

# CM reviews activities of textiles, Commerce and Industries dept.

IT News  
Imphal, Dec. 20

As part of the series of review meetings planned for different Government Departments, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh chaired a joint review meeting of the Directorate of Trade Commerce and Industries and the Directorate of Handloom and Textiles at Chief Minister's Secretariat yesterday. Principal Secretary (Textiles, Commerce and Industries) P. Vaiphei presented a detailed account of varied activities, achievements and issues of the two directorates through a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting. Vaiphei said that the State will host the World Bamboo Workshop, 2019 under the slogan, 'Breaking the challenges of bamboo for a better future' from February 4 to 8 next year. Chief Ministers of all the North East States would grace the opening function of the workshop, he said. Efforts are being made to revive Jiribam Tea Estate having a total area of 1100 acres. Manipur Industrial Development Corporation Limited (MANIDCO) has submitted an estimate of Rs. 194.10 lakh for boundary fencing of the estate to check illegal encroachment. The Chief Minister instructed the authority concerned to take up immediate steps for boundary fencing and eviction of illegal



encroachments. Advisor to Chief Minister Rajat Sethi, who was also present at the meeting, suggested the officials to explore ways to rope in private companies as well in reviving the tea estate. N. Biren Singh asked the officials of the Department to present a detailed presentation of the present status of the Government's plan on the revival of Loitang Khunou Spinning Mill in the next meeting. He also instructed them to come up with the total project cost, number of jobs to be created by the project, types of machineries to be used etc. He also directed to convene a meeting on December 29 to discuss the present scenario of Indo-Myanmar trade at Moreh. The meeting will be chaired by the Chief Minister, and high ranking officials from Trade Commerce and Industries, Finance and representatives from Border Trade and

Chamber of Commerce, Moreh will take part. Continuing his presentation, P. Vaiphei informed that the State Government has received approval in principle from the Government of India regarding seeking loan from NABARD for the construction of warehouses in Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Imphal East and Tamenglong Districts. The total project cost is Rs. 3851.13 lakh. The Department has also submitted a proposal for the development of salt springs in the State at an estimated cost of Rs. 12,435.33 lakh. In addition to the existing industrial estates located at Takyelpat (Imphal East District), Tera Urak (Bishnupur District) and Kuraopokpi (Thoubal District), efforts are being made to open industrial estates in all the remaining districts as well with the funds from Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSME) and North Eastern Council (NEC). Phase-I of the Power Loom Estate developed at Lamboikhongnangkhang having 100 power looms is ready for inauguration. On the other hand, Ministry of Textiles has approved in principle to develop Handloom Park at Thongju in Imphal East District at Rs.9.04 crore. The Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to take up necessary steps to use garments manufactured in the State only in stitching of school uniform from the next academic session. Chief Secretary Dr. J. Suresh Babu, Principal Secretary (Finance) Rakesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary (Sericulture) Vumlungmung Vuanam, Director (Commerce and Industries) C. Arthur Worchuioy, Director (Handlooms and Handicrafts) Lamlee Kamei, Director (Sericulture), Salam Kunjakishore were also present at the meeting.

# Vodafone PBL join hands with CRY to ensure every child's 'RightToPlay'

Badminton to act as a vehicle to empower children  
Ashwini Ponnappa pledges her support for the cause

Mumbai, Dec. 20

The Vodafone Premier Badminton League (PBL) join hands with Child Rights and You (CRY), a leading NGO working on the child rights for the last four decades to use it as a vehicle to promote children's cause through sports.

The Indian NGO, with 850 such initiatives has worked with parents and communities across 23 states in India, and has been striving towards creating a lasting change in the lives of more than 2,00,000 underprivileged children.

Believing in a child's right to have a happy childhood, CRY wishes to achieve its vision to facilitate a healthy and creative environment for children with sports playing an integral role in their development. With this association and world's leading badminton stars advocating every child's 'Right to Play' through PBL, CRY believes that it will also help to empower children who are victims of child labour, dropping out of school and child marriage. Speaking about the initiative, Prasad Mangipudi, Executive Director of SportzLive opined, "We are on the



same page as CRY, sharing their concern and vision and would be elated to put forth a helping hand for the betterment of these children. PBL has been intrinsic in inspiring youngsters and tying up with CRY allows this generous opportunity to reach out to the less-privileged children and empower them for a journey of a champion." After football, which has shown heartening results in its project areas, CRY aims to utilize badminton as an important gamut, where stalwarts of the sports like Carolina Marin, Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu amongst others will be

encouraging to pursue the sport to understand how impactful it can be in a child's life. "It is a pleasure to be associated with Vodafone PBL. CRY and PBL share the same vision of a happy childhood and their 'Right-to-play'. From our experiences, we have seen sports as one of the biggest influencers in a child's life. PBL is a great forum to build awareness on some of the most critical issues in the domain of child rights. An informed society shall go a long way to improve the plight of our country's children. This collaboration adds

another chapter in our fight to ensure a lasting change in the life of a child," Suma Ravir-Regional Director (South), CRY. Ace Indian doubles shuttler Ashwini Ponnappa has been a constant support to CRY's initiatives and will once again be the guiding face for the cause in the upcoming edition of PBL. CRY, which works mostly out of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, and Chennai, through this new collaboration, expect to take their efforts a notch higher using sports as an effective tool to bring about change.

# Love And Unity Are The Main Essence For Overall Development: Nemcha Kipgen

IT News  
Kangpokpi, Dec 20,

Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister, Nemcha Kipgen has stated that only through love, peace and unity, our state will witness overall development. This was expressed by the Minister while addressing as a Chief Guest at the Golden Jubilee Celebration and Church building inauguration of Sijpang Baptist Church at Kangpokpi. Nemcha felt that as love and charity starts within the family then it spread across others outside the family, it is indeed the time for all to forgive and forget any misunderstandings.



When one feels peace with oneself, one will feel peaceful towards all. Only then, the Golden Jubilee celebration as well as the inauguration of the new church building would

serve its purpose, she added. As our state, Manipur is inhabited by people from different communities and ethnic groups, Minister Nemcha appeal all the people not

to communalize any issues or resort to any forms of protest or agitation but solve any problems with a peaceful approach of love through dialogs and discussions. Regarding the under-construction tower that lies within the church premises, Minister Nemcha assured that she will extend assistance from her end to make sure it gets completed before new year. As part of the occasion, Golden Jubilee monolith was also unveiled by Minister Nemcha Kipgen. Hon'ble MDC EM, Lunthang Haokip and I.R.S. Rtd. Saitu Inpitu, Tongmang Haokip also graced the occasion as President and Guest of Honour

# Lalu Prasad Yadav gets interim bail in IRCTC hotel-for-land case

Agency  
New Delhi Dec 20,

Former Bihar chief minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav Wednesday was granted interim bail till January 19 by Delhi's Patiala court in connection with two IRCTC cases. Lalu, who is serving a jail term in Ranchi in a connection with a fodder scam case, appeared before the court via video-conferencing. He had told the court that he would not be able to be physically present for the hearing due to his ill-health. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)

case, being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), pertains to alleged irregularities in granting contracts of two IRCTC hotels to a private firm. Special Judge Arun Bharadwaj, who is hearing the case, asked the CBI and ED to respond to Lalu's application seeking for regular bail in the two cases. The next date of hearing is on January 19. Lalu's wife and former CM Rabri Devi and their son Tejashwi Yadav were among those who were earlier granted bail by the court in connection with the cases. The accused are

facing charges of criminal conspiracy (120-B) and cheating (420) under the Indian Penal code (IPC). The IRCTC hotel-for-land scam dates back to when Lalu was railways minister under the UPA-I government (2004-09). The CBI is probing alleged irregularities in tenders allotted to Sujata Hotels, a private company, for the development, maintenance and operation of two railway hotels BNR Ranchi and Puri. The CBI alleged that as quid pro quo, Rabri and Tejashwi were given prime property in Patna at throwaway prices. The CBI alleges Lalu abused his position and favoured Sujata Hotel, a company owned by directors Vinay and Vijay

Kochhar. In return, he acquired "high-value premium land" through a benami company, Delight Marketing Company, for Rs 1.5 crore. Between 2010 and 2014, the ownership of the company was gradually handed to Rabri and Tejashwi. Meanwhile, the ED has attached a three-acre plot worth Rs 44.7 crore in Patna which allegedly belongs to Lalu's family. The property, provisionally attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), is also the subject of a CBI inquiry and members of the family have been questioned by central agencies.

# 'Tiger abhi zinda hai': Shivraj Chouhan hints at early comeback in MP

Agency  
Bhopal Dec 20,

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has hinted at an "earlier than expected comeback" to power in the state as the Kamal Nath-led Congress government may not last its full term of five years. Advertising Chouhan was meeting his supporters on his last night at the Chief Minister's residence late on Wednesday when he

assured them and said: "Don't worry about your future. Don't be despondent over what will happen to you, for I will be back." As Bharatiya Janata Party workers shouted slogans of Chouhan's return in five years, the former Chief Minister, who ruled the state for three straight terms before being ousted in a close contest in the assembly elections, said in Bollywood style: "Tiger abhi zinda hai (The King is still alive)."

"Maybe it will not take an entire five years, maybe I will be back sooner than you expect," Chouhan added. The Congress won 114 seats in the 230-member House. It fell two short of the magic number in a contest with the BJP (109) that went down to the wire. However, the Congress ensured the support of 121 MLAs with the Samajwadi Party (one), Bahujan Samaj Party (two) and four Independents backing it.

# Amarinder Singh hits out at Amazon, demands withdrawal of toilet seat cover with Golden Temple image

Agency  
New Delhi Dec 20,

Condemning the sale of toilet seat covers imprinted with an image of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has lashed out at e-commerce giant Amazon and sought an apology and immediate withdrawal of the product. Advertising

Taking to Twitter, Singh on Wednesday tweeted, "Strongly condemn the use of pictures of Sri Darbar Sahib with toilet seat by Philiphome Universal. It has hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community worldwide. Demand immediate withdrawal of the seat by the company and an apology." The chief minister's reaction came on the day when a prominent Sikh

body slammed the online retailer over showcasing products such as doormats and rugs with images of historically significant Sikh sites. "It has come to our attention that several sellers are posting products onto your platform that culturally appropriates the imagery of the Golden Temple and spiritual imagery of other eastern cultures," the Sikh Coalition's Senior

Manager of Advocacy & Policy Sim Singh had said in a letter to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and Senior Vice President & General Counsel David Zapolsky. The body also asked Amazon to permanently prohibit the sale of such objectionable items and hoped the online seller would do more to ensure similar products do not appear on its platform. The toilet seat covers appear to be no longer

available on the e-commerce site as a search for the items lead to a message that says: "Sorry, we couldn't find that page". Besides the offensive products, the company, Philiphome, is also selling doormats, rugs and toilet seat covers with images of the Christian cross, US President Donald Trump and the US flag on the e-commerce site.