The MeT office says that there will be similar weather conditions for more days and the cold condition will intensify.

PM Modi extends New Year wishes in final address of 2017

New Delhi, Dec 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said new India will be free from the poison of casteism, communalism, terrorism, corruption, filth and poverty and exhorted youth of the country to come forward and deliberate on how New India will be formed. He said, the dream of New India will be realised through the skill and fortitude of energetic youth. In his Mann Ki Baat programme on All India Radio, Mr Modi said, everyone will have equal opportunity and aspirations in the new India. The Prime Minister said, it will be a place where peace, unity and amity will be the guiding force.

Mr Modi said, 1st January 2018, is going to be a special year as people born in year 2000 or later will gradually begin to become eligible voters, the New India voters. He said, their vote will prove to be the bedrock of new India. He said, the vote is the most effective tool in bringing about a positive change in the lives of millions of people. He said, the youth can be makers of the 21st century. Proposing a mock Parliament to be organised around 15th August in Delhi comprising one young representative selected from every district, Mr Modi wished that youth get information and details of all the opportunities and plans at one place. He said, a system should be created so that every young

person on turning 18 should automatically get to know about the areas like skill development, innovation and entrepreneurship. Expressing his views on cleanliness, Mr Modi said, people should make a contribution in the direction of making Clean India which the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi had dreamt of. He said, efforts in the direction of cleanliness are being widely taken across the country. He said, a change can now be seen in the form of public participation in the rural and urban areas alike. Mr Modi said, cleanliness survey will be conducted from 4th of January to 10th of March, 2018 to evaluate achievements in cleanliness level of the urban areas.

The survey will cover a population of more than 40 crores in more than four thousand cities. The Prime Minister said, now a Muslim woman can go to Hajj Pilgrimage without a Mahram or a male guardian. Earlier, he said, if a Muslim woman wanted to go to on Hajj pilgrimage, she must have a male guardian, otherwise she cannot travel. Now, Minority Affairs Ministry has removed this restriction that had been in practice for the past 70 years. Mentioning about 26th January, Mr Modi said Republic Day is a historic festival for all of us but this time it will be celebrated with leaders of all ten ASEAN countries coming to India as chief guests.

He said, this is unprecedented in India's history. He said, on 26th January, the arrival of great leaders of ten nations of the world as a unit is a matter of pride for all Indians. Remembering the pious occasion of Christmas, Prime minister said Christmas was celebrated across the world with gaiety and fervour. He said it reminds us of the great teachings of Jesus Christ who laid much emphasis on the spirit of service, Sewa Bhaav. Mr Modi also urged upon countrymen to imbibe lessons from Guru Govind Singhji teachings and exemplary life and mould our life in accordance with them. Prime Minister also wished countrymen a very Happy New Year 2018.

Triple Talaq Bill unconstitutional interference in Personal Law has ulterior motives behind

IT News
Imphal, Dec 31: Popular Front of India Chairman E. Abubacker in his statement has called the new Triple Talaq Bill passed in the Parliament an unconstitutional move to interfere in Personal Law. The Bill was drafted without any sort of discussions or consultations with the affected parties, Muslim women's organizations, bodies representing the Muslim community. Even the request by the President of All India Muslim Personal Law Board to the Prime Minister was not taken into account. Such a blatant rejection of an appeal from the largest body representing all the different sections of the Muslim

community in the country is suggestive of the disdainful attitude of Narendra Modi towards minorities. The claim that the Bill is about protecting the rights of marriage of Muslim women is devoid of any substance since the opinion of Muslim women had hardly been ever taken into account. Triple Talaq is an issue affecting a tiny percentage of Muslim women. Even then, sending the men involved such cases to jail, instead of solving the problem, only intensifies the suffering of the victims and their children. It is, therefore, safe to say that this is an anti-women Bill. The recent Supreme Court judgment which had struck

down Triple Talaq and made it "nonlegal" was by and large most effective step towards solving the issue. The proponents of the Bill are bound to explain how an act becomes punishable offence when it is legally nonexistent in the first place. By the decision to pass a Bill against Triple Talaq in the Parliament making it a punishable offence, Government is blowing the issue out of proportion for political gains. It simply looks like another reason to send Muslim men to jail and an attempt to demonize Muslim community and their bodies. Now the Bill has been passed by a house where Muslim community, let alone Muslim

- Popular Front women, is massively underrepresented. The swift move to get the bill passed has ulterior motives other than what is being claimed. Muslim community understands well that the present Bill has to do more with opening the door for interfering in Personal Laws and tampering with fundamental rights than protecting the rights of Muslim women. The secular forces who are supporting the Bill only looking at its superficial language of equality and gender justice and disregarding the voices of the community are actually helping the alienation of the community.

School Computers Stolen



IT News
Thoubal, Dec.31: Unknown miscreants have stolen several computers and computer parts after breaking down a window of the Salungfam High School, Heirok assembly constituency, Thoubal district in the intervening midnight of December 29. This was stated in a complaint

filed by the headmaster of the school, Ph. Tomba to Heirok Police Station. The teachers came to discover that unknown miscreants have broken down a window when they came to the school. The teachers have appealed the authorities concerned to look into the matter.