

BJP Observes 1 year of governance in the state Essential items distributed at Aged and Orphan homes

ITNews
Imphal, March 15: Bartiya Janata Party (BJP) Manipur Pradesh today observes its 1 year of governance in the State since the party came into power from last year general election.

As part of the observance, essentials items were distributed at children homes, old aged homes today. Speaking at the old aged homes, Mongsangei, Chief Minister N Biren Singh describe the first main priority

of BJP was to fulfill the needs of those who needs support in their survival, those who are survived at the children homes and old aged homes, etc. Various schemes or the old aged persons were launched

and made the facilities of Rs 1000 avail as old aged pensions, he added.

Chief Minister also said that other facilities which are required at the homes will be made available at the earliest to fulfill their needs and what need to be done for the old aged homes should be submitted in written through the concern MLA and Minister so that necessary steps can be taken up.

Chief Minister also distributed essentials items to the children of Tera Children Home, today. The main celebration for completion of 1 year was held at BJP Manipur Pradesh Head Office at Keishampat Nityapat Chuthek.

KSO Sadar Hills cancel boycott call, withdraw total shutdown after Govt.'s prompt response

By Kaybie Chongloi
Kangpokpi, Mar.15: The Kuki Students' Organization Sadar Hills decided to cancelled its boycott called of Prime Minister visit to the state on March 16 and withdraw the 12 hours total shutdown the same day after it received positive response from the state Government.

The student body had declared boycott the proposed Prime Minister visit to the state on March 16 and announced 12 hours total shutdown the same day in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District alleging of the state Government repeated failed to delivered its commitment

over the issue of National Sports University.

According to the KSO Sadar Hills President, Thangminlen Kipgen, the decision to cancelled and withdraw its boycott called and total shutdown was taken after prompt response and assurance by the concerned Minister Letpao Haokip and Social Welfare and Cooperation Minister Nemcha Kipgen early this morning. "The Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Letpao Haokip and Minister Nemcha Kipgen assured us to fulfill all the earlier promises of the Government in connection with the National Sports

University at Haraoethel in Kangpokpi District", asserted Thangminlen Kipgen.

The student body also conveyed it's anticipation that the Government will no longer play with sentiment of its own people with their ultimate assurance with regards to the University. It also urges the people to have faith once again upon the Government to accomplish it's commitment in practical and at the same time sustain their support and cooperation towards the KSO Sadar Hills in its endeavours to resolved the issues of NSU in Haraoethel, Kangpokpi District amicably.

Dalai Lama To Skip Science Congress That PM Modi Will Inaugurate

New Delhi, March 15: Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama will not attend the Indian Science Congress which opens in Manipur later this week, a conference organiser said on Monday.

The Nobel Laureate's decision not to attend the congress assumes significance in view of the cancellation of a recent event in New Delhi where the Dalai Lama was expected to be present.

The event, which was slated to have been held at Rajghat to commemorate the Buddhist monk's 60th year in exile in India, was later moved to Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, and will now be held at the end of the month.

The Indian Science Congress is an annual science event inaugurated by the prime minister.

The general president of the Indian Science Congress Association (INSA), Achyuta Samanta, said the Tibetan leader had been invited to the conference, but said he would not be able to attend it.

"We were also told that he had visited Manipur two months ago," Mr Samanta said.

The Indian Science Congress website, however, still lists the Dalai Lama as one of the chief guests among other Nobel laureates expected to be present.

Mr Samanta said nearly ten Nobel Prize winners had earlier confirmed their participation in the congress but most dropped out after the event was postponed.

The ISC, which is held usually in the first week of January, was postponed in view of a perceived law and order problem at its earlier venue, the Central University in Hyderabad.

Muhammad Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, would be the only Nobel Laureate at the event, Mr Samanta said.

The development also comes in the backdrop of a media report about an Indian government directive to senior functionaries at the Centre and in the states to skip events being organised by Tibetans. Earlier this month, the Indian Express had reported that following a communication by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha had sent out a note to senior functionaries of the Central and state governments asking them to avoid events being organised by Tibetans.

Following the report, the Foreign Ministry had said the Dalai Lama was a revered religious leader and deeply respected by the people of India, and added that there was no change in that position.

"Government of India's

position on His Holiness the Dalai Lama is clear and consistent. He is a revered religious leader and is deeply respected by the people of India. There is no change in that position," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar had said.

Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders urges intervention to the harassment of Ranjeeta Sadokpam by Security Forces

Imphal, March 15: Security forces excess to the family of an alleged UG group has been seriously noted the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a partnership of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and FIDH. The body calls for urgent intervention in the kind harassment to the wife of the alleged UG identified as Ranjeeta Sadokpam.

Ranjeeta Sadokpam is a researcher with Human Rights Alert (HRA), based in Manipur, India.

According to the information received, on February 27, 2018, at around 1 am, Ranjeeta Sadokpam was harassed and intimidated by mixed police and army personnel who knocked on her door and attempted to conduct a search of her home. The police and army personnel were allegedly looking for an individual named "Somendro", who would allegedly be a member of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF).

Despite Ms. Sadokpam's insistence that the so-called "Somendro" was not present in her home, an army officer insisted that they were authorized to conduct a search. After discussing the situation with her family, Ms. Sadokpam went out of her home to talk with the army officer. She then noticed that many army personnel were deployed around her

neighbourhood along with Manipur police officers and an unidentified masked man.

Ms. Sadokpam spoke with the army officer and cooperated by providing details about the identities of all her family members who lived in her home and the adjacent apartment. Meanwhile, the team cornered Ms. Sadokpam's younger brother, whom the combined team seemed to suspect of being "Somendro". Despite Ms. Sadokpam's insistence that he was not "Somendro", the army officer and his personnel spoke to him outside the house before they could confirm that he was not "Somendro".

The army officer then asked Ms. Sadokpam's family members to sign a statement that they were not allowed to read. After they reluctantly signed the paper, the mixed police and military personnel left the premises.

The Observatory strongly condemns the harassment and intimidation of Ms. Ranjeeta Sadokpam and her family, which seems aimed at sanctioning her legitimate human rights activities, particularly at a time when the Central Bureau of Investigation and the National Human Rights Commission are conducting an investigation upon orders of the Supreme Court regarding 90 cases of extrajudicial executions involving the

Manipur police and the army, in which HRA is a petitioner. The Observatory has also been informed of several other recent incidents of violence, harassment, intimidation, and threats against human rights defenders in Manipur by police and armed forces, including against a member of the Extrajudicial Execution Victims' Families Association, Manipur (EEVFAM) and a legal representative of many of the victims involved in the EEVFAM and Another Vs. Union of India and Another [Writ Petition (Criminal)] 129 of 2012.

The Observatory calls upon the Indian authorities to put an end to all acts of harassment and

intimidation against Ms. Ranjeeta Sadokpam, her family members, and all defenders who support the EEVFAM petition, and undertake a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation in the above-mentioned events.

The Observatory is concerned that under Section 4(d) of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), the Indian armed forces have the power to enter and search without warrant any premises to make arrests, which provides the legal basis for arbitrariness and abuses, including against human rights defenders, as illustrated by the case of Ms. Sadokpam. The Observatory urges the Indian authorities to urgently

implement the recommendation formulated by then United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders Ms. Margaret Sekaggya upon completion of her official visit to India in January 2011 to repeal the AFSPA.

The committee urges to guarantee, in all circumstances, the physical and psychological integrity of Ms. Ranjeeta Sadokpam, her family, and all human rights defenders in India; and to put an end to any harassment against all human rights defenders in India, and ensure in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate activities without any hindrance and fear of reprisals; to conduct a prompt, independent, and thorough

investigation on the aforementioned acts of harassment and intimidation against Ms. Ranjeeta Sadokpam in order to identify the perpetrators, bring them before an independent tribunal, and sanction them as provided by the law; to repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) without further delay; to Conform with the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1998, in particular with Articles 1 and 12.2; and to Ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by India.

MHJU condemns verbal abuse to media persons

ITNews
Imphal, March 15: The Manipur Hills Journalist Union (MHJU) condemned in strongest term the verbal abuse aimed towards media persons of Tamenglong by local MLA Samuel Jendai during an event held today at Tamenglong.

The incident happened amidst the inauguration programme of various projects and particularly during inspection of District Sports Complex gallery in the presence of Education Minister Radheshayam and PDA Chairman K. Robindro Singh.

Extending unconditional solidarity to Tamenglong District Working Journalist Union (TDWJU), the MHJU has expressed 'resentment and disheartening' over the provocative attitude of said elected member and resolved to collectively stand by its affiliated unit, the TDWJU, demand for public apology.

Such attitude of the elected members on media persons clearly manifests the undermining behaviour towards media community. Nevertheless, the MHJU will strongly oppose such mistreatment of fellow journalist while endorsing the stance of TDWJU.

105th Indian Science Congress: A Backgrounder

PIB
Imphal, March 15: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is to inaugurate the 105th Indian Science Congress (ISC) at Imphal, Manipur on 16th March 2018. The Indian Science Congress is an annual congregation of science professionals from across the globe. This year's Science Congress is being held at Manipur University, Imphal, from March 16-20, 2018. Manipur University is hosting the Science Congress for the first time. The theme of this

year's edition of ISC is - "Reaching the Unreached Through Science and Technology."

Three Nobel Laureates Viz., Dalai Lama, Prof. Muhammad Yunus and Prof. Hiroshi Amano will deliver speeches on March 17, 18, 19 respectively. Most of the national science academies of the world, as well as most science and engineering academies of India are also participating in the Science Congress. Registration details are available on the

105th ISC website www.isc105mu.org.

The second day of the ISC, i.e. March 17 will witness the inauguration of Children's Science Congress, while Women's Science Congress will be inaugurated the next day, i.e. on March 18, 2018. The penultimate day of the ISC-2018 will host the valedictory sessions of Children's Science Congress and Women's Science Congress. Plenary lectures will be organised on all the days of the Congress. Special Sessions will be held

on a wide range of issues which include - affordable innovation, water, sanitation, hygiene, climate change, food for all, technology for space technology, forest technologies, digital communication and space science.

North East is hosting the Indian Science Congress for the second time. Imphal, which is hosting the 105th session of Indian Science Congress, is the capital city of Manipur. Earlier, Shillong had hosted the Indian Science Congress.

Opposition uproar continues to rock Parliament; Rajya Sabha adjourned till 2 PM; Lok Sabha for the day

New Delhi, March 15: Both the Houses of Parliament have been adjourned, the Lok Sabha for the day and the Rajya Sabha up to 2 PM following opposition uproar over several issues. However, the Lok Sabha has passed the Payment Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 without discussion. The bill aims at increasing the upper ceiling of the gratuity from the present 10 lakh rupees to 20 lakh rupees for employees. The House also passed the Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2017 amidst the din.

Later, Speaker Sumitra Mahajan adjourned the House till tomorrow. Earlier, the House also witnessed noisy scenes with the Congress-led opposition members trooping into the well. Members belonging to AIADMK, TMC, TRS, YSR Congress and NDA's partner Telugu Desam Party raised slogans in support of their demands.

The Rajya Sabha also witnessed noisy scenes as some of the Congress members trooped into the well taking exception to the remarks by former Union Minister and TDP leader Y S Chowdhary on the bifurcation of the United Andhra Pradesh. He alleged that the formation of Andhra Pradesh in February 2014 was hasty and unscientific.

Reacting to this, Congress members strongly protested and forced their entry into the well of the House. As soon as the House met for the day, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu allowed Mr Chowdhary, who was the Minister of State for Science and Technology, to explain reasons behind his resignation from the Council of Ministers.

The Chairman also asked the TDP member to confine himself to his approved text. Later Mr Naidu adjourned the House till 2 PM amidst noisy scenes.