

Award presentation in connection with the 127<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Padmashri Dr. Bhimria Ambedkar held at Manipur Press Club



## Victims, CSOs demand anti-rape law; Protest Sit-in and Rally staged

IT News  
Imphal, April 16:

Victims communities of sexual assault, various JACs of Sexual Assault and Youth Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) today stage sit-in protest at Pishumthong Ningom Leirak, Community Hall demanding Manipur State's Anti Rape Law for speedy investigation and trial of the accused.

Speaking to media persons, Wahengbam Premila Devi, Member of JAC of Sexual Assault said that whenever the public took out protest against any crimes against women in the state, the government remained silent waiting to die the protest after being exhausted.

So many sexual crimes have occurred in our state but still the

government fails to take up any proper action to award justice to the sexual victims, she added. Premila also said that the government should act without any biasness irrespective of what political parties they belong to award speedy punishment to the culprits who committed crimes on women and children.

She demanded to speed up trial for all crime against women and children related case.

The current punishment by the law of the land which is sometimes, one month, six months and hardly one year to the culprits who have committed various crimes against women and children is unsatisfactory.

Laws are made by the government and a new law for the sexual assault should be put among the previous law for

crimes against women and children so that the victims and their families can get the justice, she added.

It may be mentioned that the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson, Swati Maliwal is on hunger strike demanding death penalty for rapist since Friday.

At Kangla Western Gate, too, similar protest was staged. Merina Kansam, Secretary Women Wing YFPHR said that though the state government has launched various public schemes, but fails to provide any safety for women and children.

15 rape cases has been file since the beginning of 2018 but state government have not taken up any proper initiatives to provide justice to the victims and their families, she added.

Merina also said that promising for various safety steps for women during the election campaign to vote votes and after vote not even considering is injustice for the women folk.

"Are the women of Manipur not women like other women of outside states? Is the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padoa' scheme for the BJP led Government is to rape women and children? Is our government waiting for our girls to be rape to take action?" Merina questioned. Later, a protest rally was staged from Pishumthong Ningom Leirak, Community Hall demanding justice for the victims and to set up anti-rape law. They were supposed to throng at Chief Minister's Office they were stopped by a large number of police at Moirangkhom and force them to turn back.

## Works Minister Biswajit inspects Bailey Bridges at Motbung and Saparmeina

IT News  
Imphal, April 16,

Works Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh today inspected two bailey bridges at Motbung and Saparmeina in Kangpokpi District. The Bailey bridge at Motbung built across the Imphal River along the Pukhao - Kanglatombi Road is an important bridge for the local populace, however, it was washed away during the 2015 flood. Since the bridge acts as an important connectivity means for the local villages, the people has constructed a footbridge nearby the bailey bridge for the people of the either side of the river to commute.

Speaking to media persons at the bridge site, the Minister said the damaged bridge has been left neglected for long. If the weather permits, construction of a new bailey bridge will be included in this year's work programme and work started at the earliest to replace the old one, he said. Meanwhile, clarifying on certain issues pertaining to the repairing work at Koubru Leikhai stretch of the Mao-Imphal National Highway, the Minister said



that owing to the foreclosure of concern contractor, repairing work at the road stretch is being carried out under Ordinary Repairing sanctioned by the Central government. Minister Biswajit was also felicitated by local organisations at Motbung during the inspection visit. In his speech, the government spokesperson said that the government is committed to improving road connectivity in the state. He further assured

to improve the road quality in the area in order of priority. Later, after inspecting the Saparmeina-Saikul Bailey Bridge built upon the Imphal River, the Minister instructed the accompanying PWD engineers to initiate repairing of the bridge at the earliest. During the inspection visit, the Minister was also accompanied by Saitu A/C MLA Nganhang Haokip concerned department officials and local village chiefs.

## Vice President of India to visit at Imphal on April 18

IT News  
Imphal, April 16,

Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, is visiting Imphal on April 18. Official source said that the Vice president main purpose for visiting the state is for inauguration of the State Level Workshop on "Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture for Doubling of Farmer's Income" at City Convention Centre, Palace Compound here in Imphal.

## ATSUM, DESAM, AIMS to stage peace rally on CS appointment issue

IT News  
Imphal, April 16,

Three students' bodies of the state - the All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM), Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM) and Apunba Ireipak Maheiroi Singlup (AIMS) is organising a peaceful protest rally against the ignorant of the state government in appointing the senior most native officer to the post of Chief Secretary. The three student bodies have been demanding to appoint a senior most native IAS officer to the post however the state government appointed a junior IAS officer as Chief Secretary. As per a statement signed by the three leaders of the students' bodies, the peace rally will be held tomorrow and will kick starts from Adimjati Complex of Chingmeiron and will proceed to THAU Ground at Thangmeiband

## CM inaugurates public conveniences constructed by CRPF at Senapati

IT News  
Imphal, April 16,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today inaugurated and handed over public conveniences constructed by 109 Bn, CRPF at Karong, Senapati under Civic Action Programme.

Speaking on the occasion N. Biren Singh lauded the initiatives of 109 Bn, CRPF for undertaking such humanitarian activities for providing basic conveniences to the local people, transients and drivers along NH-2 in the remote localities. He appealed to the public to inculcate the sense of hygiene and sanitation besides preventing open defecation. He urged CRPF for more involvement and contribution towards a clean Manipur and India. He appreciated the able leadership provided by Vikram Sahgal, IGP, CRPF and the positive contribution made by the CRPF in the State of Manipur under his leadership. The initiative is another major humanitarian activities

undertaken by 109 Bn, CRPF under command Vinod Kumar, Commandant in the far flung district with the aim to fulfil the critical needs of the local populace. Though the Government of India has taken up several initiatives to make the country open defecation free, the transients who undertake journey along NH-2 have been facing severe hardships due to lack of Toilet and Bathrooms along the Mao and Senapati stretch. Keeping this longstanding critical need in mind, Vinod Kumar, Commandant 109 Bn, CRPF under the aegis of Vikram Sahgal, IGP Manipur & Nagaland Sector CRPF had earlier taken a decision and constructed the facilities of toilets and baths at Karong Senapati and Mao Gate in line with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan undertaken by the Government of India. The inaugural function was attended by several cabinet ministers, high ranking state government officials, Vikram

Sahgal IGP, Shri Vinod Kumar, Commandant and various senior officials and prominent public leaders and locals of Karong and Senapati area. On the other hand, Vikram Sahgal, IGP, CRPF inaugurated the public convenience constructed by 109 Bn, CRPF at Mao gate and handed it over to the people of Mao today. Speaking on the occasion Vikram Sahgal Sahgal stated that CRPF will continue to carry out such humanitarian activities and contribute to a clean and green Mao which is known for its unique flora and fauna. He also assured of all possible help for the public from the side of CRPF. The leaders of Mao town and Songsong village thanked the CRPF for such noble gesture. The function was attended by Shri Vinod Kumar, Commandant, CRPF officials, officials of Assam rifles, teachers and students of Sardar Patel High School Mao, prominent leaders and citizens of Mao area.

## Thokchom Biswanath selected as Sahitya Akademi Manipuri Advisory Board; MYFA congratulates

IT News  
Silchar, April 16,

The Manipuri Youths Front Assam, MYFA conveyed its congratulations to Thokchom Biswanath, renowned Manipuri poet of Assam for being selected as member of the Sahitya Akademi Manipuri Advisory Board.

In a press communiqué, Secretary General of MYFA Fanjowbam Lokenath said that it is one of the great achievements for all the Manipuris of Assam. He further expressed that Thokchom Biswanath is a dedicated literary activist. Lokenath also expressed that selecting a literary lovers of outside Manipur in a Manipuri

Advisory Board of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi is a good symbol towards unity and emotional bondage between Manipuris of Manipur and outside Manipur.

It can be noted that Thokchom Biswanath was born to late Thokchom Manilal and late Thokchom Ongbi Taramani on 25th December, 1960 at Singerbond, Mutum Leikai in Lakhipur, Cachar.

He started writing poetry from his students life. He is also a founder Literary Secretary of the All Assam Manipuri Students Union, AAMSU. He was also an editor of many literary magazines including Numityungba (published by

Writers Guild, Lakhipur) and Khorirol (published by Naharol Khorirol Sillup, Assam, Lakhipur). Besides, He is also a Vice president of the Naharol Khorirol Sillup, Assam Lakhipur and a special invitee of the Assam Manipuri Sahitya Parishad.

He was also participated as paper readers and as a moderators many a time in a seminars and workshops organised by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Biswanath, a Graduate in Arts also published three poetry book including 'Nong nungsi gi humdoklaba thabal gi' in 1984, 'Haribola hey Mantri' in 1985 and 'Oktabi amasung Sabon' in 1996.

## 'Construction of 33/11 KV power sub-station at Kachai will start soon'

DIPR  
Imphal, April 16,

Construction of 33/11 kV power sub-station in Kachai Village in Ukhrul District will start by April end or May beginning, said Power Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh. The power sub-station will improve the existing power supply quality in the area, he said. Biswajit who is also the government spokesperson was addressing the public at Kachai Village, Ukhrul district on Sunday.

Unemployment is a major problem in the State, however, it is also a fact that skilled workers are able to generate their own income, the spokesperson said, adding further that, if we provide skill training to the unskilled, we can solve the unemployment problem to a great extent.

He continued that today we can also witness many skill development trainings conducted under the State Labour and Employment Department. The Minister also stated that it is his firm belief that he can work more effectively by physically visiting the interior parts of the State and seeing by himself the plights of the people. It is the government's responsibility to reach out to the people, especially the poor and the unreached to understand their needs, he said adding that his visits to the interior parts of the State is not to gain popularity. The main objective of the present government, he said,

is to bring equal development in the State. Replying to a memorandum submitted by the Sagolmang Area Naga Students' Association seeking construction of a weaving centre, he said it is a very important proposal considering that handloom has not only become a tradition of the State but also helps in providing livelihood to many.

He asked the local leaders to identify poor weavers who cannot afford looms. He said these weavers will be verified officially by the district administration, and looms will be provided through the relevant scheme to those who are eligible under the criteria set by the government. He also assured construction of a Weaving Centre.

The government spokesperson also assured to provide more bee boxes to double the income of the farmers. He said training can also be provided.

Biswajit further spoke on the government scheme Kisan Sampada. Explaining the scheme further, he said we can achieve the target to double the income of farmers only when we curtail the wastages. Regarding road connectivity in the area, he said that work on Sanakethei to Hoomi Road which is 72.5 km undertaken under the PMGSY has already been started, alongwith another stretch to Sodal which is 13 km.

He said there is connectivity in Ukhrul and once these roads are improved to riding

quality there will be much more improvement in road connectivity.

The government spokesperson also said that constructive criticism is most important, however, one should not indulge in negative criticism. He continued there can be no peace unless we strengthen the bond among the communities residing together in the State. He also spoke about the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan which is being organised from April 14 to May 5, 2018 commemorating Ambedkar Jayanti (Birth Anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar) with the main objective to promote social harmony and educate the masses about the pro-poor initiatives of the government.

Explaining the benefits of several government schemes like PMAY-G, UJWALA, UJALA, MNREGS, SAUBHAGYA, Jan Dhan Account etc., the Minister urged the public to avail the benefits.

The Minister was attending the 59<sup>th</sup> General Conference cum Sports Meet 2018 of the Sagolmang Area Naga Students' Association. It may be mentioned that the Minister was also presented a memento commemorating salt mining under reign of Maharaja Chandrakirti in 1808 in the area. On his way to attend the function, the Minister was also felicitated by the Hoomi Village Authority at Hoomi Village, Ukhrul.