

## Health condition of Octogenarian Politician Rishang Keishing improved

**IT+NENA**  
**Imphal, July 13:** Health condition of Octogenarian Politician Rishang Keishing has improved, doctors at RIMS says.

Mr. Keishing had served the state as Chief Minister for many terms. He is 98 and his mental condition is normal. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Works Minister Th. Bishwajit Singh yesterday visited the former Chief Minister at RIMS yesterday evening. "Keishing is undergoing dialysis and his condition is not serious," the doctors said



today. The octogenarian was admitted to the hospital on July 1 after he became weak. They said Keishing is facing age-related health problems, adding that he is now in stable

condition. The 98-year-old has served as Manipur Chief Minister four times besides being India's oldest Parliamentarian. He joined the Indian National Congress (INC) under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and since then he remained a member of AICC. Congress leaders, including former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, visited the ailing leader at the hospital. Several BJP leaders led by party's Election Management Committee chairman Thounaojam Chaoba Singh also visited him.

## Health care insurance scheme for widows soon: CM

**DIPR**

**Imphal, July 13:** Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh said that the new government was formed with certain missions to bring inclusive development and is committed to do something good in bringing positive changes in the State. He was speaking today at the inaugural ceremony of Free Computer Training Programme for youths of Heingang A/C organised by Information and Cultural Society, Manipur (ICSM) held at Liberal College, Luwangsangbam.

Speaking as Chief Guest of the function, Chief Minister said that the Government is fully committed to bringing inclusive development in the State and no variation would be there among Hills and Valley of the State. The new Government's commitment is to serve the needy and poor people of the State so the government need the support of the people, he added.

Appreciating ICSM for their relentless effort to impart free computer education to the young students of the Heingang area, Chief Minister said that such "Digital literacy programmes" should be extended to other areas including the Hill districts of the State.

With these three months of the new government, Shri N. Biren Singh said that the government has been conducting intensified mass drives against drugs and other intoxicants and the government would try its best to ensure for a healthy mind and body for the people of the State. Chief Minister stressed that the rate of drug addiction is alarming in the State and we all should strive to bring victims of drug abuse into the mainstream of our Society. The menace of drug-abuse could only be rooted out with collaborative efforts of parents, society and government from the society, he added. He further said that the menace of drug-abuse cannot be controlled by simply making arrest and

putting them inside bars. He mentioned that a Health Care Insurance scheme for widows who have lost their husband due to the substance abuse and alcohol under the MOBC department would be introduced by next year.

Highlighting that the government is planning to introduce a healthcare insurance policy for all and an insurance company has been entrusted for the insurance policy, Chief Minister said that a financial support of Rs. 2 lacs would be provided to the BPL families (around 2.43 lacs) under the new health insurance scheme. He further said that the government would bear the premium amount of the insurance policy.

Mentioning about the recent floods in the State, Chief Minister said that nature doesn't need us, people need nature for survival so we must preserve and respect nature. He said that what we lack is

proper planning to cope with such natural calamities. Deforestation, encroachment and construction of buildings at river banks are some of the causes for recent flood in the State, he added.

On the occasion, Chief Minister said that the Anti-Corruption Cell was set up to keep vigil and check on corruption in the State. The Cell cannot take up all the corruption cases done during the previous government. The Cell was formed to work prospectively not retrospectively, he added. He appealed to all concerned to lodge formal complaint through proper channel such as vigilance, court, police etc if one wants to file a case which happened during the previous government. The government would take due action on each and every corruption cases, he assured. Secretary (IT) Shri Sumant Singh said that Luwangsangbam becomes the



first area to provide free computer education programme for youths under Digital Literacy Campaign. He further mentioned that we should groom our youths with communication and presentation skills as there is a huge demand of Manipuri boys and girls in outside State in the IT sector. President of BJP Heingang Mandal, Shri Khumanthem Jila, Zilla Parishad Member, Imphal East, Smt. P. Bimola, Teaching and Non-teaching staffs of Liberal College and public of Heingang A/C attended the function.

## Flood devastates Khangabok farms

**IT News**

**Imphal, July 13:** The United Development Association has claimed that over 50,000 pari of agricultural land in Khangabok Part 1, 2 and 3 have been submerged at the moment in a devastating flood that had never been experienced in the area. In addition to the agricultural

land 50-60 numbers of fish farms and residential areas have also been affected by the floodwater. Even after the water levels in rivers have normalized the water overflowing from Ikop Pat have resulted in inundation of vast areas in Salam Loukol, Angom Loukol, Kiyam Loukol, Bihu Loukol, Louonbi Loukol, Maning

Luokol, Thong Makha Loukol, Leipao Loukol, Umurou Loukol, Loukhongpao Loukol, Shaniro Loukol and Khunlakpam Mamang Loukol among others, the association stated in a press release. It has called the attention of concerned authorities to the plights of the people in the affected area and sought intervention.

## Maoist warns corrupt Congress MLA

**IT News**

**Imphal, July 13:** The Maoist Communist Party Manipur has alleged that a Congress legislator from Greater Imphal area and relative of the state's chief minister is soliciting money from numerous individuals offering government jobs and appointment to key posts.

A communiqué released by the militant group said it played its part during the last Assembly election to keep the 'demonic' Congress government from carrying on for another term. But the legislator in question who canvassed for

support during the election on him being a scion of a Congress family is taking advantage of his close relationship with the chief minister to don the role of a broker for people seeking government employment and promotion, according to MCPM.

Citing a case the group claimed that MLA has taken a huge amount in connection with the appointment of managing director of Manipur Police Housing Corporation. It insisted that a probe has established his involvement and substantial evidences have been collected. The Congress MLA must

change his stand within 48 hours. Otherwise, there will no other option than public humiliation and deep scrutiny of those officials who have thrown their names in the race for post of managing director, MCPM warned in the statement.

The present BJP government has taken up series of popular policies like Public Day, anti corruption cell, Hill Leaders' Day etc. If the MLA forsakes the Congress party like many of former companions then there is possibility for discussion for a amicable settlement, it added.

## Anti-malaria month observance Kicks off in Tengnoupal

**IT News**

**Chandel, July 13:** The observance of Anti-Malaria month 2017 and Launching of Malaria Elimination Campaign in Tengnoupal District kicked off along with a function at the Community Hall of Tengnoupal on Thursday. The inaugural function of the month-long observance under the theme, "Work Together-Hand Together To be End Malaria for Good", which is being organised by District Health Society, Tengnoupal and National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Tengnoupal was attended by Kh.Raghumani Singh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner(DC), Tengnoupal and Dr.Serthani Serbum Chief Medical Officer,

Tengnoupal as Chief Guest and President respectively. SDO Tengnoupal, Rabindra Nath and H.John Thangkholen Mate, Chief of Tengnoupal were also present on the occasion as guests of honour. District Malaria Officer (DMO), Chandel & Tengnoupal, Dr. SB Shakhung Moyon Delivered the Key Note address.

Speaking at the function, Kh.Raghumani Singh pointed out that Malaria has widely infected people in remote areas, who carry out fishing activities, and added that ASHAs posted at remote areas need to be trained properly in order to curb spread of malaria. He said the public should try to join in the fight against

malaria. It is important for the Works Department to ensure proper connectivity so that the public in remote areas can access to healthcare. Taking part in the discussion meeting, Dr.Serthani Serbum called upon all for concerted effort in curbing spread of malaria. H.John Thangkholen Mate, Chief of Tengnoupal, appealed to the medical staff in the far-off areas of the hills to execute duty well.

As part of the function, DC Tengnoupal, Kh.Raghumani IAS release a booklet for Malaria Elimination Campaign was also held. Staff members of the Medical Department including ASHAs, local leaders and students participated in the function.

## NE region an 'unexplored tourist destination': Dr Akoijam

**NENA**

**Guwahati, July 13:** A faculty from North Eastern Hill University (Nehu) today made an endeavour to brand Meghalaya and other Northeastern states of India as an "unexplored tourist destination".

Speaking as keynote speaker at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Business Management and Legal Studies at Bali, Indonesia assistant professor in the Department of Management Dr Sunilro L S Akoijam enlightened the gathering on the success of India Tourism campaign - "Incredible India." Talking about the campaign, which has made its attempt to create awareness on tourism potential and behaviour change, Dr Akoijam presented a paper on Branding of Tourism Destination: Recent Trends and Strategies.

He elaborately explained to the delegates of 26 countries including Canada, Australia, USA, Finland, Poland,

Singapore, China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Japan and Korea on lesser known places of Northeast India particularly Meghalaya, which he compared with Europe and branded Shillong as the "Scotland of East" and Manipur as the "Switzerland of India."

Organised by Global Research and Development Service (GRDS) in collaboration with Global Association for Humanities and Social Sciences Research (GAHSSR), the conference show participation of researchers, scholars and academicians who spoke at length on different topics of social science research and management.

He drew the attention of SAARC countries in particular by projecting Incredible India campaign as the most successful publicity campaign, which has placed India as one of the most sought after tourist destination in the world. "Every country have its own unique selling proposition, and

therefore an attempt should be made by tourism policy makers and other stakeholders to tap the opportunities and market their countries in different parts of the world to attract global tourist", said Dr Akoijam pitching for cross promotion of tourism destination, cultural exchange and awareness on historic destinations.

He said that tourism has been the fastest growing industry in India and has been able to provide sustainable income to lakhs of people particularly in rural areas, where people have been empowered and have been educated to promote conservation of natural resources and its rich heritage.

Dr Akoijam, who has been teaching at Nehu for the past four years was also awarded at the conference for his contribution in the field of tourism research in India and works for cross promotion of tourism destination particularly in South East Asian countries.

## Irom Chanu Sharmila all set to marry: Will the fight end here?

**IT News**

**Imphal, July 13:** The one time Iron Lady, Irom Chanu Sharmila submitted papers for her marriage with her long-time partner Desmond Coutinho (a British citizen) at the sub-registrar's office in Kodaikanal, yesterday. Kodaikanal is a hill station in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu where Sharmila, 45, intends to settle down.

Sub-registrar S Rajesh confirmed receiving the couple's application. However he could not grant permission for their marriage immediately as per the Hindu Marriage Act. As the marriage was inter-religious, they would need to register it under the Special Marriage Act. The marriage can be solemnised if there are

no objections to the proposal within a month of registration. The Special Marriage Act provides this 30-day window. "We will wed in Kodaik after 30 days," Sharmila told reporters in Kodaikanal on Wednesday. Irom Sharmila is known internationally for her 16-year hunger strike which she ended in August 2016.

With the news for her marriage application coming in, facebook citizens are already engaged in debate over her move. It may be mentioned that, her ending the long fast against the Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958 (AFSPA) was widely criticized by sections of Manipur. She formed a political party, the People's Resurgence and Justice



Alliance, and she contested the Manipur elections. She lost getting just 90 votes. The move to marry a non-local is being considered a big blow to the fight against AFSPA by lots.

Sharmila has said that after marriage, she wishes to lead a peaceful life as an ordinary woman in Kodaikanal. She did not, though, rule out her participation in struggles for women's rights in the future.