

# PM Modi to visit Manipur on Jan 4 to inaugurate host of projects

Imphal, December 31,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting the state on January 4 to inaugurate over 10 developmental projects, said chief minister, N. Biren Singh. The chief minister was speaking to media persons during an inspection of the ongoing construction works of the Civil Secretariat at Mantripukhri, Imphal East. The chief minister said

preparations are on full swing for a grand welcome of the Prime Minister during his visit. "We are not fully satisfied with the current work progress as only around 150 labourers are working on it. So we have planned to add another 150 labourers within a week to make the construction more progressive. With the addition of extra labourers we believe that the construction work will be completed before last week

of February 2019 as the government is planning to inaugurate it before the upcoming Lok Sabha election," said Biren. The chief minister was accompanied by works minister, Th. Biswajit, MLA, Ksh. Biren, chief secretary, Suresh Babu, PWD chief engineer, Kh. Temba and other officials. Later they inspected the preparation works at Hatt Kanjeibung, where the Prime Minister will be addressing the gatherings.

**PIB**  
New Delhi, Dec 31

**1. Flow of Funds to North Eastern Region:** The trend of budgetary allocation to MDoNER in the last few years reflects an increase of 51% allocation in BE 2018-19 compared against actual of 2015-16. MDoNER was allocated Rs. 1986.80 crore (Actual), Rs. 2495.84 crore (Actual), Rs. 2682.45 crore (BE) and Rs. 3000.00 crore (BE) for the years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively. The trend of allocation to North

Eastern Region amongst the various Ministries/ Departments (including both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) in the last few years has shown an increase of 65% in BE 2018-19 as compared against BE 2015-16. Non-Exempt Union Ministries made budgetary allocation of Rs. 29669.22 crore (RE), Rs. 32180.08 crore (RE), Rs. 40971.69 crore (RE) and Rs. 47994.88 crore (BE) for the years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

**2. 10% Gross Budgetary Support (GBS):** MDoNER, being the nodal Ministry, monitors and keeps track of expenditure under mandatory 10% GBS by non-exempted Ministries/ Departments, since inception. As per information received from 51 non-exempted Ministries/ Departments, as on date, under 10% GBS, the actual expenditure in NER has been of Rs. 38845.26 crores as against RE allocation of Rs 40971.69 crores for the year 2017-18 for 54 non-exempted Ministries/ Departments. As per PFMS data, the expenditure till 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 is Rs. 19960.66 crores (consisting of release against Central Sector scheme, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Other Grants/Loans/ Transfer to NER states)

against the earmarked allocation (BE) of Rs. 47994.88 crore for the entire year.

**3. Establishment of an Industrial Corridor in North Eastern Region:** Government of Assam proposed for establishment of an Industrial Corridor in the North-Eastern Region (NER) from Dawki (on Indo-Bangladesh Border) Shillong via Guwahati to Nagaon and from Golaghat via Dimapur via Imphal to Moreh (on Indo-Myanmar Border). In view of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) engagement in the NER, Ministry of Finance has requested ADB for undertaking the feasibility study for the proposed North East industrial Corridor and to draw up scope and terms of reference for the study in consultation with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of DoNER and the States concerned.

**4. NITI Forum for North East:** NITI Forum for North East has been constituted under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and co-chairmanship of Minister of State (IC), DoNER. The members of the forum include CEO, NITI Aayog, Chief Secretaries of North Eastern States, Secretaries of key Ministries/ Departments, retired bureaucrats, economists and academicians. The terms of reference of the Forum, inter alia, include identification of various constraints on the way for accelerated, inclusive but sustainable economic growth in the North East Region of the country and to recommend suitable interventions for addressing identified constraints.

The first meeting of NITI Forum for North East was held under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog and co-chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region on 10.04.2018 in Agartala, Tripura. Subsequently, second meeting of NITI Forum for North East was held on 04.12.2018 in Guwahati, Assam. In the recently concluded 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, panel discussions were held in five key sectors, namely, Tourism, Pisciculture, Bamboo, Dairy, and Tea.

**5. North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS):** The Guidelines for administering newly formulated scheme NESIDS has been circulated to all NE States. Since approval of NESIDS on 15.12.2017 with outlay of Rs. 1600 crore, projects worth of Rs. 1458.12 crore have already been selected for funding in a short span of one year. Out of these selected projects, 10 Projects worth of Rs. 473.11 crore

have been sanctioned so far with token release of Rs.10.00 lakh for completing tender formalities. The average size of the sanctioned projects under NESIDS have increased to 47.00 crore from Rs. 3-5 crore under the erstwhile NLCPR projects.

**6. North Eastern Council (NEC):**

i. The Note for the Cabinet on the schemes of NEC including continuation of existing NEC schemes at an estimated Rs. 4500 crores for three years upto March, 2020 has been approved.

ii. Union cabinet approved repositioning of NEC with Hon'ble Home Minister as ex officio Chairman & Hon'ble Minister, DoNER as Vice-Chairman.

iii. The 67<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the NEC was held at Shillong on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> July where Home Minister & MoS, DoNER presided the meeting. All the Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of NE States participated.

iv. Schemes of NEC revamped with new projects under 100% central funding instead of the earlier block grant on 90:10 basis.

v. North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) extended till March, 2020 with an outlay of Rs.1000 crore.

vi. Previously, there was no fixed arrangement for distributing the funds into State or Central component. Now, the total funds available to NEC are proposed to be bifurcated in two components (State component-60% and Central component-40%). The State component would be utilised for the projects in each state as per their share on normative allocation basis. For the Central component, the projects having regional character, requiring Inter-Ministerial intervention are to be taken up. Priority sectors have been identified such as Bamboo; Piggyery; Regional Tourism; Higher Education, Tertiary Healthcare & Special Intervention in backward areas; Livelihood project; Science & Technology Interventions in NER; Survey & Investigation and NER Promotion. By this, a clear apportionment or division of sectors is ensured between DoNER and NEC to avoid duplication.

**7. Infrastructure Developments:** i. Bogibeel Rail cum Road Bridge, the longest rail-cum-road bridge on Brahmaputra river was inaugurated on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. The bridge will not only reduce the distance for the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam but also facilitate faster movement of troops and supplies to the Indo-China border in Arunachal Pradesh.

ii. Broad Gauge rail connectivity to Sikkim is to

be provided via the Sivok-Rangpo rail link. Recently, a meeting was held with the Govt. of West Bengal, in which targets were given for demarcation of forest land to be diverted, felling of trees, etc to be completed by April 2019, following which construction of the Railway Line can begin immediately.

iii. A New Greenfield Airport at Pakyong (Gangtok), first Airport in Sikkim, has been constructed at a cost of Rs 553.5Cr.

iv. Ro-Ro service between Neamatikam (Majuli Island), in Assam, with length of 12.7 Km by waterway, which otherwise takes 410 Km of travel by road, has become operational w.e.f. 11.10.2018.

v. Under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade, between India and Bangladesh, for the projects on development of fairway from Sirajganj to Daikhowa and Ashuganj to Zakiganj, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority has awarded the work for dredging.

vi. The project of construction of Bridges across Dibang and Lohit river systems including approach roads between Chowkham-Digar and Bomjir-Meka in the State of Arunachal Pradesh have been inaugurated and opened to public.

**8. Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan/ Aspirational Districts Programme:**

i. For monitoring implementation of seven programmes of GSA, senior officers of DoNER/NEC have been appointed as Nodal Officers for each Aspirational District in addition to the Prabhari Officers. There are 14 Aspirational districts in NER viz. Namsai (Arunachal Pradesh), Dhubri, Darrang, Goalpara, Bardola, Hailakandi, Baksa, Uluberi (Assam), Ribhoi (Meghalaya), Chandel (Manipur), Mamit (Mizoram), West Sikkim (Sikkim), Kiphire (Nagaland) & Dhalai (Tripura).

ii. A one day workshop on GSA for NE States was organized on 24.05.2018 under the co-chairmanship of Hon'ble Rural Development Minister & MoS, DoNER.

iii. A Video Conference was also organized by Ministry on 17.07.2018 to review implementation of EGSA in Aspirational Districts of NER.

iv. In pursuance of the decision taken in the review meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary on July 18, 2018, a review meeting cum workshop was organised jointly by NITI & MDoNER in Guwahati on July 27, 2018 to monitor implementation of EGSA in Aspirational Districts of NER.

v. Rs. 1 Crore untied funds to each of the 14 aspirational districts on NER have been approved for funding from NEC. (To be contd.)

## Two dead, 1 injured in Long Island house fire

Agency  
New Delhi Dec 31,

Authorities say a 68-year-old woman and her 4-year-old granddaughter have died following a house fire on Long Island. WABC-TV reports that both victims succumbed to their injuries Sunday after being found unconscious inside the burning home. They were carried out by firefighters. The fire started around 3



am at a two-story house in New Hyde Park. More than 200 firefighters responded to the home, which was fully engulfed

in flames. A 10-year-old boy was injured but escaped the blaze by jumping from a window of the home. New

Hyde Park Fire Chief Brian Sherwood told Newsday he landed on a car below. The boy was listed in stable condition late Sunday. Nassau County police confirmed two people died in the fire but did not identify the victims. Two other people in the house were uninjured. Police said the fire was not suspicious. Its cause remains under investigation. (AP)

## Army foils 'gruesome attack' by Pakistan's Border Action Team along LoC, kills two intruders

Agency  
Srinagar December 31,

A major attempt by Pakistan's Border Action Team (BAT) to strike a forward post along the Line of Control in North Kashmir's Naugam sector was foiled yesterday, a statement released by the Indian Army's 15 corps in Srinagar on Monday said. Retaliation by the Indian Army followed by a thorough search operation confirmed the "elimination of two likely Pakistani soldiers", it added. Advertising According to the Army, intruders dressed in combat dresses attempted to target the forward post by taking advantage of the thick forest cover early on Sunday morning. The infiltration bid was supported by heavy firing from nearby Pakistani posts. "The intruders attempted to move by exploiting the thick jungles close to LoC and were assisted by



heavy covering fire of high calibre weapons such as mortars and rocket launchers from Pakistani posts. The movement was nonetheless detected by the vigilant Indian Army troops deployed along the LoC," the statement read. "Some intruders were also seen in BSF and old pattern IA dresses as part of deception. They had intruded well equipped with IEDs, incendiary materials, explosives, and a plethora of arms and ammunition," the

statement added. "The alertness and resilience of the own troops, who engaged and neutralised the intruders, thus eliminated a likely treacherous attack on the Army forward posts along the Line of Control on the eve of New Year." After prolonged searches, the Army said, security forces confirmed the elimination of two intruders, suspected to be Pakistani soldiers. The Army added that it will ask the neighbouring country to take back the mortal

remains of the deceased. A large cache of warlike stores was seized from the spot. "From the recovery, it was estimated that they intended to carry out a gruesome attack on the Indian Army," the statement said. A search operation is still underway in the area. "It was also reported that a few other intruders managed to escape across the LoC, taking advantage of the Pakistani firing and adverse weather and visibility conditions," the statement said.

## No interim relief for Bhim Army rally in Pune

Agency  
New Delhi Dec 31,

The Bombay High Court Monday refused to grant interim relief to Bhim Army which petitioned the court after Pune Police denied it permission to hold a public meeting yesterday. The court will hear the matter on January 4. Advertising The plea has also sought a compensation of Rs 10 crore for "illegally detainment" of Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad and other Dalit activists by the Mumbai Police on Saturday.

However, the Pune Police informed the high court that it was the Pune University which rejected permission to allow a rally by Azad on its grounds. It also said the Bhim Army chief is neither arrested nor placed under house arrest.

On Sunday, the 'Bhim Koregaon Sangharsh Mahasabha', a rally planned by the Bhim Army, was cancelled on the grounds of absence of relevant clearances. After he arrived in Pune yesterday, Azad had held a press conference during which he had said that the police had not given the outfit permission, despite asking for it in advance.

## Delhi shivers at 3.8 degrees Celsius, air quality drops to 'severe'

Agency  
New Delhi Dec 31,

The residents of Delhi on Monday woke up to a cold morning as the mercury touched 3.8 degrees Celsius, three notches below the season's average, the Met Office said. "There was shallow to moderate fog in the morning along with dense fog in some parts of Delhi.

The sky will remain clear with no chance of rainfall. Later in the evening, there will be haze and mist," an India Meteorological Department (IMD) official said.

The humidity at 8.30 a.m. was 100 per cent. The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 22 degrees Celsius, the season's average, while

the day's minimum will remain around 4 degrees Celsius. According to IMD, the cold wave condition is likely to continue for the next 2-3 days. Meanwhile, the pollution level went up to 'severe' from 'very poor' with the air quality index being at 413, according to the Central Pollution Control

Board (CPCB). The major air pollutants were PM 2.5 and PM 10. Sunday's maximum temperature settled at 22.9 degrees Celsius, two notches above season's average, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 3 degrees Celsius, four notches below the season's average.