

## Tainted Engineer Re-appointed Amidst Pending Cases Against Him

**IT News**  
**Imphal, Sep 23:** The establishment of the Anti-Corruption Cell by the incumbent government and its stated objectives to take those perpetrators to task has given Manipur a historic opportunity to bring back good governance and rule of law. However, the appointment of an engineer with tainted integrity risks compromising the credibility of the entire campaign, a reliable source said.

In a cabinet meeting held at the office of the Chief Minister

on September 13, the source confirmed, that Chongtham Ranabir was appointed as the chief engineer of the Manipur Tribal Development Corporation (MTDC). A retired additional chief engineer of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (IFCD) Manipur, Ch Ranabir has presently two pending cases against him, both of which are related to, amongst others, fraudulent payments, misuse of power, intention to loot revenues and blatant violation of professional ethics.

Under the Anti-Corruption Cell, in a case numbered RR No. 82/10/07/2017, it is mentioned that Ch Ranabir was in charge of flood control works in different capacities in the IFCD Manipur and was involved in awarding contracts under his influence but, as available records show, many of these are of dubious nature. These had naturally invited legal intervention, mentioned the source and added that it is subject to question as to how Ch Ranabir has been appointed the chief engineer of the MTDC.

During his tenure as an executive engineer (EE/FC-

D), there are also documents that show he had influenced to award several works to one contractor, Hadlee Chongtham, who is none other than his own son. This is, the source informed, completely against the CPWD Works Manual.

In another case, Ch Ranabir is facing Vigilance Case No-3/SP-V/2017, dated 03/02/2017, which is in connection with fraudulent payment and misuse of power in exercising payments while he was an executive engineer at the Khuga Canal Division No. 1, IFCD Manipur.

The source maintained that the objectives of Anti-Corruption Cell and State Vigilance Commission ensure that those individuals whose integrity, independence and professional record are beyond doubt are appointed as officials. If this high standard is applied, it may well happen that all of the foreseen crises that Manipur is facing will come under control for the welfare of the State and its people.

Meanwhile, rumors are making rounds that the aforementioned chief engineer is close to several senior

government officials and bureaucrats and on their recommendations, the appointment has been made.

With a chief engineer accused of several charges at its helm, MTDC may also have lost moral authority to discharge its responsibility of upholding tribal welfare and other goals of the corporation.

Besides, the appointment of a tainted chief engineer is no different from challenging the genuine effort of the Government to bring a clean Manipur. A cursory glance at the records of the Anti-Corruption Cell and State Vigilance Commission will show that a few individuals are violating the rules and procedures for sheer private interests. It is hoped, the source asserted, that the Cell and the Commission will never ignore the evidence of wrongdoing by an unethical engineer.

Above all, the past records do not show a favourable picture on the part of the chief engineer for the growth and development of the State. For now, it seems Chongtham Ranabir has to challenge the question against his appointment in the court.

## NHM Employees of Thoubal District Staged Protest; Demand Regularisation of Contractual Staff

**IT News**

**Thoubal, Sept. 23:** As a Part of the ongoing Protest demanding regularisation of the Contractual staffs of National Health Mission Manipur, the employees of National Health Mission (NHM), Thoubal carried out a sit-in-protest demanding the government to regularise their services.

The sit-in-protest began around 11 am today in front of CMO's office at Thoubal Wangmata. Banners and placards were used under All Manipur NHM employees Welfare Association (AMNEWA).

The participants also shouted slogans demanding regularising of their services. The sit-in-protest was also joined by state team of NRHM from Imphal.

Speaking to the media at the place of protest, Prabha Devi Member of AMNEWA said

that employees working in other department have already been regularised but NRHM employees are left out.

She said that with the establishment in 2006, NRHM employees in the state, and moreover Manipur achieved lowest rate of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for three consecutive times in the country. The hard work of the employees in health sector has not been considered seriously, he added.

She pointed out that contractual staff of NHM in other States have been regularised. He also reiterated that the association had submitted a memorandum to the concerned authority. The Government has not given any positive response till date prompting the association to stage the sit-

in-protest, she said.

Prabha said that the sit-in protest is the first non-violence agitation. It will be followed by indefinite cease-work if the government fails to give positive response.

Prabha also appealed the state government to make policies to regularise the service NRHM employees at the earliest.

Placards reading "We are qualified enough to be regularised", "Why other Departments but not NHM?", "We deserve to be regularised", "We demand a dedicated Mission Director from IAS cadre" "We have crossed upper age limit for Government jobs", "Sustain NHM staff IMR, MMR", "Why is Government neglecting NHM staff" etc were displayed at the protest site.

## AR organizes Meghalaya Talent Hunt Contest, Shillong

**IT News**

**Shillong, Sept 22:** The states of the North-East is gifted with abundance of musical talents. To promote many such talents, a three-days statewide Musical Talent Hunt contest is being organized by the Assam Rifles at Laitkor, Shillong since yesterday.

A statement said First day of the event was dedicated to School Children's, where participants from various Schools all over Meghalaya including the Students of Assam Rifles Public School showcased their Musical talent.

The event ends tomorrow with a grand Finale Extravaganza, where "The Battle of Bands" will see various musical bands of Meghalaya participating against each other to take home the Winning Trophy. Assam Rifles appreciates and accolades each participating school in the 3-day event that is striving to showcase the young talent and providing them with a platform to build and hone up the musical talent that are hidden in the young children of today's generation.

## Education Minister Th. Radheshyam took part in "Swachhta Hi Seva" campaign

**DIPR**  
**Imphal, Sept 23:** Education Minister Thokhom Radheshyam Singh today took part in a cleanliness drive conducted as part of the "SWACHHTA HI SEVA" campaign in and around the airport site of Imphal International Airport, Imphal. The Minister said cleanliness is a must for the minds and hearts of the people to be able to extend help and support to the people in need.

In the cleanliness drive, he also said that the airport is 'a focal point' a place where everyone, young and old, rich and poor, healthy or sick comes. The importance of airport is determined by people visiting the junction to catch a flight. It is therefore very important that the



environment of the airport be kept neat and clean, he explained.

The "Swachhta Hi Seva" campaign is organised by the Airports Authority of India Imphal International Airport,

Imphal and will be observed till 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017. The campaign is to mobilise and create awareness on environmental cleanliness in the entire country as well as in the state towards the making of a 'New India'.

Airport Director, Airports Authority of India Imphal International Airport, Shri S. K. Panigrahi, Deputy Commandant, CISF ASG Shri P.D. Gaisung, Imphal, CISF personnel officials of Airport Authority India, officials and staffs of Air India, Indigo, Jet Airways, and Air Asia also participated in the cleanliness drive. The observation was started as part of "Swachhta Hi Seva" campaign being organised all over the country from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

**IT News**

**Imphal, Sept. 23:** Around 5000 runners are expected to join the 11<sup>th</sup> Mega Marathon Manipur organised by the United Peoples Front (UPF) scheduled on September 24 in Imphal. "As many as 5000 runners will take part in the Mega Marathon in Greater Imphal road", said a statement of the

N. Rupachandra, General Secretary, UPF.

The statement added that the Mega Marathon is organised every year since 2007 to make the people healthy both physically and mentally. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that the marathon is being organised. In the lengthy statement the UPF general secretary

elaborated on how the ancestors of this land had maintain to build a healthy nation in the last many years by amidst various forces from outside. The statement also elaborated on why the marathon is being organised stating that healthy living of both mental physical is must for building a strong nation.

## Donation to CM's relief fund

**Imphal, Sept. 23:** Different individuals and organisations have been donating to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to help the flood victims in the State.

Today as well, the officers and officials of Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, Bishnupur donated Rs. 4,00,000 (four lakhs) to the CMRF. The amount was handed over to Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh in a simple ceremony held at Chief



Minister's Secretariat. Chief Minister thanked the officers and officials of DC

and SP, Bishnupur for their kind gesture to help the flood victims in the State.

## Development, not votes, is our priority: PM

**By Sangita Bakaya (PTI)**

**Varanasi, Sep 23:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lashed out at his political rivals, saying for BJP, politics was not for the sake of votes as it considered the country's development as the top-most priority. Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating a "Pashu Arogya Mela" (cattle health fair) here on the second day of his two-day visit to his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi, he also promised to double farm income and provide homes to the homeless by 2022. He said his government had "waged a war" against black money and corruption, for which the poor had had to suffer because of "the loot" by the dishonest. "Our (BJP) politics is not for votes, our culture is different. In politics, people do only that task which yields votes, but our character is different. "Some politicians work only when it fetches them votes. But we have been brought up in a different culture. ... For us, the nation is above all and it is our top-most priority, not votes," Modi said.

Referring to the mega animal fair being organised for the first time on 1800 acres of land here, he said "these animals don't go to cast their ballot. They are not anyone's voters."

He said proper healthcare of the cattle through such initiatives, would help increase milk production in India which is lower than in several countries. Encouraging the farmers to adopt dairy farming (rpt farming) and animal husbandry as alternate sources of income, Modi said such initiatives would lead to "a new path of progress" that would not only raise farmers' income but also the overall national (rpt national) income.

Maintaining that crores of families are still homeless, he said the government has decided to provide each of the urban and rural poor, a shelter by 2022 when the country celebrates 75th year of independence. "When crores of houses are built across the country, it will require bricks, cement, iron and wood. It will generate jobs for thousands and open up new avenues of income and employment," the Prime Minister said. Modi, who distributed Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana certificates to some beneficiaries, said "By 2022, every poor, whether in urban or rural area, will get a home. Building crores of homes will generate jobs and income."

"If Modi will not take up such an arduous task, who

else will," he posed.

He also targeted the erstwhile Samajwadi Party government in Uttar Pradesh for not providing to the Centre the list of homeless requiring houses in the state.

"The previous government had no interest in giving homes to the poor. After mounting pressure, they gave a list of only 10,000. But the current (Yogi Adityanath) government has given a list of lakhs of people to avail benefit," Modi said.

Referring to his government's cleanliness drive, he said toilets at home can save up to Rs 50,000 per annum as per a survey. Praising villagers where he went to lay the foundation of a toilet for naming it as "Izzatgarh", Modi said, "I liked this word so much. Where there is Izzatgarh, there is honour of our mothers and sisters. I also congratulate the state government for recognising it as Izzatgarh. In the days to come those who are concerned about their honour, will construct more Izzatgarh."

Thanking Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for organising health treatment for cattle, Modi said the animals were brought here from different places and specialist doctors are here to treat them.

"I hope such programme for health of cattle will be held across the state through which we will take care of cattle of poor. It will be a relief for them," he said. Modi said such camps would help poor farmers who could not afford treatment to their animal because of poverty and pointed out that dairy farming would give them major economic support.

Earlier, he went around the animal shelter and even patted some cows at the "gau shala". He spoke to the staff there enquiring about their work.

Modi said that the government has kickstarted a big battle against blackmoney, corruption and dishonesty. "A common honest man suffers as corrupt used to loot him.

The campaign of honesty is going ahead like a festival. The way in which our trader brothers are associating with GST and Aadhar. Every penny of the people will be spent for their welfare. We are moving forward fast," he said.

On the first day of his visit, Modi inaugurated 17 infra projects worth over Rs 1000 crore including the Ramnagar-Sanne Ghat bridge and the Balu Ghat bridge. He also flagged off the third Mahamana Express train between Varanasi and Vadodara.