

# CM dedicates state TB hospital to public

Imphal, Dec. 4

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated the State TB Hospital constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.74 crore by Manipur Police Housing Corporation (MPHC) at Keirao Wangkhem in Imphal East District yesterday. Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, the Chief Minister stressed on the need to change the pattern of imparting awareness on the prevention and treatment of the disease. Stating that the only way to control TB is to create effective mass awareness, N. Biren Singh said that controlling the disease is the collective responsibility of each and every member of the society. Local clubs in valley districts and Churches in hill districts may extend great help to the Government in spreading awareness about the disease to public, he opined. Regarding rampant killing of fowls and domestic animals by an unknown predator, the Chief Minister urged the public not to panic because experts from Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun had already arrived and started investigation. CCTV cameras had been installed and traps laid to identify the mysterious predator, he conveyed. The Chief Minister opined that wild animals had apparently come down to residential areas due to constant destruction and trespassing on their natural habitats by human beings. Regarding developmental initiatives taken up by the new Government, the Chief Minister said

that the main deterrence to effective execution of developmental works is the practice of distributing work programmes among Ministers and MLAs. In the past, MLAs and Ministers used to claim any available work programme no matter the work is suitable for effective execution at their area or not, he said. The Chief Minister said that doubling farmers' income would not be a hard task if the Government can precisely identify the potential areas. Observing that every Government should be able to understand and address to the basic necessities of its people, the Chief Minister said that the current Government has a strong commitment to rehabilitate poor and helpless people. After introducing different schemes and taking up different measures, poor people are now able to get treatment as well-to-do persons free of cost same, send their children to schools, get rice in highly subsidised rates and construct houses under Government's Housing Scheme. Moreover, efforts are being put in to provide safe drinking water to every household of Manipur to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision a reality by 2022. Stating that the Government is ever ready to provide any type of assistance to hard working self employees and skilled persons, N. Biren Singh urged the public to extend co-operation to the Government in making Manipur self sufficient in fish, food and vegetable productions. He also urged them not to

extend support and co-operation to any type of bandhs/blockades because it largely affects the State economy. Health and Family Welfare Minister L. Jayantakumar who attended the function as the functional president said that TB is one of the greatest health challenges being faced by the country. Stating that this challenge has become further complicated with the emergence of Multi-Drug Resistance (MDR) TB and prevalence of HIV-TB co-infection. Informing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a vision to eradicate TB by 2025, L. Jayantakumar said that there need for strong support from the public to achieve the objective. Construction of the State TB Hospital began from 2010 after the project was approved by the Central Government approved sanctioning of Rs. 5 crore under Special Plan Assistance (SPA) during 2008-2009 financial year while the State share of the project was Rs. 3.74 crore. The State TB Hospital was earlier located in Chingmeirong and it was shifted to the current location in 2015. The hospital currently has 62 staff including seven doctors and a Superintendent. Forest and Environment Minister Th. Shyamkumar and MLAs Y. Surchandra, N. Indrajit, Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Khashim Vashum, Th. Satyabrata, Shri L. Rameshwor, Principal Secretary (Health) Vumlungmang Vualnam, MPHC Managing Director C. Doungel and Director (Health) Dr. K. Rajo also attended the function.

# Troops of AR Visit Old Age Home



IT News

Imphal, Dec. 4

Mantripukhri Battalion of HQ 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) organised an interaction programme at Old Age Home in Nongpok Kakching village near Imphal by personnel of Hanuman Top Company Operating Base. Aim of the visit was to provide succour and sense of belonging to the old. During the interaction, importance of

physical fitness and healthy lifestyle were also highlighted. A total of 19 old ladies and men of Old Age Home were present during the interaction. Material assistance in form of basic essential items and medicines were also provided. All members who attended the meet conveyed their appreciation and gratitude to Assam Rifles for organising such an interaction programme showing concern towards the old people.

# Voting begins for 7th phase of J&K panchayat polls

Agency Srinagar, Dec 4

Voting for seventh phase of the nine-phased panchayat polls began Tuesday at over 2,700 polling stations in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The voting began at 8 am at 2,714 polling stations - 576 in Kashmir division and 2,138 in Jammu division, they said. The officials said 892 polling stations have been categorised as "hypersensitive" in this phase, including 428 in Kashmir division and 464 in Jammu division. They said 5,575 candidates are in the fray for 341 sarpanch and 1,798 panch seats, while

85 sarpanch and 912 panch have been elected unopposed in this phase. An electorate of 4,75,865 are eligible to vote for sarpanch constituencies and 3,45,880 for panch constituencies, the officials said. They said all arrangements, including security-related preparations, have been put in place to ensure smooth polls. The officials said at the end of six phases of the panchayat polls, an overall voter turnout of 73.6 per cent has been recorded in the state, with a poll percentage of 46.1 per cent in the Kashmir division and 82.8 per cent in the Jammu division.

# Minister Shyamkumar Honours 180 differently abled persons on World Disable Day observance

Imphal, Dec. 3

Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar yesterday attended the World Disable Day observance organised by the Handicapped Welfare Association Manipur State Head Office, Yairipok Top Chingtha Imphal East, at the Khuthabi Ground, Yairipok Top Chingtha, Andro Constituency, Imphal East.



World Disable Day or International Day of Disabled Persons is celebrated this year with the theme "empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". The day celebrated annually on December 3 was promoted as an international observance by the United Nations from 1992 in order to promote the awareness about the people as well as to encourage them by implementing a lot of assistance in their real life to enhance their way of life and remove social stigma towards them. Speaking as the chief guest of the function, Minister Th. Shyamkumar said that all

human beings must accept life as a gift from god. Stating that we must dedicate our life working for the welfare of the people, he said by observing the day we are honouring differently abled people with the objective that we as a society live united as one pursuing for a sustainable and equitable development. Stating that differently abled people are given special skills, he lauded them for working for their livelihood in different sectors contributing in the nation building process. He said as per the initiative of the Chief Minister, pension

schemes are distributed to the differently abled people and assured that all will be covered under the scheme. He assured that initiatives have been taken by Government to give livelihood and equalization of opportunities to the differently abled persons so that they can achieve financial independence. As part of the function blankets were distributed to 180 differently abled persons. The function was attended by K Inaoucha Devi, Tulihal Zilla Parishad, Yumnam Tomba Meitei, Pradhan Yambem GP and local residents of the area.

# Minister Syamkumar says wildlife forensic experts are ascertaining facts, appeals people to maintain calm and stop harming animals

Imphal, Dec. 3

Forest and Environment Minister Thounaojam Shyamkumar yesterday appealed to the general public of the State to refrain from hunting or harming the animals and creating panic among the people without ascertaining the facts of the unknown predators which is responsible for killing domestic livestock at various locations in the State. Addressing the media persons, Minister Th. Shyamkumar said expert scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun have arrived in Imphal before yesterday to ascertain the facts about the unknown predators responsible for killings of domestic livestock. Stating that the experts from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun have already begun their work soon after their arrival, he assured that the facts

will be out at the earliest as cameras have been installed at various strategic locations. He said in the meantime attacking innocent wildlife animals is unfortunate and appealed the public to stop killing animals. He said the task force teams consisting of Forest Department, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department and various organisations have laid traps at various locations and have been able to catch animals like dog and leopard cat. Forest Minister also appealed to the public not to spread rumours and create unnecessary panic among the people by sharing fake news/pictures/videos in the social media. He said it is unfortunate that some sections of the people burnt fire to scare animals, threatening the forest and wildlife of the State. He said the department has already

opened control rooms for various districts where anyone can report in case of the sighting of the unknown predators as task force teams are working round the clock. Two wildlife forensic scientists Dr Gopi GV and Aisho Sharma Adhikarimayum (camera track expert) from Wildlife Institute of India arrived yesterday in Imphal for investigating the matter. Already Dr M Vikramjit Sharma and Dr N Sharmila from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun were helping the officials in the investigation by collecting footprint samples of suspected animals and sending them to Dehradun. An initial incident of the killings of the domestic livestock was reported from Churachandpur district. Later similar incidents were reported from Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching and Kangpokpi districts.

# Workshop on National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP)

Imphal, Dec. 3

District Health Society, Chandel & National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) Chandel, organised a District level Orientation/Workshop of Stakeholder organisations yesterday at DRDA hall, DC complex Chandel. Chief Medical officer, Chandel, Dr. Serthani Serbum and DNO, NPCDCS/NCD Cell, Dr. Gilbert Sumpi graced the function as the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour respectively. In today's program, Dr. N. Somorjit Singh, SNO, NTCP, Government of Manipur spoke about Tobacco Control Act (COPA) 2003 and the roles of various Govt. Departments and other stakeholders in tobacco control. Dr. Gilbert Sumpi, DNO, NPCDCS/NCD Cell spoke



on the topic, "tobacco and its effects on human body" and "Growing tobacco addiction among youth - the way ahead." While giving the welcome address Dr. Joyson Mathew Monsang, DNO NTCP highlighted the overview of the workshop and its objectives. The orientation/

workshop were attended by various stakeholders like, students, Village Chiefs and representatives of all the major departments of the district. Yesterday program was concluded with the closing Remark and vote of thanks by Tovir Ngoru, District Program Manager i/c.

# Massive fire in Mumbai's Aarey Colony Doused after 12 hours

Agency Mumbai, Dec. 4

A fire that erupted on Monday, 3 December, near the Aarey Colony forest in Mumbai's Goregaon was doused after 12 hours on Tuesday, 4 December. While the fire department was trying to douse the fire, officials said the winds blowing from the direction of the hills were

aiding the blaze, which was spreading towards residential areas. Mumbai's famous Film City occupies part of the Aarey Colony, which is located off the Western Express Highway. The blaze had started around 6:30 pm in an open plot near an IT Park along the General Arun Kumar Vaidya Marg in the western suburb, located adjacent to the Colony.

# Documents Lost

I have lost my original Admit Card of XI, 2018 bearing roll no. 11664 issued by COHSEM on the way between Singjamie to Paona Bazar on 2nd December 2018. Finders are requested kindly handover the same to the undersigned SD/-  
Rajkumar Babyraj  
Singjamie Mayengbam Leikai  
# 7085199622

# J-K governor pays tribute to National Conference founder

Agency Jammu, Dec 4

Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik Tuesday paid tributes to National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 113th birth anniversary, which will be observed Wednesday.

On the occasion, the governor recalled the significant contribution of Abdullah to the development of the state. "A sustained endeavour towards strengthening of our democratic institutions and maintenance of communal harmony and brotherhood will be a befitting tribute

to Sheikh Sahib," Malik said in his message. He said Abdullah was a popular leader and a social reformer who fought for the rights of the oppressed sections of society, irrespective of caste, creed or religion and strived for the sustenance of secular and pluralistic values.