

CM attends to about 380 complaints on joint Hill Leaders' Day and Meeyamgi Numit

Govt's performance satisfactory towards bringing development in the State: CM

Imphal, Feb. 26: Hundreds of people turned up on the joint Hill Leaders' Day and Meeyamgi Numit to air their grievances to the Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh at CM's Secretariat today. The Chief Minister attended to as many as about 380 complaints and personally met nearly 800 people from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

On the sideline of the programme, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh told the media persons that the performance of the new government is satisfactory towards bringing development in the State. Mentioning that after the government launched new welfare and health schemes for disabled persons and needy people of the State, Chief Minister said that the number of grievances/people on Meeyamgi Numit and Hill leaders' day has been reduced drastically and it is a sign of positive change in the State. People might have benefited from the newly introduced schemes, he added. Stating that he would continue to hold Meeyamgi Numit and Hill Leaders' Day until the problems faced by the people aren't solved, Chief Minister said that such meetings offer



an opportunity to hear the grievances and problems faced by the people personally. Chief Minister said that grievances regarding health and disabled people has been lessened however many people came for financial assistance for self employment. Officials of various banks including SBI and Manipur Rural Bank are being deputed to assist those people who need financial help/loans. During the meeting, Chief Minister directed the SBI officials to offer loans to needy and poor people and also asked the officials to reduce the loan processing time, if possible. Chief Minister said that officials of Health department have been deployed to issue the health card under the CM-

gi Hakshelgi Tengbang scheme. On the occasion, Chief Minister said that a group of doctors who got selected as Medical Officer recently conducted by the MPSC came today to appreciate the government's efforts towards maintaining transparency in the recruitment of various posts in government departments. Such appreciation towards the government is indeed a proud moment and very rare, he added. The newly selected Medical Officers also assured the Chief Minister that they would work sincerely and would love to work in remote and hill areas of the State. Shri N. Biren Singh informed the media that around 80-100 projects would be inaugurated/

launched from March 1 to 15 as part of the first anniversary celebration of the BJP-led State Government in the State. He said that Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh would visit the State on March 14 to attend the anniversary celebration that falls on March 15, 2018. The Chief Minister also said that he would also seek a confirmation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi would lay the foundation stone for Sports University, inaugurate Ministerial Block of Civil Secretariat, Dolaitathi and Thoubal Project etc. He would also seek permission of Prime Minister to lay the foundation stone for the construction of Regional Football Academy in the State during his visit. He also stated that the government would install flood lights in the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium soon and would upgrade the seating capacity of the Main Stadium, Khuman Lampak.

It may be mentioned that due to the 4th session of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly, the "Hill Leader's Day" and "Meeyamgi Numit" scheduled to be held on 10th and 15th February, 2018, was rescheduled today.

Mega blood donation camp cum awareness programme held

Thoubal, Feb 26: A mega blood donation camp cum awareness camp was held today at the premises of Popular Youth Club Kahngabok Part 3, Makha Leikai in Thoubal district. The blood donation camp was organised by Association of Voluntary Blood Donor's Manipur Thoubal District Branch in association with Club Thoubal Greater Centurion, members of a group called Eramdamgee mapao formed in social networking site WhatsApp and Blood Transfusion units of RIMS and NHM.

The blood donation camp was organised in connection with the State Players' Day under the theme Give Blood to Our Manipur State Players with Khelo India. Around 80 persons donated blood on the occasion. Dr. O. Geetchandra, Hematologist Dr. Sanjoy and Nabakumar TC, spoke as resource person during the awareness camp held on the occasion.

Nemcha Kipgen calls on spiritual leader Shri Shri Ravi Shankar

Bengaluru, Feb. 26: Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister Smt. Nemcha Kipgen calls on spiritual leader Shri Shri Ravi Shankar at The Art of Living International Center during her recent visit to the IT city.

During the meeting, the Minister puts forward various achievements of the BJP-led Government under the dynamic leader, Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh and emphasized that the government is extending every possible assistance, especially to the poor and needy people, by introducing various Welfare Schemes and Programme to uplift their lives towards betterment.

The Minister seeks advice and suggestions from Shri Shri Ravi Shankar for a



peaceful co-existence amongst different ethnic groups of the state, with a firm belief, that mental peace is the most important solution towards the development of the state.

Exploring the Art of Living International Center, Minister

was enthralled after witnessing the well-equipped facilities of the Center spreading across various acres of land with world class facilities. She felt that there are many facilities that can be adopted in the state to improve our economy.

One Day seminar on Natural Capital for local economics held at MU

Imphal, Feb 26: One Day Seminar on "Natural Capital for Local Economics" held yesterday at Court Hall of Manipur University. The seminar is organised by Manipur Institute of Technology (MIT) & Biodiversity Ecology & Environment Network Manipur (BEENET Manipur) in concomitant with 11th Foundation Day of BEENET Manipur. The Seminar is aimed at stepping in the exploration of potential of Natural Capital that the land's indigenous people

have been living with inseparably as interdependence, issues of safeguarding the natural capital for generation to come and to invite attentions of all stakeholders especially the state's policy makers whose visionary initiative is of the utmost importance. Professor Adya Prasad Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University graced the inaugural function as Chief Guest. Prof. N. Rajmuhon Singh, Dean, School of Mathematical & Physical Science, presided over

the function and Prof. R.K. Hemakumar Singh, Former Dean, Student Welfare & Principal MIT, Manipur, as Guest of Honour. In his Chief Guest's speech, alarming the gathering about the fast degrading scenario of biodiversity in the state, Professor Pandey said it is very important and burning topic. It is high time to adopt some methods to save the biodiversity of the state. He urged the people to protect our own natural resources from the external invasive efforts of

exclusivity from outside. Reminding about the 'Chipko Andolan' in 1970's which refers to the forest conservation movement. The villagers hugged the trees and prevented the cutting of trees. Professor said deep awareness programmes are required to protect the environment and biodiversity. Professor N. Rajmuhon Singh, asserted that more than 80% of people are depending on the traditional medicinal plants. He highlighted the endeavours being made by national and

international bodies to review and educate on revitalization of traditional knowledge and conservation of traditional and medicinal plants. Professor R.K. Hemakumar Singh, said Indian Government has one mission "Develop one Village, Develop one Nation." Government of India has permitted to adopt tow villages to develop to MIT. "Our students and faculty members are regularly visiting to conserve the biodiversity and environment of these two villages" he said.

Stage set for voting in Meghalaya, Nagaland

Agency

Imphal, Feb 26: The stage is set for tomorrow's crucial Assembly elections in the two north-eastern states of Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Polling will be held between 7 am and 4 pm, except in some polling stations of the interior districts of Nagaland, where the process is scheduled to conclude at 3 pm.

The two states have a 60-member House each, but voting will be held for 59 constituencies in both.

In Meghalaya, the election has been countermanded in Williamsnagar in the wake of the killing of NCP candidate Jonathone N Sangma in an IED blast in East Garo Hills district on February 18.

In Nagaland, NDPP chief Neiphiu Rio has been declared elected unopposed from the Northern Angami-II constituency.

The results of the polls in the two states, along with that of Tripura, will be declared on March 3.

A high-decibel campaign for the polls in the two states came to an end last evening.

Buoyed by the formation of governments in Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, the BJP is making a determined bid to expand its footprint in the north-east.

For the Congress, the poll outcome in Meghalaya is particularly significant as it has been ruling the state for the last 10 years.

But this time, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to throw the Congress out of power and add Meghalaya into its kitty.

Political observers are keenly watching the BJP's push in the north-east, a Congress stronghold, where the saffron party has traditionally been a marginal player.

In Meghalaya, the Congress and the BJP are pitted against each other. While the former has fielded 59 candidates, the latter has put up nominees in 47 constituencies.

Though they are contesting the polls separately, in Meghalaya, the National People's Party (NPP) of Conrad Sangma, son of former Lok Sabha speaker P.A. Sangma, is the BJP's partner in the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA).

In Nagaland, BJP's hope hinges on its alliance partner NDPP (the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party) of Neiphiu Rio, which is contesting from 40 seats. The saffron party has fielded candidates from the remaining 20 seats.

The Congress, which has given three chief ministers to Nagaland since the state's inception in 1963, is contesting from only 18 seats, two less than the BJP, an emerging entity in the north-east.

There are 370 candidates in the fray in Meghalaya. A total of 18.4 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in 3,083 polling stations in the state.

Meghalaya's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) FR Kharkongor said for the first time, 67 all-women polling stations and 61 model polling stations were set up in the state.

He added that 32 women candidates were in the fray, the highest ever in the state.

In Nagaland, a total of 11,91,513 voters — 6,01,707 (50.50 per cent) men and 5,89,806 (49.50 per cent) women — will exercise their franchise tomorrow. There are also 5,925 service voters.

Voting will be conducted in 2,156 polling stations as 40 polling stations fall under the Northern Angami-II seat, from

where Rio has been declared elected unopposed.

Over 15,000 government employees will be on poll duty and there will be 177 all-women polling stations across 25 constituencies in the state. The election process in Nagaland had started on a difficult note.

Following a no-election dictat from the Core Committee of Nagaland Tribal Hohos and Civil Organisations (CCNTHCO), advocating "solution (to the Naga political issue) before election", the political parties had initially kept away from the poll process.

Though the process of nomination-filing had started on January 31, the first batch of 22 contestants filed their candidature only on the penultimate day on February 5. There was a heavy rush of nominees filing their papers on the last day.

After the scrutiny and withdrawal, a total of 227 nominees are left in the field in Nagaland.

As many as 281 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), beside the state police force, are deployed throughout Nagaland to ensure a peaceful election.

Nagaland's CEO Abhijit Sinha said all the polling stations would be manned by the CAPF personnel, while the state police would also be assisting them.

Of the 2,156 polling stations in Nagaland, 1,100 were declared critical, 530 vulnerable and 526 normal, he added.

The Meghalaya CEO told PTI that six of the 10 additional companies of CAPF were deployed in the troubled East and South Garo Hills districts.

ANBA sets to celebrate 100 years of Christianity

Chandel Feb 26: The Anal Naga Baptist Churches Association will be celebrating 100 years of Christianity under the theme "Celebrating His Excellent Grace" from 31st January to 4th February next year 2019 at its mission compound located at Modi village in Chandel district headquarters.

ANBA staffs led by Executive secretary and supported by Churches affiliated to the Association has been organising promotional events o the

centenary in its operational areas.

The first promotional event promoting the main celebration to be held next year was held for the first time at Western valley area in Chandel district on February 23.

The second promotional event was held today at district sports complex Chandel Christian with friendly football and volley

ball matches between Christian workers and village authority as main highlight.

Releasing of balloons by TH Oliver, OSD, Directorate of Higher education, with declaring the event open in the presence of Rev KI Tangnu Executive secretary ANBA, ANBA secretaries, pastors, village Chiefs and invitees also marked the day.

Group songs, choreography, musical drama are also some of the important events.

PFI reacts to the banning of its Orgn. by Jharkhand Govt.

Imphal, Feb 26: Popular Front of India has stated that the banning of the organization by the BJP Government of Jharkhand is an attempt to eliminate the kind of activism the organization has demonstrated in the state through legal and democratic means against the fascist forces and their government agencies.