

## NEC sanctions 615 km long road in 7 NE states

### IT News

**Imphal, Jan 30:** The North Eastern Council has sanctioned construction of 615 km long roads across seven states in the North East under the North-East Road Sector Development Scheme, NERSDS. NEC secretary Ram Muivah said projects include the 67 km long Mebo-Dholla road connecting Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, 51 km long Tening road in Nagaland and Lekie in Assam, upgradation of NH 202 and NH 150 and upgradation of NH 2 to Dikhu Bridge via Longmisa in Nagaland. He said this was the first major project undertaken by the NEC under the new scheme which covers 14 roads connecting the neighbouring states and would be taken up during 2017-18. Muivah said the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has been asked to prepare DPR and execute these projects this year.

## Women I-League 2017

### IT News

**Imphal, Jan 30:** Eastern Sporting Union (ESU) and Rising Student's Club (RSC) draws with 1/1 goal at the ongoing Women I-League 2017 at Dr Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi, today. The first goal of ESU was scored at the 5 minutes of the match by Irom Prameshori (10) during a corner taken by Moirangthem Mandakini Devi (8). Since, January 28, 2017 Women I-League 2017 is being played and will continue till February 14, 2017 as the final game of the league.

## Budget session of Assam assembly begins

**Ghy, Jan 30:** The budget session of Assam assembly began today on a stormy note. Opposition Congress and AIUDF disrupted Governor Banwarilal Purohit's address. Congress alleged that the state government has failed to provide good governance while AIUDF alleged that government is communally motivated and Governor's speech has not reflected the ground reality. In his written speech, the Governor highlighted the development schemes being undertaken by the government. He said that government is serious to seal Indo-Bangladesh border. Meanwhile, senior BJP legislator Hitenra Nath Goswami has become the new Speaker of the assembly.

## JAC formed against murder of JCB driver by KNF(N)



### IT News

**Imphal, Jan. 30:** A large number of people including Meira paibis, members of Clubs and representatives of social organizations gathered at Sekmaiin Ningolkhong Community Hall to discuss on the murder of a local. Vehemently protesting against the brutal killing of JCB driver Laishram Tompok by KNF(N)

cadres on January 28 at Moulshohoi village under Litan PS of Ukhrul district, the gathering decided to form a JAC Against Brutal Killing of L. Tompok Meetei and resolved to demand the arrest and punishment of those involved in the heinous crime within two days and also for delivering a compensation of Rs 10 lakhs to the family of the deceased.

The meeting also decided to demand for a suitable employment for a family member from the state government and to refrain from receiving and performing the last rites of the deceased till the demands are met, and to take up various forms of intensive agitations if the state government fails to respond positively within the stipulated time.

## Maoist condemns killing of labourer

### IT News

**Imphal, Jan. 30:** Rebel group Maoist Communist Party Manipur today said that it will not spare those responsible for the killing of two labourers at Moulshohoi village in Ukhrul district yesterday. In a statement the outfit said that the present government of Manipur is allowing the armed

cadres ensuing suspension of operation to move freely along with arms and ammunition at any place of the state. It said that this govt. which cannot do anything when armed assailant abducted and killed labourer at a place not far from Imphal med to be thrown out in the upcoming election saying that there

gang are being harbored by the present congress govt. lead by Okram Ibobi Singh. Maoist also blamed Congress leadership of trying to district the integrity of Manipur. I said NSCN-IM which has been trying to disintegrate the state of Manipur is nothing but the child of congress leader Risang Kishing.

## Lets vote in free, fair and peaceful manner: DEO

### DIPR

**Imphal, Jan. 30:** An important SVEEP Campaign comprising of EVM & VVPAT Familiarization organized under the direction of the DEO, Imphal West by SDO Patsoi, Md. Daulat Khan ended today at YDO Club, Sagolband Lukram Leirak Machin, Tera Bazar with an overwhelming support from the masses. The staffs of the DEO Office, Imphal West, took active part in educating voters about

using the new EVM and VVPAT machines on day of poll, handling of Voter's Guide (Voter gi Lamjing-Lamtak) and playing of audio-recording of voter's guide, DO's and Dont's of Model Code of Conduct for the benefit of the public. The participants of the event gave their respective signatures on a white banner of the YDO club as a mark of supporting the theme "I will vote in free, fair and peaceful manner". The most important part of

the event was the whole-hearted participation of the public irrespective of all age-groups including students from nearby schools. Talking to media persons, DEO Imphal West, Robert Singh Kshetrimayum said that the main purpose of today's campaign is to get a confirmed indication about a voter's choice by verifying that the serial no. he/she has selected is accurate through the use of the VVPAT machine.

## ECI notifies schedule for General Election, bans exit poll

### IT News

**Imphal, Jan. 30:** The schedule for the general Election to the Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh has been announced by the Election Commission and also announced by election to House of the People from 2-Amritsar Parliamentary Constituency in Punjab. As per the schedule announced by the commission, poll for the first round of election in Goa and Punjab is scheduled to be taken on 04-02-2017, and the poll for the last round of elections in the states of Manipur and Uttar Pradesh is

to be taken on 8 March 2017 and as per the provisions of section 1264 of the Representation of the people Act, 1951, there shall be restrictions on conduct on any exit poll and publication and dissemination of result of such exit poll during such period, as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard. The Election Commission has notified the period between 7.00 A.M on 4-2-2017 and 5.30 PM on 8-3-2017 as the period during which conducting any exit poll and publishing or publicizing by means of the print or electronic media or

dissemination in any other manner, whatsoever, the result of any exit poll in connection with the current General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh shall be prohibited. Further, displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey, in any electronic media, would be prohibited during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in each of the phases in connection with the aforesaid General elections, the notification added.

## RBI may lift cash withdrawal caps but govt could scuttle plan

**New Delhi, Jan. 30:** Banks expect cash withdrawal restrictions to ease from mid-February, especially for people engaged in business. However, some believe that the government may advise the Reserve Bank of India against lifting the restrictions completely before the assembly elections in five states including Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab conclude in mid-March. Some market experts anticipate that a tax could be levied on withdrawals beyond a limit to deter large withdrawals that could

generate future black money. Pune based think-tank Arthakranti Pratishthan suggested a 2% banking transaction tax to replace most other existing taxes. A committee of state chief ministers on digital payments recommended a tax to discourage cash transactions and a cap on the maximum allowable limit for large-size cash transactions. "We expect RBI to review the decision in February and take a decision," said Rajnish Kumar, managing director at State Bank of India. "By February, the cash

withdrawal limits will be significantly eased. The cash crunch in both urban and rural centres has eased quite a bit. Statistics suggest that net currency with the public is at a comfortable position." The RBI relaxed curbs on cash withdrawals on January 17, allowing customers to withdraw Rs 10,000 from ATMs in a day compared the earlier up to Rs 4,500 daily limit. The weekly withdrawal limit remains at Rs 24,000. For current accounts used mainly by business people, the limit was raised to Rs 1 lakh from Rs 50,000.

## PB Acharya Sworn in as Arunachal Acting Governor

### IANs

**Itanagar, Jan. 30:** Nagaland Governor Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya was on Saturday sworn in as Acting Governor of Arunachal Pradesh by Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajit Singh at the Raj Bhavan. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his council of ministers, members of the state assembly, Chief Secretary in-charge Satya Gopal, and senior officers were present

when Acharya was administered the oath of office. Acharya was given the additional charge after V Shannmuganathan, who was holding additional charge of Arunachal Pradesh, resigned on Thursday night following charges of inappropriate behaviour against him. Shannmuganathan's resignation came after nearly 100 employees of the Raj Bhavan in Shillong on Wednesday sent a five-

page letter to the Prime Minister's Office and Rashtrapati Bhavan, demanding recall of the Governor for what they alleged was "turning the Raj Bhavan into a Young Ladies Club". Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit sworn in as the Governor of Meghalaya in the interim. The swearing-in was followed by presentation of a guard of honour by the Arunachal Pradesh Police.

## Sekmai River: Rs 100-Rs 500 entry fee for picnickers, Is it worth it?

### Laishram Ranbir

**Imphal, Jan. 30:** After years of ban on picnicking at Sekmai River, since the 2017 New Year eve, many have begun thronging the area alongside the river looking for the best spot for picnic and the locals of the Sekmai village charged the picnickers anything from Rs 100 to Rs 500.

With none to clean up the leftovers left by the picnickers which have been lying at the river side contaminating and polluting the river as well as the area, the entry fee charged for picnicking at the Sekmai River, questions have been raised as to the worthiness of such fees.

Sekmai is a famous picnic spot and a favorite getaway from Imphal about 20 km away along the NH-1.

Every year during the peak season of January, Sekmai picnic spots drew more than thousands of people of Manipur state, young to old. During this time the picnickers generate thousands of garbage like used polythene bags, water bottles, locally brewed liquor bags, broken whisky and beer bottles, washing powder and soap wrappers, potato chip wrappers, sanitary napkins, spoiled slippers and shoes, used plastic cups and plates, food leftovers, burned woods etc. which lies scattered all over the place, especially along the river bed.

Dust bins have been kept at the river side to be used and the locals who came to collect the entry fee use to urge the picnickers to use them but such efforts seem to be in vain. None of the picnickers care to pile up the garbage or leftovers together at a single place and instead left scattered which later run down along with the river polluting the water.



One could even witness broken glass bottles lying all over the area posing physical threat to the safety of everyone stepping in the area.

"Who will be responsible for such inhuman activities? For the garbage and leftovers that have been scattered all over the area, who will come and clean the things which have been left behind? Aren't we responsible for what the Sekmai River have become today from what it was years back?"

Not only garbage, almost all of the picnickers travel through two wheelers, three wheelers, four wheelers and sometimes heavy vehicles like buses. The vehicles they bought are being washed in the river itself, polluting the water with the chemicals and oils from them.

Many NGOs, Civil Societies and Clubs have organised numerous awareness campaigns on river cleaning and

responsible picnicking to save the Sekmai River but the people who came for picnic seems unaware and instead contaminating the water seems to be increasing day by day.

With the changing environment system, aren't we humans need to be aware about the riverine ecosystem? The unrestrained and unregulated activities of mankind can destroy the system and as the water from the river has almost dried up, if we do not take up necessary steps, one day Sekmai River will remain as a name only.

Government and concern departments have been shouting, promising to take up necessary steps and programmes to save the environment but not in action or activity. Where have the development projects and plans to save the dying rivers of the state gone?

Assuring lies during the election campaign to draw votes with blank future of the state, how long will the state and its people suffer? Day by day different species of the state which could not be found in other states are becoming extinct, famous lakes, rivers have turned into drains filled with garbage. How long will the government keep on fighting for power and seat to rule the state?

One must not forget that about four years back, quarrying sand from Sekmai river bank and organising picnics at the area was banned by the local clubs of Sekmai as such activities have seriously impacted the natural environment of Sekmai River while picnics have made the river dirty and polluted and sand quarrying has been the main reason responsible for parching of wells at Sekmai area.