

2nd Kwatha Fest Kicks off

Govt neglect villagers of Kwatha – MCM President

IT News
Imphal, Oct 27: “Despite having central forces and state government, why no developmental works have been taken up till date for the development of Kwatha Village, the one and only Meitei village settle near the Indo-Myanmar Border” said President of Meitei Council Moreh (MCM).

Speaking at the first day of Kwatha Festival which begun today, Thoiba, President of MCM (Invitee) expressed apart from visiting to woe votes during election, none of the concern minister or MLA have taken up any kind of developmental works for the welfare of villagers of Kwatha under newly establish Tengnoupal District which is yet to be fully fledged.

Thoiba said that it is very disappointing to see that till date villagers of Kwatha village have left neglected which clearly shows they underestimated their own people.

“Why the concern MLA who have assured to take part at the opening function of the event fails to turn up?” Kwatha is the only Meitei



village in the Manipur State who still stands strong undominated by any outsider, he added.

Thoiba further said that MCM have run been running a school for those poor children who cannot afford to study on their own at Moreh for free of cost and appeals the villagers of Kwatha to send those children whom they cannot afford to send to school so that they can extend help to the needy one.

Dr Sarangthem Ibomcha, MPS, SP Tengnoupal Police (Guest of Honour) said that it is very unfortunate that the opening of the event has witness poor attendance as the VIPs fails to turn up due to some unavoidable circumstances. Though they didn't turn up from next year lets works together to make the fest as State level and full support from his side will be extended, he added.

Ibomcha also said that since the villagers are facing numerous inconveniences in the production of bamboo soots and rice due to natural calamities, it will be better to sought for necessary help and available facilities from the government side if not one day threats of extinction of Kwatha village will come into reality.

Ibomcha further elaborated about Kwatha village and who they have stands strong as the only Meitei community near Indo-Myanmar border, till date. Pacho Kom, Village Head of Khudengthabi (Chief Guest) said that though we have mixed community, Kwatha village still lack of development.

“Where have the funds gone sanction for the

developmental work of the village?”

Unity among the leaders of Kwatha village is needed to develop the village rather than having one sided mind, only that development will come automatically.

Divided policy is the main reason behind the non-development of Kwatha Village, he added.

Ningthoujam Kamal, Chief of Kwatha Village; Semseitong, Chief Headman of Ganaphai; Haokip Letkhuthang, Chief Headman of Chalawa; RK Sanayaima, President of ACODOM; Tekcham Premabati Leima, President of Nupi Khunai Chaokhat Lanching Lup Moreh Ward No. 7 attended the event as dignitaries, respectively.

The dignitaries, chief guest and guest of honour later donated few amount of money for the welfare of the village. Cultural shows were also performed on the opening day of the event.

The second Kwatha festival which begun today will observe for three days till October 29, 2017.

Successful implementation of PMEGP will encourage entrepreneurs: Minister Biswajit

DIPR

Imphal, Oct. 27: Successful implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme depends on cooperation and trust among the different stakeholders including bankers responsible for loan sanction, department officials and the applicants, said Textile, Commerce and Industry Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh, chairing a review meeting for PMEGP, today.

The meeting, attended by Principal Secretary Textile, Commerce and Industry P. Vaiphei, Deputy Commissioners, General Managers of District Industry Centres, officials of different banks, Khadi Village Industry Board and Khadi Village Industry Centre was held at the conference hall of the Minister's New Secretariat Office.

Observing that many of the applicants are ignorant of scheme guidelines which result in wrong and incomplete applications which are rejected by the banks, Minister Biswajit called on the officials to organise awareness and training campaigns for applicants.

The Minister also asked the applicants not to overestimate their loan amounts while preparing Detailed Project Reports, since the banks reject overestimated and unreasonable DPRs.

The PMEGP is very crucial for the success of the MSME and

we should implement it properly, the Minister said adding further that all stakeholders should take the initiative to spruce up implementation of the scheme. Failure of the scheme would demoralise the poor who aspire to be entrepreneurs, he said, adding that, we should always encourage entrepreneurs as they help in creating jobs and solving the unemployment problem.

Minister Biswajit said the bankers should highlight their problems to the government so as to find a solution.

Principal Secretary Vaiphei said everyone should take the initiative to make the implementation more transparent and completed in a more time-bound manner.

Complementing some DCs on their active role in implementing the scheme, the Principal Secretary urged all DCs to take a more proactive role to improve implementation. He also advised the concerned district officials to raise their specific issues so that it could be discussed and resolved.

Concerned officials also highlighted the district wise targets and allocations under the scheme. The meeting discussed the district wise implementation of the programme and the issues and problems faced during implementation of the programme. GMS also highlighted the issues for the poor implementation of the scheme.



Govt extends date to claim GST transition credit till Nov 30

Agency

New Delhi, Oct 27: The government has extended the deadline by a month till 30th of next month for businesses to claim credit of transitional stock in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. The official twitter handle of the government for GST, GST@GoI, said this in a tweet. TRAN-1 is to be filed by those businesses that are keen to claim credit for taxes paid before the launch of GST on 1st July.

The GST Council, in its 21st meeting in Hyderabad, had

decided to extend the deadline for filing TRAN-1 form to 31st of this month, from September earlier. It also allowed businesses to revise the form once in case of any discrepancy.

As much as 65,000 crore rupees out of the nearly 95,000 crores tax collections in July — the first month of GST — have been claimed as transitional credit by taxpayers.

Following this, the Central Board of Excise and Customs had ordered a scrutiny of all such claims above 1 crore rupees.

Drug users picked up

IT News

Imphal, Oct. 27: A team of Imphal West Police Commando today picked up 26 substance users and drug peddlers from the eastern side of Minuthong Bridge and North AOC area. Among the 26 drug users 4 are women, a source said.

Bomb found

IT News

Imphal, Oct. 27: A bomb (IED) was found at the foothill of Mahadeva Ching along Heirok Khangarok road today morning. Heirok police and AR team rushed the site and safely detonated the IED.

2 KYKL cadres arrested

IT News

Imphal, Oct 27: Combined team of Thoubal Police Commando and 6 AR troops arrested two cadres of KYKL from two different places yesterday. A police source said that the combined team arrested a cadre of KYKL identified as Thangjam Hemanta Meitei @ Premji (35) s/o Th. Kalimu Meitei of Arong Heibong Makhong from Lilong Bazar near Arapiti crossing at around 6.30 pm. The source added that the arrested cadre

joined KYKL in March, 2002 through one Priyo from Waikhong. He got 3 months basic military at Khoupum Nungkhohi camp and his army number is 4546. His present rank is Sergeant Major. The arrested person was handed over to Lilong PS for taking further action. At another counter insurgency operation, a team of Thoubal Police Commando arrested Saikhom Sidam Singh @ Sanjit (27) s/o S. Santhos Singh of Heirok Part-

I Heitupokpi from Salungpham Ananda Bazar at around 4.25 pm yesterday. The police said that he is an active member of KYKL. He joined KYKL in June, 2010 through one Okram Biju of Wangjing Purana. He got 45 days basic military training at Tanan training centre, Myanmar and his army number is 7031 of 31st Batch of KYKL. His present rank is Lance Corporal. The arrested person was handed over to Heirok PS for taking further necessary.

SC allows Centre to withdraw 7 companies of CAPF from Darjeeling

Agency

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Supreme Court today allowed the Centre to withdraw seven of the 15 companies of Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) from strife-torn Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal for being used for election duties in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, asked West Bengal government to respond within a week to the

Centre's appeal against the Calcutta High Court order directing it to allow all 15 companies of paramilitary forces to remain in the state.

The bench, which also comprised Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, stayed the pending proceedings before the Calcutta High Court saying it will deal with the case in a holistic manner. The apex court has now fixed the appeal of the Centre for further hearing on 27th of next month.

India's Northeastern Region Gets Attention for Japanese Cooperation

By: Rupakjyoti Borah

The recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to India will be remembered for many things, especially the attention given to Japan-India cooperation in the infrastructure sector. They launched projects, like the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed corridor and the focus on the AAGC (Asia-Africa Growth Corridor).

However, there is another part of India that has received special attention in the joint declaration issued by the two countries, and that is India's remote Northeast.

The joint statement notes that “the two Prime Ministers welcomed the India-Japan cooperation on development of India's North Eastern Region (NER) as a concrete symbol of developing synergies between India's Act East policy and Japan's Free and Open Indo Pacific Strategy. In this context, they noted with satisfaction the setting up of the India-Japan Act East Forum.”

The “Act-East Policy” is an important part of India's foreign policy. As part of it, New Delhi has been trying to reach out to countries in Southeast Asia and East Asia. While there are economic imperatives for the policy, there are also strategic reasons behind it, as New Delhi would like to offer an alternative to Beijing's growing foothold in this part of the world.

Interestingly, New Delhi has not participated in the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative and instead has been trying to come up with its own model of

infrastructure development. Hence, it is quite significant that the India-Japan joint statement issued during Abe's visit notes that, “the two Prime Ministers also underlined the importance of all countries ensuring the development and use of connectivity infrastructure in an open, transparent and non-exclusive manner based on international standards and responsible debt financing practices, while ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the rule of law, and the environment.” It was an oblique reference to the OBOR initiative.

Why India's Northeast Important?

First, Northeast India's location is very strategic as it shares borders with countries, like China and Myanmar, among others. Four Northeast Indian states—namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram—share a more than 1,600-kilometer land border with Myanmar.

Second, there is a historical connection between Japan and Northeast India. Japanese forces had come to Northeast India during World War II until they were finally defeated at the Battle of Kohima in India's Northeastern state of Nagaland.

Third, Japan and Japanese companies already have a strong presence in Southeast Asia. Northeast India can therefore become a bridge between India and Southeast Asia.

Fourth, China claims the Northeast Indian state of

Arunachal Pradesh and in the past had raised a ruckus when the Dalai Lama visited this frontier Indian state. The recent stand-off with China over the Doklam region of Bhutan makes it even more important for India to join hands with countries like Japan in the development of infrastructure in this part of the country.

Tokyo has earmarked a loan for the “North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project” to improve National Highway-40 and for the construction of a bypass on NH-54. Besides, as the joint statement notes, Japan is involved in a host of projects in the region “ranging from key infrastructure, such as road connectivity, electricity, water supply and sewage, to social and environmental sustainability, such as afforestation and community empowerment, as well as people-to-people exchanges including the ‘IRIS Program’ inviting youth from the NER to Japan.”

Challenges

Given the terrain, Northeast India can be quite a challenge in the infrastructure building sector for India and Japan. In addition, frequent landslides and flooding in the region are also big obstacles. Add to that, in different states of Northeast India, different political parties are in power, thereby adding to the problems.

The Modi government has been paying a lot of attention to Northeast India. Earlier this year, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest

road bridge over the Lohit river in the Northeastern state of Assam. During the bridge's inauguration, he remarked that “the bridge will not only save money, reduce travel time, but comes as a foundation for the beginning of a new economic revolution. That is why the whole nation has its eyes on this bridge.”

India is also undertaking construction of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway, which will connect the Northeast Indian state of Manipur with Mae Sot in Thailand, thereby leading to direct physical connectivity between India and the ASEAN region. This year India and the ASEAN are also celebrating 25 years of their dialogue partnership. India's External Affairs Minister had noted in a keynote speech on ASEAN-India relations that “while on the one hand, the Act East policy aims to enhance India's multi-faceted engagement with ASEAN and the wider Asia Pacific, on the other, it seeks to deepen economic integration, politico-security cooperation and socio-cultural dialogue with countries of the region for domestically better integrating our North-East with the wider, the North East is a ‘natural partner’ in India's Act East Policy.”

Hence, given historical, economic, and strategic considerations, India-Japan cooperation in Northeast India has a lot of potential and is a sign of things to come.

(Courtesy - Japan Forward)