

Minister K Shyam appeals elected leaders to act as bridge between the government and public for promoting "Go to Village Mission"

DIPR
Ukhrul, May 4,

Minister for CAF & PD, Revenue, Karam Shyam expressed that it is the essence of love and faith amongst ourselves that binds us and make us thrive together in a common society irrespective of the 36 different communal groups that exist in our State. On the second day of the Yarra Festival held today at Khangkhui Phungdhar ground, Ukhrul district, he also said that cultural festivals play a big role to keep the bonding alive and stronger. Culture also helps preserve our old traditions and maintains our identity, he added.

Working with sincerity is an important ingredient that officials and youths should inculcate for better administration and progress of the State, he convinced. We should hold pride in self-employment as it not only helps ensure survival to others but also provides employment to them, so the educated and energetic youths of the State can tap in the resources of the hills for employment generation, he stated.

Drawing attention to the funds and benefits of working capital the Government has sanctioned in public interest and welfare like the PMEGB, he said that we should try to channel and convert them into proper resources. Human beings need to be lawful and merciful for bringing peaceful co-existence and development of the State, he said.

Highlighting that more than 150 schemes have been taken



up under the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the State Government, Minister Karam Shyam said that the elected members should act as a bridge between the Government and the public by keeping the public informed of these schemes and provide them opportunity to reap the benefits. "If the case is otherwise, the "Go to Village Mission" of the Chief Minister would be a futile exercise", he also said. The Minister drew serious concern over the 14 km stretch of muddy road in dilapidated condition leading to Khangkhui Phungdhar and assured that he will talk the matter to the concerned Works Minister Shri Th Bishwajit and the Chief Minister to find a solution soon.

Convincing the gathering that they will get a new proper road

with black top, he also said that the project of the CM to invest Rs.7.5 crores for developing Khangkhui caves starts implementing, the village will get a new look. He also donated some amount for gifting red shawls to 50 elders of the village.

For supporting the livelihood of a blind woman, Luirangla (w/o) Bijoy who is survived by 2-3 children and left to survive on her own by her husband, Minister Karam Shyam donated Rs.5000.

A memorandum was submitted to the Minister to construct a proper pliable road and take necessary steps for developing Khangkhui Phungdhar into a tourist spot. During the inaugural function, Minister Karam Shyam unfurled the Yarra Flag.

Welcome song based on the theme of seed-sowing was presented by Rimei Longnau

and Shanao Long. Mathotmi Youth Club performed the war dance showcasing actions of tug-of-war.

President, AMUCO, Deban Phuran and Managing Director, Indigenious Foundation, A.C.Raishing attended the fest.

The Khangkhui Phungdhar is a historic place where the Thoubal river originates and the Shirui Lily lying on its eastern part. The famous Khangkhui Caves is located just 1 km away from the Phungdhar village. The Yarra Festival is a seed-sowing festival of the Tangkhul tribes and is held every year in the month of May. The Yarra Phant kicked off yesterday and is to be held for 3 days. During his tour to attend the Yarra fest, Minister Karam Shyam also inspected the FCI godown of Ukhrul district.

National & International News

SC refuses to stay SC/ST order

Agency
New Delhi, May 4,

The Supreme Court refused again on Thursday to stay its March 20 judgment diluting the provision of mandatory arrest under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, brushing aside the Centre's charge that the verdict marked an intrusion into the sphere of the legislature and rewriting of the law.

Attorney general K K Venugopal said the verdict was such that he was constrained to use harsh words and protested against the "tampering" of the constitutional scheme of separation of powers. The bench, however, remained unmoved. The arguments will continue on May 16.

Making a strong pitch, Venugopal said, "Our Constitution provides for separation of power between legislature, executive and judiciary. But the SC, in this case, stepped into the legislative domain by introducing a preliminary enquiry when the law mandated registration of FIR and providing for anticipatory bail which was absent in the act. In addition, the bench

provided that if the DSP registered an FIR without conducting a preliminary enquiry, then s/he could be liable for contempt."

"The judgment has completely shaken the country. Rightly or wrongly, people are so agitated that it led to eight deaths. Those who have been oppressed for thousands of years have a feeling that dilution of the arrest provision in the SC/ST Act amounted to protecting the accused." However, a bench of Justices Adarsh K Goel and U U Lalit contested the suggestion that through their March 20 order, they had dismantled the law which was conceived as a deterrent against atrocities on SC/STs.

"We never suggested that the guilty should go scot-free. We have clarified that if there is any violent act by the accused, coupled with the offence under the SC/ST Act, the police can straightaway arrest without conducting a preliminary enquiry or taking sanction from a higher authority. We never suggested any particular line of action. What we said was protect the innocent from harassment through a frivolous complaint. Can the Supreme Court not protect the liberty

and right to life of an innocent by safeguarding his/her arrest by laying down guidelines? We have not changed the provisions of the law at all," the bench said.

"We find that anti-rter laws have no provision of bail. Those are different kinds of offences. In the SC/ST Act, the legislature said no anticipatory bail but permitted an accused to seek regular bail from court. What does the legislature seek to achieve? Does it want to instil the fear of arrest or something else? Arrest should not be so easy. That is why we put a filter of preliminary enquiry, that let there be some application of mind before arresting a person under the SC/ST Act," the bench said, quashing the hope that it might suspend operation of the judgment which had sparked largescale violent protests in many parts of the country on April 2.

Venugopal also questioned the SC directive that before registering an FIR, police have to take sanction from the appointing authority if the accused was a public servant, or the senior superintendent of police if s/he was a private person.

India doing extremely well on electrification: World Bank

Agency
New Delhi, April 23,

India is doing "extremely well" on electrification with nearly 85 per cent of the country's population having access to electricity, the World Bank has said.

Between 2010 and 2016, India providing electricity to 30 million people each year, more than any other country, the World Bank said in its latest report released this week.

While challenges still remain to provide electricity to the rest of the 15 per cent of the 1.25 billion population, India is all set to achieve the target of universal access to electricity before the 2030 target date, Vivien Foster, Lead Energy Economist at the World Bank here told PTI.

The report comes less than a week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that all the villages in the country have been electrified. The report said that nearly 85 per cent of the country's population has access to electricity.

"India is doing extremely well

on electrification. We are reporting India about 85 per cent of the population has access to electricity," said Foster, lead World Bank author of the latest report on Energy Progress.

This figure, she pointed out, is higher than that of the Indian government. "That might surprise you. The government is currently reporting in low 80s," she said.

While the World Bank's methodology is based on household survey, which includes even those who are off grid, while the figures of the government is based on official utility connection, she said.

"In absolute terms, India is doing more on electrification than any other countries. Thirty million a year, is really an astounding performance and it stands out from the crowd," Foster said.

However, India is not the fastest country in electrification. Bangladesh and Kenya, for example are faster in electrification than India, she noted.

India, she said, is now entering final stage of electrification.

"You are already well over 80 per cent, so you're getting into the more difficult aspects of electrification: the more remote population, the harder to reach people," she explained. However, reliability of service is an area of concern for India, she said.

"We know that in some parts of India or having the connection doesn't necessarily guarantee the energy's reliable supply. So, getting the connection obviously is very important, but India still has a long way to continue to work on actually making that access meaningful in terms of hours of service," Foster said.

Referring to India's tremendous electrification effort, the report said it expects 250 million people gaining electricity access between now and the early 2020s, when the country reaches full access.

The rapid growth of electricity access in India is propelled by the country's USD 2.5 billion electrification programmes to reach universal electrification, the report said.

Excelcare Hospital to conduct media OPD clinic

By NJ Thakuria
Guwahati, May 4,

City based Excelcare Hospital will conduct the next media OPD clinic at Guwahati Press Club for the benefit of the member-journalists along with their dependants. The Saturday camp (5 May 2018) is scheduled for 3 pm to 5 pm, where the participants will get the opportunity to

consult with Dr AC Neog (medicine) and also check their weight, blood pressure & sugar.

The last clinic on 28 April at the press club premises, organized under the series of weekly 'Evening with a Doctor' programs, was graced by Dr Jay Deep Ghosh (ortho, spine) and Dr Mazahurul Islam (medicine) from Wintrobe

Hospital. On the other hand, the 12 May media OPD clinic will be attended by Dr Soumar Dutta (medicine) from Narayana Super-Specialty Hospitals.

Till date, the press club initiative has been supported by Down Town Hospitals, GNR Hospitals, Dispur Hospitals, Apollo Hospitals (Guwahati and Chennai campus), SIMS Chennai

Hospital, Medanta the Medicity Hospital (Gurgaon), Manipal Hospital (Bangalore), Fortis Bangalore Hospital, Health City Hospital, Ayursundra Hospital, Nemcare Hospital, Barthakur Clinic, Sun Valley Hospital, Rahman Hospital, Swagat Super-Surgical Institute, Sight First eye clinic, MMC Panbazar among others.

Sports News

IPL 2018: Desperate Mumbai Indians Look For Solutions Against Rampaging Kings XI Punjab

Defending champions Mumbai Indians will be aiming to sort their 'opening woes' in both departments of the game when they take on a rejuvenated Kings XI Punjab in a must-win Indian Premier League (IPL) encounter. The three-time IPL champions are starting at an inlanguid exit having brought up the rear so far, with only two wins in their kitty from eight games. On the other hand, Kings XI Punjab, under Ravichandran Ashwin's leadership, have won five out of their seven games, slowly but surely inching towards the Play-Offs. A week off has certainly helped the likes of Chris Gayle and KL Rahul recharge their batteries and they will be aiming to come out all guns blazing at their adopted home. Kings XI Punjab's season has

been about collective performance. They don't have the 'Orange Cap' or 'Purple Cap' holders in their ranks but everyone has chipped in with impactful performances as and when required.

'Universe Boss' Chris Gayle (252 runs) came into the tournament with a bruised ego and battered the bowlers into submission with two half centuries and a hundred. Rahul (268 runs) also showed why he is rated so highly with the fastest ever 50 in IPL.

Afghanistan's rookie mystery spinner Mujeeb ur Rahman, with an economy rate of 6.51 and seven wickets, has been nurtured well by skipper Ashwin, who has marshalled his resources well.

The pace duo of Ankit Rajpoot (7 wickets at 6.27) and Andrew

Tye (9 wickets at 7.78) have also done the job for the Preity Zinta co-owned outfit.

For Mumbai, the primary reason for six defeats in eight matches has been poor start by openers along with new ball bowlers leaking too many runs in Powerplay overs.

While Suryakumar Yadav, with 283 runs from eight games, has performed decently after being promoted up the order, Caribbean left-hander Evin Lewis (194 in 7 games) has not been able to replicate his form in international matches.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (196 in 8 matches) has shuffled his own batting position but his inconsistency has also hurt Mumbai Indians big time.

The opening stands in eight games has so far yielded: 7, 11, 102, 0, 1, 12, 69, 5.

A look at the statistics will reveal that they have got solid foundation in only two games of which they won the match against CSK.

The other problem that has plagued Mumbai has been the performance of their two all-rounders — Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya.

With Pollard not fit enough to bowl, his contribution of 76 runs in 6 innings has been an issue. Hardik has also blown hot 'n' cold during the season with 111 runs, including a toiling 50 in the last game along with 11 wickets.

Left-arm pacers Mustafizur Rahman (7 wickets) and Mitchell McClenaghan (9 wickets) have both been expensive at the start and back-end of the opposition innings with unimpressive economy rates of 8.34 and 8.66 respectively.

US warns Beijing for militarising South China Sea

Agency
NY, May 4,

The United States has warned China that there will be consequences for its growing militarisation of the South China Sea.

The warning comes after Beijing deployed anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missile systems on three of its outposts in the disputed waters.

Talking to reporters, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, the Trump administration has raised the issue with the

Chinese leadership.

The Pentagon has also expressed concern over the Chinese military buildup in the disputed region.

China yesterday defended the missile deployment, saying it has indisputable sovereignty over the area.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea.

It claims almost all of South China Sea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter-claims.

Indian-American woman appointed interim civil court judge in US

Agency
NY, May 4,

Indian-American Deepa Ambekar has been appointed as the interim judge to a US civil court of New York City. She has become the second Indian-American woman judge in the city after Chennai-born Raja Rajeswari.

A statement from the New York City Mayor's office said, 41-year-old Ambekar is appointed to the Civil Court though she will be serving in the Criminal Court.

Ms Ambekar previously worked for three years with the New York City Council.