

## IPR Minister hands over financial assistance under MSJWS to six journalists

DIPR  
Imphal, Nov. 14

Information & Public Relations Minister Thongam Biswajit handed over financial assistance to 6 (six) media persons at his official residence today. The assistance provided is under the Manipur State Journalists Welfare Scheme (MSJWS), Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur. The scheme was launched formally on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at City Convention Centre, Imphal by the Chief Minister as part of important programme of the new Government's 100 day's achievement.

While handing over the cheques to the media persons, Minister Th. Biswajit said that the Government has always acknowledged the important role played by the media and media persons despite various hardships and challenges faced by them while discharging their duties. The important role played by the fourth estate in a democracy is necessary more than ever in the globalised world of media. This Government recognising the immense contribution launched the scheme as an important programme of the new Government's 100 day's achievement, he added.

The Minister further added that the benefits for the media persons will be increased from time to time according to the resources available to the Government. He appealed the media persons to bear with the



present financial disbursement.

Paying condolence to the demise of K. Bipin Sharma of Impact TV and other media persons, the Minister said that it is a great loss for the media fraternity and the State and further stated that ex-gratia for the demise person will be handed soon after due process.

The six media persons availing the benefits of the scheme are (Late) Ningthoukhongjam Gitchandra Singh, Joint Editor, Manipur Mail, Uripok Ningthoukhongjam Leikai, V. Khamkhanthang, Joint Editor, Manipur Express, Siloam Veng, Bungmual (one time ex-gratia amounting to Rs. 2,00,000/- each), Phanjoubam Santosh, Photo Journalist, PTI, Wangkhei Konsam Leikai, Imphal, Yendrembam Mangi Ningthouja, Desk Editor, Pandam Daily, Paona Bazaar, Imphal (medical assistance amounting to Rs. 1,00,000/- each) and Koijam Rajen Meetei, Editor-in-Chief, Liklam Journal, Toubungkhok Awang Leikai, Langging Camp and

Kakchingtabam Bipin Sharma, Cameraman, Impact TV, Brahmapur Guru Aribam Leikai, Imphal (medical assistance amounting to Rs. 50,000/- each).

Ten (10) media persons have availed financial assistance under the scheme since its launch. Ex-gratia to four (4) media persons and medical reimbursement to six (6) media persons were distributed respectively.

For the scheme launched formally on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, the Government made a contribution of Rs. 10,00,00,000/- (Rupees ten Crores) towards the Corpus Fund of the Manipur State Journalists Welfare Scheme on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. The Scheme provides one time financial/ medical assistance to Journalists and their families. The Scheme is constituted under the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Manipur and is administered by a Committee and the Committee reserves the right to reject or accept any

application without assigning any reasons to the applicants. Assistance are extended depending on the Committee's satisfaction regarding the eligibility/merits of the cases and the financial resources available for the purpose. A Journalist is eligible for relief from the Scheme, provided that - He/She is a citizen of India. He/She is ordinarily resident of Manipur, He/She is accredited to the Govt. of Manipur and Journalists who are not presently accredited to the Government are eligible for relief from the Scheme if they have been journalists as defined under the guidelines for a minimum period of ten continuous years.

The assistance available under the scheme is upto Rs 2.00 lakh, provided to the family under extreme hardship on account of death of the journalist, upto Rs 2.00 lakh provided to the journalist in case of permanent disability rendering the journalist incapable of earning a livelihood, upto Rs 1.00 lakh

provided towards the cost of treatment of major ailments such as cancer, renal failure, heart ailments requiring by-pass/open heart surgery, angioplasty, brain haemorrhage and paralytic attack, any of the ailments which is permissible for full reimbursement under the medical re-imbursement facility of the Government. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/departamental health schemes, etc. However, relief under this provision is available to the journalist only upto the age of 60 years and upto Rs 50,000 may be provided in case of accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/departamental health schemes, etc. H. Balkrishna Singh, Director, IPR, Tenshubam Sangeeta, APO (Press), DIPR, and Staffs of DIPR also attended the programme.

## Sonia Gandhi accuses BJP of undermining Jawaharlal Nehru's legacy

Courtesy HT  
New Delhi, Nov 14,

United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of "undermining the legacy" of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and urged the people to honour the late leader by fighting with determination to safeguard the country's democracy.

"Nehru's precious legacy is being undermined daily by those who rule us today. They express disdain and contempt for Nehru for all that he did to build the India that they are bent upon changing for the worse," she said in her address at the launch of new edition of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's 2003 book 'Nehru: The Invention of India'.

A documentary on Nehru was also released on the eve of Nehru's birth anniversary. Gandhi said Nehru's core values of democratic institution building, secularism, socialist economics and foreign policy of non-alignment were being challenged by the ruling party.

She urged the people to resist such attempts. "Over the years, Congress has defended secularism in the face of violent threats. Today, we must honour Nehru by fighting with determination to safeguard our democracy against those who are undermining it."

The former Congress chief said while it was "fashionable to decry Nehruvian socialism today", the critics don't take into account the circumstances of the early years of independence when massive infrastructure needed to be built and the private sector lagged the ability to invest on a large scale.

Gandhi said Nehru's conviction was that India belonged to all its people and that the majority community has a special obligation to protect the rights and promote of well-being of the minorities.

"Nehru never believed that India was a country only for Hindu Indians. He never expected the logic that since Pakistan had been created for Indian Muslims, what remained was a state for Hindu Indians. He believed in a country for all. In policy and personal practice, he stood for an idea that embraced protection of all communities," she said. At the core of his socialism, she said was the conviction that in a land of extreme poverty and inequality, the objective of government policy must be welfare of the poorest, most deprived and most marginalised of its people.

's economics - as her husband Rajiv Gandhi said three decades ago - over time has developed shortcomings, Gandhi added.

"Nehru with his open mind would have allowed for it to be updated with the times."

## RIMS observes Pedodontist cum Children's Day

IT News  
Imphal, Nov 14,

Department of Paediatric & Preventive Dentistry, Dental College, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, (RIMS) Imphal observed Pedodontist Cum Children's Day at the college today. Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director, RIMS, Imphal, Prof. Ch. Arunkumar Singh, Medical Superintendent, RIMS, Imphal, Dr. Deepak BS, Principal-in-charge, Dental College and Dr. R.K. Sarada Devi, Faculty of the Dept., Dental College attended the function. Other faculties of the Departments, staffs, students and patient parents also attended the function. As a part of the program, a painting competition for children was organized. And medicine, toothbrush, toothpaste etc. for children were also distributed to the children during the observance.

## Police, BNP activists clash in Dhaka



Siam Sarower Jamil,  
Dhaka, Nov 14

A clash broke out between police and Bangladesh Nationalist Party leaders and activists in front of the party's Nayapaltan Central office in the capital on Wednesday, disrupting traffic in the areas. Witness said BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas along with his several hundred supporters marched towards their party office around 12:30pm and started staging a showdown there, halting traffic on the road. Police tried to remove the BNP men from a portion of the road so that vehicles could pass through, but failed to do so. At one stage, they locked into an altercation with the BNP leaders and activists and

started charging batons to maintain the law and order. BNP leaders and activists also started hurling brickbats at the cops, triggering a fierce clash between the two sides.

The clash was going on there till filing of the report around 1:25pm. Police also lobbed teargas to disperse the BNP activists.

The BNP men then torched a police van and vandalised some others in the Nayapaltan area.

BNP assistant office secretary Taipul Islam Tipu said that the clash broke out around 12:55pm as the police were trying to obstruct their leaders and activists from gathering in front of their office.

Traffic in the areas came to a complete halt following the clash.

## Minister Biswajit encourages students to work hard to achieve their goals

DIPR  
Imphal, Nov. 14,

Works Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh today graced the Annual Freshers' cum Literary and cultural Meet, 2018 of Tamphasana Girls' Higher Secondary School as chief guest and called upon the students of Tamphasana Girls' Higher Secondary School to work hard to achieve their goals in future.

Addressing the gathering, Minister observed that participation of women in our society is regarded highly throughout the country. Acknowledging the exemplary performance and talent of the State sportspersons, the Central Government gave the approval for establishing Sport University in our State. He continued that nomination of boxer MC Mary Kom as Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha reinforces the principle of the Central Government of empowering women.

He further maintained that our State has highest concentration of handloom weavers across the country. And handloom sector has been providing employment in our society as it is the secondary occupation. The number of National Awardee has been increasing day by day in the field of Handloom and Textiles, he added.

Highlighting the importance of celebrating Children's Day, the Minister said that we should cultivate the habit of discipline to the children. He urged the students to work hard to achieve their goals and contribute for the betterment of the society.

As part of the events cultural programmes were also presented by the students. Today occasion were attended by officials of Education Department, staffs of Tamphasana Girls' Higher Secondary School and students among others.

## Meghachandra Kongbam To Be Jury Member Of Kerala International Film Festival 2018



IT News  
Imphal, Nov 14,

Meghachandra Kongbam, a member of International Federation of Film Critics, has been assigned as one of the members of the Jury at the International Film Festival of Kerala 2018 organized by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy to be held at Thiruvananthapuram from December 7 to 14, 2018. The

Jury will select the best film for 'The International Critics FIPRESCI Prize' of the festival. Klaus Eder, Secretary General of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI), Munich, Germany has communicated the assignment to Meghachandra Kongbam through email yesterday.

Meghachandra Kongbam, who is presently a PR Practitioner and Strategist, is the President of Film Society of Manipur, Advisor of Film Forum, Manipur, and Advisor of Cine Artistes and Technicians Association, Manipur. He is the recipient of Best Film Critic of the National Film Awards 2015. He regularly contributes articles on cinema in the vernacular daily-Poknapam and the English daily-The Hindu.