

## Manipur Congress MLAs discuss issues of Parliamentary Secretary with AICC President

**IT News**  
**Imphal, March 22:** Congress MLAs from the state today meet the President of All India Congress Committee, (AICC) Rahul Ghandhi and discussed about the issue of Parliamentary Secretary among others. The meeting began at 3.30 pm today at the AICC President's residence at New Delhi.

Former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh, spokesperson of MPCC, MLA Khumukcham Joykishan, MLA Surjakumar Singh,

MLA K. Ranjit, MLA Th. Lokeshwar, MLA O Henery, MLA KH. Loken among others were present during the meeting with the AICC President.

Manipur Congress has been demanding disqualification of the Parliamentary Secretary since the last few month and had protested the passing of the repeal bill for Parliamentary Secretaries by walking out from the house when the Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh tabled the *Manipur*

*Parliamentary Secretary* (Appointment, Salary and Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) *Repealing Bill* 2018 and moved for passing of the Bill on February 28.

Details of the discussion between the AICC president Rahul Gandhi and the Congress MLAs could not be get at the time of filing this report, but an MLA while talking to this reporter said that main issues discussed was regarding the issue of Parliamentary Secretaries.

## Cease work strikes by Govt. employees' body affects functioning of government offices; DIPR postpones Press conference

**IT News**  
**Imphal, March 23:** Functioning of government offices in the state was severely hit as Joint Administrative Council of AMTUC and AMGEO begins cease work strike from today. The series of press conference organised by the Department of Information and Public Relation (DIPR), Govt. of Manipur since the last couple of days have also been postponed.

Talking to Imphal Times, General Secretary of the Joint Administrative Council of AMTUC and AMGEO, L. Biken Singh said that even though employees of government offices attended as usual functioning of the offices has been put to halt due to the cease work strike. He said that emergency service cannot begin the cease work strike immediately so, for



the kind of service there has been some relaxation. However the emergency services too will join soon, he added.

An authority of the DIPR while talking to this reporter said that, she is not competent to give any comment on the cease work strike immediately so, for

the kind of service there has been some relaxation. However, news which used to be sent regularly have been stopped receiving by media organisations today.

Press conference scheduled today have been postponed today on the ground of technical difficulties. An email

from the office of the DIPR said, "It is to inform you that the Series of Press Conference for today's, 22nd March, 2018, session for Planning and PHED Department has been postponed due to technical difficulties".

Staffs of Social Welfare department, Command Area Development DRDA offices of all districts, etc were paralysed because of the cease work strike.

The Cease Work Strike began today after the state government fails to consider the 22 Point of Charter of Demand including adoption of the 7th Central Pay, Dearness allowance, Dearness relief and other allowances at par to Manipur State Employees, Teachers, Workers, Pensioners and Family Pensioners with Retrospective effect from 1st January, 2016 is not fulfilled on or before 21st March, 2018.

## MNPF cadre arrested

**IT News**  
**Imphal, March 22:** Combined team of Assam Rifles and Imphal East Police Commando arrested a cadre of the Manipur Naga People's front (MNPF) from Kongpal area in Imphal East district during search operation yesterday. A statement of the AR said that the arrested individual is identified as Nimgreishang @ Kapun Khai @ Starson, a resident of Thawai Thnakul, Ukhrul District. The arrested cadre confessed to his being part of the UG group which he joined in the year 2011, the statement added..

## Kakching police begins drive against illegal gambling; arrested and fined 10 persons



**IT News**  
**Imphal, March 22:** Kakching district police has conducted series of drive against illegal gambling at various places of the district under the supervision of the district SP Victoria Yengkhom.

Many persons have been arrested and fined for playing Dice gambling, cards gambling and Cock fighting gambling,

after producing to the Chief Judicial Magistrate Thoubal. Yesterday evening, a team of Kakching and Thoubal district police Commando arrested 10 person from Kakching Wairi Kongoi Keithal while they were playing cards. The arrested persons were also produced at the CJM Thoubal and handed over to their family after being fined.

## Jiribam Police conducted search operation

**IT News**  
**Jiribam, March 22:** Combined team of Jiribam Police, CDO Jiribam and women police under the supervision of SP Jiribam commanded by K. Ajitkumar Shama ASP Jiribam conducted cordoned and search operation at Lungreijang Jiribam from 7 am to 9 am. Around 350 personnel were verified.

5 (five) persons were picked up after failing to produced valid identification documents. They were handed over to Jiribam Police for further verification

## Training prog. on conservation agriculture in rice held

**IT News**  
**Imphal, March 23:** One day training programme on "Enhancing nutritional security through introduction of lentil and mustard under conservation agriculture in rice - fallow system" was conducted at KVK Chandel, Mongsangpantha, Chandel today.

The training was sponsored by NICRA project. Dr. Deepak Singh, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK Chandel and Dr. Punitha P, Scientist (Agril. Extension), ICAR RC for NEH Region, Manipur Centre were the dignitaries.

Dr. Deepak Singh deliberated

on the activities and active dissemination of latest technologies taken up by the KVK in the district. There was an urgent need for massive cultivation of lentil & mustard in order to double farmers' income.

Dr. Punitha P in her key note address emphasized lentil and rapeseed mustard integral honey bee rearing in *rabi* season for enhancing income and nutritional security of the household. This type of training is to create awareness, knowledge generation and subsequent skill development on above crops and to plan

ahead so that farmers enhance livelihood.

In the Technical Session, Smt. Ts. Leenda Monsang, ACTO (Plant Breeding) spoke on seed production of lentil; Dr. Khumlo Levis on Introduction of rapeseed-mustard under conservation agriculture in rice-fallow system; Dr. K. Sonamani Singh ACTO (SWCE) on Moisture conservation techniques: an overview and Dr. Y. Prbhabati Devi on Value addition of lentil and mustard. Altogether 50 farmers from different villages of Chandel district attended the training.

## India successfully flight-tests supersonic cruise missile BrahMos

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, March 22:** Formidable BrahMos was successfully flight tested at 8:42 AM this morning from Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. The precision strike weapon with Indian-made seeker flew in its designated trajectory and hit the target with pin-point accuracy.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated the Armed Forces, Defence Research and Development Organization and Defence Industry for the successful flight test of the Supersonic Cruise Missile BrahMos. In a tweet message, the Minister said, the successful test will further bolster the national security.

## Bio Mobile toilet to be operational 24x7 from today- Shyamkumar

**IT News**  
**Imphal, March 22:** MAHUD Minister Th. Shyamkumar today said that the Mobile Bio Toilet installed at different places along the Kanglepat road will be made operational 24x7 from today.

"The Bio Mobile Toilet which was locked for some days will be open 24x7 from today", Minister Shyamkumar said today while talking to reporters at his official quarter today.

Speaking the reason for locking the toilet for some times, the MAHUD Minister said that there are certain rules and guideline for using the toilet. The habit of the people of the state while using toilet like smoking and spitting and throwing cigarette butts are the main problem which will spoil the toilet, he added.

The MAHUD had procured 8

mobile bio toilet after there were complaints of in adequate toilet for the visitors at Imphal Evening which opens on every wekk ends.

It was first installed on the side of the Kangla pat but after complaints from sections of people as it spoiled the sanctity of the Kangla water, it was later shifted on the opposite side of the road. Four is being installed near the MLAs quarters and another 4 near Johnstone Higher Secondary School.

On the other hand Shyamkumar who is also the Minister in charge for Environment and Forest said that he will not spare encroachers at Reserved Forest area. He said one individual have been found encroaching the Reserved Forest area at Langol and the matter has been directed for proper enquiry.

## Ruckus by opposition parties forces adjournment of both Houses of Parliament for 14th consecutive day

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, March 22:** The continued deadlock between the government and the opposition forced the adjournment of both the Houses of Parliament for the fourteenth day today. The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha were adjourned till tomorrow as opposition members continued to stall the proceedings on several issues.

However, the Rajya Sabha has passed the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2018 without discussions.

Immediately after that, opposition members including Congress, AIADMK and TDP and others came into the well raising slogans. AIADMK was raising the same issue of the setting up of the Cauvery Management Board, while TDP members stuck to their demand for a special status to Andhra Pradesh.

On the other hand, Congress today again raised the issue of Supreme Court's direction on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of

Atrocities) Act accusing the government of not taking firm stand to protect the rights of Dalits.

Taking note of the situation, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu expressed displeasure over the conduct of the members and said entire country is watching the ugly scenes. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel reiterated that the government is ready for discussion on any subject and sought cooperation of the opposition. As noisy scenes continued, Chairman adjourned the House till tomorrow.

In the Lok Sabha, as soon as the House re-assembled at Noon after its adjournment, members from TRS and AIADMK again trooped into the well raising slogans in support of their demands. TRS members were demanding increase in the reservation quota for jobs in Telangana while AIADMK members wanted the setting up of a Cauvery Management Board. Speaker Sumitra Mahajan expressed her inability to take

up the No Confidence Motion moved by YSR Congress and TDP saying that since the House is not in order, she cannot count the members supporting it. Members of Congress, TMC, Left and others were on their feet to support the motion.

Earlier, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar

reiterated that the government is ready to discuss all issues including the bank fraud and the No Confidence motion and urged the agitating members to go back to their seats but in vain. Later, the Speaker adjourned the House till tomorrow. In the morning, the House witnessed an adjournment till Noon.

## Gratuity bill passed

**Agency**  
**New Delhi, March 22:** Parliament gave its seal of approval to the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2018 with the Rajya Sabha adopting it today. The bill was passed by voice vote during Zero Hour without discussion. The Lok Sabha had already passed the bill last week.

Moving the Bill, Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said it is a very important legislation for employees, especially women. It seeks to notify the period of maternity leave as part of continuous service and

proposes to empower the government to notify the gratuity ceiling from time to time without amending the law.

The Bill will enable the government to enhance the ceiling of tax-free gratuity to 20 lakh rupees from the existing 10 lakh rupees for employees falling under the Payment of Gratuity Act. The legislation also allows the government to fix the period of maternity leave for female employees as deemed to be in continuous service in place of the existing 12 weeks.