



Proscribed group RPF today observed 39th Foundation day as Independent Demand Day at various places including its Central Head Quarter, Bureau offices, Central Bureau and other divisional HQ, a statement of the amred outfit said.

CM honours players' contribution to the society on

SHANNAROISHINGEE NUMIT

Imphal, Feb 25: Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has assured to increase the annual budget of Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS) to Rs 100 crore in the 2019-20 fiscal for further development of sports in the State. He was speaking as the Chief Guest at Shannaroishingee Numit organised by Department of Youth Affairs and Sports at Khuman Lampak Main Stadium today. N. Biren said that a sizeable hike in the budget estimate would enable development of sports infrastructure and hiring of competent coaches from other States and countries. Stating that he is suspicious of past misutilisation of Rs 100 crore sanctioned under 13th Finance Commission for the development of Khuman Lampak Main Stadium and Khuman Lampak Hockey Stadium, the Chief Minister said that an independent body would be entrusted to probe the matter soon. Urging the associations of different sports disciplines to



communicate with the Government before taking the players to other States for participation in different championships and tournaments, the Chief Minister said that the Government would try to clear at least half of the entitled

financial assistance in advance for the convenience of players and associations. The Chief Minister said that he is concerned about the inconvenience faced by players while travelling in trains, he asked the associations to properly plan

for travelling, fooding and lodging in advance. Encouraging the players to put in more effort to bring laurels for the State and the country, the Chief Minister also announced to hike the cash incentives for the National level competitions

from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh. He further said that daily allowance of the players who take part in the National level competitions would be increased from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500. The State Cabinet would take a decision in this regard at the earliest, he added. Stating that the Government is ready to provide jobs to all the State players who are currently playing/working outside the State, the Chief Minister urged them to return to the State. He said that the Government is currently awarding Rs 1 crore to Olympic gold medalists, Rs. 75 lakh to silver medalists, Rs. 50 lakh to bronze medalist and Rs. 25 lakh to Olympic participants. Informing that the Government has also begun awarding a cash prize of Rs. 20 lakh to Gold medal winners at International tournaments, the Chief Minister said that Mirabai Chenu had been recently awarded the said amount recently.

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Draft Manipur State Plan of Action for Preventing and Combating Child Trafficking presented

Imphal, Feb 25: A f t e r submitting draft Manipur State Child Rights Policy, to the Department of Social Welfare Government of Manipur, the CHLD RIGHTS and YOU (CRY) Kolkata and Manipur Alliance for Child Rights (MACR) have taken up another paramount step by presenting a "Draft Manipur State Plan of Action for Preventing and Combating Child Trafficking". The draft Action Plan was presented formally for first round of discussion by Mr. Ashimkumar Ghosh the Associate General Manager, CRY, Kolkata in an interaction session held yesterday at Imphal Hotel, by Classic, Imphal

"The draft Plan of Action came out considering the grim situation of the state, in which child trafficking continues as a serious organized heinous crime against the vulnerable section of the society in Manipur state. Children should be never equated as property, commodity or voiceless soldiers. They are human beings having inherent human rights" said Mr. Ashimkumar Ghosh introducing the draft Action plan, which will be first of its kind in the whole north eastern states of India. The Action plan proposed a detailed structural and operational guidelines for effective prevention, combating of child trafficking and rehabilitation of trafficked survivors through synergizing different linked departments, state holders and right bodies such as police, education, labour, medical, child rights commission, DCPUs, MSLSA,

NGOs, CWCs, JJBs etc. apart from Social Welfare Department, which will take implementing role as a nodal department.

It called for mandatory registration and monitoring of job placement agencies and safe migration arrangement of the state seeking jobs, restricting media from publishing advertisements of unregistered firms calling young candidates for jobs outside Manipur. The Action plan also signalled the emerging needs for enacting a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Anti Human Trafficking Protocols for combating intra-states and intra-country child and human trafficking in the region, as Manipur being a gateway to South East Asian countries.

Speaking during the discussion session, Mr. Montu Ananthem Convener, MACR said that, "The Draft Action Plan will be submitted formally to the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Manipur for due rectification and notifying it as an official State Action Plan soon". The West Bengal State has already notified its State Action Plan for Prevention and Combating Child Trafficking in recent time. Mrs. Rakshanda Associate General Manager of CRY Mumbai, Keisam Pradip Kumar Member, Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MPCPCR), former Director Social Welfare Department and Former Chairperson MPCPCR Mr. Sh. Sharat Kumar Sharma were also present in the interaction session.

MIDH picks Pine Apple as value chain development corps

ITNews
Imphal, Feb 24: Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) of the state Horticulture and Soil Conservation has picked Pine Apple as horticulture corps for value chain development. Talking on the 2nd day of the seminar on Promotion of Organic Product and Value Chain Marketing organised by the Editors' Guild Manipur and sponsored by the Dept. of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Govt. of Manipur at Hotel Classic here in Imphal, Officer in Charge of MIDH K. Jogeshchandra Sharma said that more horticulture corps like Kachai Lemon and Tamenglong Orange will also be selected for value chain development in the coming years. Value chain development is a sequence of steps taken up for supports of the corps and farmers from the time of plantation till it reached to the market. Under the scheme pine apple farmers in the state will be provided all supports by the MIDH as the Union govt. has already approved Rs. 1.75 crore. He said that 4 primary processing centres for the Pine Apple at appropriate places will be established soon and there will be no worry for surplus production of pine apple by the farmers. Agriculture Officer N. Ningthemjao Singh while talking on the occasion said that under the scheme production of horticulture crops will also done under value base system like controlling of fertilizers etc.

Nemcha Kipgen graced the 8th International Women's Conference (IWC) 2018

'Manipuri women played exemplary roles in society'

Bengaluru, Feb 25: Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister Smt. Nemcha Kipgen strongly affirms that Manipuri women since time immemorial have played exemplary roles in the socio-economic and cultural life of Manipur. This was expressed by the Minister at the 8th International Women's Conference (IWC) 2018 titled - "Life: A Mystical Journey" held at Vishalakshi Mantap at The Art of Living International Center, Bengaluru held from February 23 to 25, 2018. Addressing the media during the conference, Minister Nemcha highlighted that Manipur has witnessed the successful responsibility of collective women's power in the

past and also till the present day. She also stated how women strongly contributed in the economy of the state by citing the example of Khwairamband Bazar also known as Ima Market (Mother's Market), the world's only market place run by the women. Women dominate the markets in the rural and urban areas of the state, she added. She also noted that Manipuri women's dominance in the field of sports not only in the national level but also in the international level is highly remarkable. Gracing the occasion as Guest of Honours amidst many accomplished women - achievers, artists, sportswomen, policymakers

from 60 countries including 250 delegates, 75 speakers, 100 from rural areas, 60 from over 30 colleges, Social Welfare Minister felt overwhelmed and expressed that the conference gave platforms for women from all walks of life to explore ways to intensify the message of peace and empowerment equipped with spiritual tools, to engage in meaningful dialogue, learn from each other's inspirational life stories, service to society and highlight the many ways in which women contribute to the country and the world as a whole. She further stated that IWC 2018 offers a great insight into how women can contribute to the betterment of the society

while simultaneously discovering the power of inner strength through spirituality. The conference witnessed addresses from dignitaries including D. Roopa, IGP, Karnataka; Former Chairman, SBI, Arundhati Bhattacharya, Actor, Rani Mukherji, actor, Dr Jiko Haveni, first female speaker in the Fijian Parliament. As part of the conference, women achievers from diverse fields were awarded with the Vishalakshi Award for their impactful contribution for making a difference in their professional spheres. The role of men in empowering women was also recognised by felicitating them through the Acharya Ratnanand Awards.

Environment Minister Shyamkumar launches campaign against pollution

Imphal, Feb. 25: Forest and Environment Minister Shri Thounaojam Shyamkumar today launched a campaign against pollution under the theme "save the future, pollution is controllable" at Manipur Pollution Control Board (MPCB) office, Imphal West DC Office Complex, Lamphelpat. MPCB is organising the campaign in association with the upcoming Tanglei Festival to be held from 2nd-5th March, 2018 at Tangleibung Ground, Oinam. Speaking as the chief guest of the inaugural function, Minister Th. Shyamkumar hoped that the campaign will be able to create mass awareness regarding ways and means to control the deteriorating natural environment of the State. He said the campaign is organised

with an aim for developing all round capabilities for a clean pollution free environment. He said MPCB is working with an objective to control pollution and the protection of the environmental quality with sustainable development. His endeavour and sought public support. Shri L. Radhakishore Singh, Chairman, MPCB said the board in an inquiry report found that pollution is caused mainly by the solid waste along with the smoke and noise from the over polluted vehicles plying in Imphal areas, mainly diesel autos in Khwairamband Keithel. Stating that around 2,000 autos are plying everyday in Imphal city, he said the State Government has stopped issuing permit till 31st March,

2018 as a part to solve the issue apart from continuous consultation with the experts. In the next stage, MPCB will take up necessary steps to solve the pollution of Nambul River and Loktak Lake, he added. As part of the function, Minister Th. Shyamkumar flagged off two rallies from the MPCB office today. A campaign rally comprising four cyclists will tour Imphal, Jiribam and Hailakandi (Assam) and return back on same route on 1st March. The second rally comprising bikers and cyclists will cover the routes - Lamphelpat, Moirang, Kakching, Thoubal and Oinam, carrying posters with different slogans. Oinam Sports Association is organising Tanglei Festival (2nd-5th March) in collaboration

with MPCB at Tangleibung Ground, Oinam. National and international experts will attend various programmes focusing on Education, Sports, Culture and Entrepreneurship. Some of the highlights of the events include quiz competition, debate, painting, open debate, rock concert - a band from Bangkok, Thailand will give performance, overboard competition (skateboarding) - which will be the first ever longboarding competition in India and Mountain Biking (cycling) among others. Shri S. Bira Singh, MLA Kumbi A/C, Dr. Mohammad Maniruddin Shaikh, former minister and Speaker, Shri T. Mangi Singh and Member Secretary, MPCB attended the function as guests of honour along with staffs of MPCB.

Non Manipuri CSOs resolve to protect Manipuri Tea stall

Silchar, Feb.25: The Non Manipuri leading Civil Society Organisations of Barak Valley resolved to work together for the protection of the Manipuri Tea Stall in Silchar. In an special meeting organised by Manipuri Tea Stall Suraksha Samitti, Silchar on Saturday here at Assam Manipuri Sahitya Parishad Bhavan in Silchar, the non Manipuri CSOs leaders expressed their dissatisfaction over the step taken by Cachar district administration to remove the present Manipuri Tea Stall located in Sadarghat area of Silchar town. In an meeting which was presided by L.Manglemba Singh, the working president of Manipuri Tea Stall Suraksha Samiti was also attended by Former MLA Dipak Bhattacharya, Dr.Sourindra Kumar Bhattacharya, president of Barak Upaotyaka Banga Sahitya and Sanskriti Sammelan, Biplab

Goswami, President, Grahak Suraksha Committee, Sanat Kairi, Citizens Rights Protection Committee and Nirmal Dey. Amongst other, Sanjib Singh, Hindibashi Parishad, Propid Dey, Social Worker, Dr. Rajib Kar were also shared their views on the meeting. While giving his introductory speech, convener of the Tea Stall suraksha committee Dr. Maimom Santi Kumar opined that the Manipuri tea stall in Silchar is not a simple stall but it is closely related with a sentiments, culture and tradition of the Manipuri community residing in Barak Valley. It may also be noted that the meeting also resolved to submit a joint memorandum demanding the protection of Manipuri Tea stall in Silchar to Cachar Deputy Commissioner. Amongst other, Dr. KN Chand.L. Tejamani Singh, IS Thingom and Seram Herajit Singh were also attended the event.