

## MPCC joins nationwide fast protesting alleged atrocities against Dalits, minorities, STs, SCs under BJP

IT News  
Imphal, April 9,

Manipur Pradesh Congress Party (MPCC) today joined the nationwide protest at various places of the state. The day long fast protest is being staged in protest against the alleged atrocities against Dalits and minorities during the tenure of the Narendra Modi government. MPCC President TN Haokip while speaking to media persons at Congress Bhavan here in Imphal said that the BJP government has been committing all sort of atrocities to the dalits, STs, SCs and other minority communities by suppressing their rights. "Peaceful demonstration by the dalits, STs and SCs and other minority community are being suppressed in the most heinous way and many are



being tortured mercilessly", Haokip added and said that as per directives of the AICC President Rahul Gandhi, the state congress party staged the protest at different places of the state. The MPCC president further added that dalits, minorities or STs or SCs are the backbone

of the society. Without developing them the nation cannot developed, Haokip said adding that this has been stated by the Father of the Nation and even by the economist of today's world. The one day fast protest was staged in front of Congress Bhavan, BT Road, Imphal East

district, Bishnupur district, Thoubal district, Kakching district and Churachandpur district. All congress MLAs attended the protest at various places. While K Ranjit led the protest at Kakching district, manga Vaiphei spearheaded at Churachandpur district. The

lone lady opposition MLA AK Mirabhai, former Minister Kh Ratan, Kh Joykishan among others led the fast protest at their respective areas. At Sawabung too, former speaker and MLA of Khundrapam Assembly constituency Th. Lokeshwor and former MLA Dr. Ng. Bijoy were supposed to stage the fast protest but due to the imposition of CrPC 144 in the backdrop of the protest against the shifting of the district hospital construction site, the protest has been staged together in front of Congress Bhavan. Slogans for protection of the Constitution, for maintaining of law and order and against killing of innocent protesters were displayed during the protest. AICC President Rahul Gandhi also attended the fast.

## CM dedicates ND & PS Fast Track Court to public

DIPR  
Imphal, April 09,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated the Special Court ND & PS (Fast Track Court), Manipur at Cheirap Court complex in Imphal West District today. The Court has been especially established to deal with drug menace and facilitate speedy trial of offences relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest, N. Biren Singh said that people have been demanding the Government to establish separate Fast Track Courts for crime against women and narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (ND & PS) related cases to ensure speedy justice. The Chief Minister said that it gave him immense pleasure to fulfill the second wish of the people by dedicating the Special Court for ND & PS to the public today after the Fast Track Court for Crime Against Women was inaugurated on June 27 last year. It could be possible due to the dedicated co-operation from the Judiciary and legal fraternity of the State, he added.

Large areas of poppy plantation had been destroyed under State Government's 'War Against Drugs' campaign in the past few months, he said while adding that Agar plantation would be introduced as an alternative livelihood to the villagers who used to grow poppy plants earlier. An MoU regarding setting up of an Agar factory in the State had already been signed with a foreign firm during North East Development Summit (NEDS) held last year, he said. Stating that Assam is said to have already started Agar plantation extensively, the Chief Minister said that he has been told that in Manipur as well, around 3 lakh Agar saplings are being prepared at Jiribam. Observing that school drop-out is one of the major reasons for high prevalence of drug

substance abuse and indulgence in different crimes by teenagers and young adults, the Chief Minister informed the gathering that the State Government is planning to help re-admit around 40,000 school drop-outs under a special scheme at the earliest. Mentioning about the historical significance of Cheirap Court Complex, the Chief Minister also expressed the State Government's willingness to properly develop the complex under an architectural blueprint. Regarding connectivity, the Chief Minister said that due to the persistent request of the State Government, AirAsia, Jet Airways and Air India had already started direct flights between Imphal and Delhi. Charter flight service under regional connectivity scheme UDAN and helicopter service are also in the offing, he informed.

Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Manipur, Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Law and Legislative Affairs Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh, Advocate General Shri N. Kumarjit Singh and High Court of Manipur Judge Justice Kh. Nobin were also present at the occasion as dignitaries. He also mentioned about the infrastructure and manpower needs of the State Judiciary system apart from dwelling upon the historical relevance of Cheirap Court complex. He said that separate Fast Track Courts for ND & PS and crime against women had become a reality due to the keen interest and dedicated effort of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Speaking at the occasion, Shri L. Jayantakumar said that drug menace is a serious problem in the State as it is located close to the international border and notorious Golden Triangle. Stating that many innocent lives have fallen victims to drug abuse and trafficking in the State, the Minister said that it is the responsibility of the Government to save its citizens from this evil.

## Police picked up 6 suspects in retaliation to yesterday's bomb attack

IT News  
Imphal, April 9,

State police under the supervision of the Thoubal district police superintendent today conducted search operation in and around Thoubal Khunou Powe House area where the bomb blasted yesterday evening injuring 4 non-local labourers. The search operation began since early morning today. 2 persons who were coming for attending Sarधा ceremony and 4 former cadres of underground groups were picked up for verification by the Thoubal police. So far no groups have claim responsibility of the blast and police are investigating over it.

## AMSU Women Wing stages protest against crime on women; demand harsh punishment to rapist



IT News  
Imphal, April 9,

Volunteers of the Women Wing of the All Manipur Students' Union Manipur (AMSU) today staged a sit-in-protest at Yaipha Thouni Sanglen, Keishampat leimajam Leikai, Imphal protesting the rising crime against women in the state. Talking to reporters, Bidyaluxmi, convener of the Women Wing AMSU said that the rise in crime against women is a serious threat to the modesty of women community in the state. She said that the rape crime on

women is also on the rise and instead of punishing the rapists, they were let free after a year or 2. "Rapist should be punished either by convicting life imprisonment or by handing over to the public so that women of the state can feel a sense of security", the students' leader said. "We are now in such a situation that we are afraid to walk out of home as there are possibilities of committing the heinous crime to us as these rapists never get the kind of punishment they deserved", She said. The protestors later staged a

rally and submitted a memorandum to the government to take appropriate action against the rapist. Mentioned may be made that an organisation called Innovative Peoples' Empowerment centre, based at Uchiwa under Myang Imphal Police station had demanded appropriate punishment to 4 rapists who were released on bail. The 4 rape accused allegedly took a 35 years old lady March 11. The alleged rape accused were supposed to produce at Court today.

## ILPS campaign resume

Public discussion held at Lamphel Super Market complex

IT News

Imphal, April 9,

Joint Committee on Inner Line Permit System (JCILPS) have resume its campaign today after almost a year. A discussion programme on the issue was held today at Lamphel Super Market today afternoon. The discussion programme was jointly organised with the Lamphel Super Market Co-ordinating Committee. Co Covenor of the ILPS, Kheirudin Shiekh, speaking on the occasion said that some peoples' rumours about suppressing the ILPS movement by the government machineries is totally wrong. He said that the JCILPS have been working hard for the last many days to make a common understanding among the people of the region on the issue of the ILPS. He said that the JCILPS will take a resolution along with all major communities of the state and submit to the govt.

## Land dispute compels shifting of district hospital: Jayantakumar

DIPR  
Imphal, April 9

Health and Family Welfare Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh has said that there is no personal intention for shifting the site for the construction of District Hospital, Imphal East. Clarifying against the fault charges levelled by local MLA and public of Khundrapam Assembly constituency minister Jayantakumar said that the government has to opt for the second option because there is land dispute over the construction of District Hospital at Sagolmang. In a press conference held yesterday at the residential Quarter of Minister

Jayantakumar Singh at Babupara, he informed the media that the land requirement for construction of Imphal East District Hospital at Sagolmang under Khundrapam A/C needs the consent of 6 Pattadars on the Memorandum of Agreement to be signed by all the 6 pattadars but out of the 6 pattadars only four (4) has given their signature on the memorandum of Agreement signed between the Government of Manipur and the land owners. He further stated that the decision to shift the district hospital was not his only decision but was decision of the Government taken with the consent of the Chief

Minister. If the land owners of Sagolmang come and take the stand that they will sacrifice their lands for the noble cause of building the District Hospital, he will bring it to the notice of the Chief Minister. Minister also appealed the public specially the people of Khundrapam A/C to be careful from misguides or instigations by others which may hinder development projects being taken up by the State Government. He also appealed the people of Khundrapam A/C to cooperate with the initiatives of the Government. He also condemns over the politicization on the development activities being taken up by the government.

## HPC-D cadres ready for 'Home Coming Ceremony'

Agency  
Aizawl, April 09,

Cadres of Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) have arrived at Sesawng village near Aizawl in Mizoram for the "home coming ceremony" or "arms laying down ceremony" which will be held on coming Friday (April 13), one day later than the earlier schedule. Additional Secretary, Home department of Mizoram, Lalbiakzama said that altogether 103 HPC(D) cadres will lay down 48 arms, mostly sophisticated, during the "home coming ceremony" to be held at Central Training Institute (CTI), Mizoram Home Guard headquarters at Sesawng village, about 39 km from Aizawl. The officer said that the cadres were picked up by the government from

Zilthaw on Mizoram-Manipur border on Saturday, and they have arrived at Sesawng village the same day. The ceremony is expected to be attended by a large number of people. Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla and Mizoram Home minister R. Lalzirliana are expected to address the ceremony. Hmar leaders will also address the occasion, he said. Upon arrival at Sesawng village, the HPC (D) cadres led by the outfit's Deputy Army Chief Lalbiaknunga were accorded warm reception. The cadres will be camping at CTI Complex for rehearsal for the "home coming ceremony". Earlier, the HPC-D cadres were also given tributes and reception at Sakawrdai village, the proposed headquarters for Sinlung Hills Council (SHC). HPC(D) leaders said that the

cadres were happy to "come overground and lead normal life". He added that many Hmar leaders from outside Mizoram will attend the "home coming ceremony" at Sesawng village. He further said that Hmar leaders will submit a proposal for formation of council for interim period after the ceremony. The Mizoram government and HPC(D) faction led by H. Zosangbera signed peace accord on April 2, 2018 to end 24 years Hmar political problems in Mizoram. As per the provisions of the Memorandum of Settlement (MoS), the existing Sinlung Hills Development Council (SHDC), which was created in 1997 after signing peace accord between the Mizoram government and the erstwhile Hmar People's Convention (HPC) on July 27, 1994, would

be rechristened as Sinlung Hills Council (SHC) by an act of state legislature. It will be accorded administrative autonomy within the framework agreed upon by both parties, in the sphere of socio-economic, political and cultural development of the people under the jurisdiction of the SHC. The SHC shall consist of 14 members including 2 nominated members preferably from minority communities to be headed by Chief Executive Member (CEM). The council will initially function for interim period of 6 months. The MoS also stipulated that the state government would grant amnesty to all the HPC (D) cadres having criminal cases in the state and will take step for relief and rehabilitation/ex-gratia for all the cadres.