

History can be never distorted and manipulated: CM

DIPR
Imphal, Nov. 02,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that History can never be distorted and manipulated. This was stated during the opening of the Ethnological Gallery and release of short film of Manipur Legislative Assembly at Old Assembly Complex, Imphal today. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that some people are trying to deconstruct and manipulate histories to gain the popularity of their identities. Building of such museum won't let them to manipulate the historical facts. Quoting Maharajah Bodhachandra, Chief Minister said that from the written records, there were no hill-valley division in the pre-British period and all the communities were living as one in harmony. The Britishers divided the hill and valley on the pretext



Photo by - L. Bijen

of better and convenient administration, he added. He maintained that we need to introspect the

records which would help in Nation Building and regaining oneness among the communities living in

the State. The Chief Minister stated that with such Museum, people can now learn and gain knowledge about the history of administration in Manipur. Such Museum would strengthen the unity and integrity of the State and also help in diminishing the differences among the communities of the State. Chief Minister appreciated the Speaker and the staffs of the Manipur Legislative Assembly for their sincere efforts for building and maintaining such priceless Museum. Speaker of Manipur Legislative Assembly Y. Khemchand, Minister for PWD, Commerce and Industries Th. Biswajit, Minister for Health and Family Welfare L. Jayantakumar, Minister for PHED L. Dikho, Chairman HAC T.T. Haokip, staffs of Manipur Legislative Assembly attended the function.

AFSPA big enabler for operations in Manipur, CBI probe hasn't hit troop morale, says army official

By Rahul Singh
Courtesy: Hindustan Times
Imphal, Nov. 2.

The ongoing probe into cases of alleged extrajudicial killings in Manipur has not hit troop morale or led the force to rework its counter-insurgency strategy, and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is a "big enabler and a prerequisite" for operations in Manipur, a senior army officer said, stressing the force adhered to a strict human rights code. Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh said the law should be reviewed, with the caveat that the decision be taken factoring in that the state shares a porous border with Myanmar. The neighbouring country is known to harbour insurgent safe havens. "The army is doing its job. Why should our strategy change because of the probe? We have full faith in the due process of law. We are a well-trained and regimented force and there is no apprehension about troop morale," said Major General VK Mishra, who heads the Leimakhong-headquartered 57 Mountain Division.

His comments come at a time when the Supreme Court has ordered a special investigation team (SIT) to speed up the registration of cases on alleged fake encounters in Manipur and even as at least 700 soldiers have petitioned the top court against dilution of the AFSPA that shields them from prosecution without the central government's nod. In July 2017, a three-judge bench constituted an SIT to probe 1,528 allegations of human rights violations by

security personnel in Manipur. This was a blow to the immunity enjoyed by security forces in disturbed areas and was seen as diluting the protection under the AFSPA. Mishra was also very clear it was not the right time to review the AFSPA or even dilute the law by withdrawing it from certain areas, given the security climate in the insurgency-hit state.

"We apprehend around 350 insurgents every year on an average. They come out on bail. They are there. Under these conditions, is it the time (to review AFSPA)? Denotifying disturbed areas can convert them into insurgent safe havens," said Mishra, who controls counter-insurgency operations in northeast India's most violent state. As many as 941 security personnel and 1,942 insurgents have been killed in Manipur over the last three decades.

"AFSPA was brought in to control the situation. Naga and Manipuri insurgents were given advanced weapons by outside powers. They have AK-47s, rocket launchers and missiles," army chief General Bipin Rawat said, responding to a question on the

controversial law.

AFSPA bestows sweeping powers on the forces and prohibits prosecutions from being initiated without the go-ahead from the Centre, if the allegations are linked to the public duty of the accused. AFSPA is not in force in Imphal, an area of 34 sq km, where it was denotified in 2004.

The 700 army petitioners have questioned the apex court's ordering of the CBI probe into alleged extra-judicial killings by the army, the Assam Rifles and the Manipur Police. The army's stand has been clear on AFSPA—that soldiers need special protection to discharge duties in areas that have been declared disturbed and the security situation does not merit restricting the scope of the law.

Mishra said that from training to operations, the army has an "in-built human rights" code and the force is very sensitive to such issues. The SIT is currently probing 19 army operations involving 35 deaths.

Responding to a question on the SIT probe, Biren Singh said everyone should get justice, be it the security forces or civilians.

Supreme Court gets 4 new judges

Agency
New Delhi, Nov. 2.

Justices Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi were Friday sworn in as judges of the Supreme Court, taking its strength to 28. The swearing-in ceremony started at 10:30 am in court number 1 of the apex court and Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi administered oath of office to the four judges. The president had Thursday given his assent to the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium for elevating Gupta, Reddy, Shah and Rastogi, who were chief justices of different high courts, as apex court judges. While Justice Gupta was the chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, Justice Reddy was the Gujarat High Court's chief justice. Justice Shah was the chief justice of the Patna High Court and Justice Rastogi was the chief justice of the Tripura High Court. The apex court has a sanctioned strength of 31. With the elevation of these four new judges, the strength has risen from 24 to 28.

India and Myanmar authorities conducted joint survey at International boundary

ITNews
Imphal, Nov. 2.

Authorities of Myanmar and Moreh today conducted joint survey at the controversial India Myanmar Border at Moreh area in Tengenoual district today. Interestingly, no authority of the Manipur state government were present while conducting the survey work. As per our Moreh

Correspondent, Indian representatives includes Joint Secretary Vikram Doraiswami, Ministry of External Affairs, Joint Secretary AV. Reddy, Ministry of Home Affairs (Border Management) Director of International Boundary, Survey of India. From the Myanmar side, Nyii Thun Kyaw -Deputy Director General Administration Tamu District and other officials of

Myanmar joint the survey. The joint team inspected Border Pillar No. 78 and 79 in the morning. Later the team also inspected other border pillar. Whether the state government authority have been informed regarding the survey remain as mystery as state machineries including some top police officials knew nothing about it.

Even sex-workers have right to refuse: Supreme Court

Agency
New Delhi, Nov. 2.

Even sex-workers have a right to refuse their services and seek redressal when forced, the Supreme Court has ruled, overturning a 2009 Delhi High Court judgement and restoring the 10 years jail awarded to four persons by a lower court. The apex court judgement on Tuesday came on a 1997 gang-rap case in the national capital, asking the convicts to surrender within four weeks to serve

the remaining sentence. "Even assuming that the woman was of easy virtue, she has a right of refuse to submit herself to sexual intercourse to anyone," the court observed. A bench of Justices R. Banumathi and Indira Banerjee held that the High Court erred in brushing aside the evidence of the victim by substituting its views and freeing the accused on the ground of they being falsely implicated, since they had lodged complaint accusing her of being a woman of bad

character, who indulged in prostitution. It also set aside the High Court ordering its registry to lodge complaints against three police personnel for prosecuting them for falsely implicating the four persons. The Bench said the trial court had rightly held that "even if the allegations of the accused that the woman is of immoral character are taken to be correct, the same does not give any right to the accused persons to commit rape on her against her consent".

It observed that it is now a well-settled principle of law that conviction can be sustained on the sole testimony of the prosecutrix if it inspires confidence. It held that even in cases where there is some material to show that the victim was habituated to sexual intercourse, no inference should be drawn from that fact alone. It noted that "a woman of easy virtue also could not be raped by a person for that reason."

Health Minister flagged off Swasth Bharat Yatra, Cyclothon

DIPR
Imphal, Nov. 2,

Health and Family Welfare Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh today flagged off a Swasth Bharat Yatra, Cyclothon from the western gate of sacred place, Kangla of Imphal. Speaking at the occasion as Chief Guest Shri Jayantakumar said that organising such

rally will not only propagate the message of good health and wellbeing of the public but also a sense of belongingness and togetherness. Minister also appealed the public for participation and cooperation in such activities. Taking part at the flagging off ceremony as Guest of Honour CAF & PD minister Karam Shyam said that cycling is a

good exercise to reduce one's tension and improve the health condition of individuals. Minister also shared his personal experience of riding bicycle once a week stating that it not only helps saving at least some fuel but also mainstreaming a public life. Band party of 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles also displayed performance by

playing the national anthem as a part of the ceremony. Contingents of NCC boys and Girls were also present at the function. Principal Secretary Health Services Manipur V. Vumlungmang (IAS), Director Health Dr. K. Rajo Singh, SP Imphal West Jogeshechandra Haobijam and others also attended the Flagging off Ceremony.

Unexpected performance by Manipur's Sports person thrills MOA President

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Manipur which emerged as overall champion in the recently concluded 1st North East Olympic Games 2018 by bagging 157 medals including 79 gold, 47 silver and 31 bronze medals bagged as many as 40 gold medals from Wushu (28) and archery (12) while while Assam which bagged the runner up title secured maximum gold medals from Athletics (15), Shooting (7) and Archery (6), according to official records available at Manipur Olympic Association (MOA).

In NE Olympic Games which came to an end on October 28, Assam got 138 medals including 45 gold, 52 silver and 41 bronze medals. It may be worth mentioning that with active participation of around 2000 sports persons and officials from eight North Eastern states, the 1st North East Olympic Games, 2018 was held in Imphal from October 24-28. The sports persons competed in twelve disciplines.

Arunachal Pradesh which secured the third position in the medal tally won maximum number of gold medals from Karate do (9) and Weightlifting (5) while Mizoram got maximum gold medals from Judo (3) and boxing (2). Nagaland which secured fifth position in the medal tally with 41 medals including 6 gold, 9

silver and 26 bronze medals, won a total of 3 gold medals from athletics alone. Meghalaya which occupied 6th in the medal tally won their gold medals from Athletics, Boxing and Table tennis while 7th position Sikkim won its lone gold medal from taekwondo.

Interestingly unlike other NE states, Tripura which usually good in athletics could not get a gold medal in the games though they managed to 21 medals including 3 silvers and 18 bronze medals.

Meanwhile speaking to media here, President of MOA Thokchom Radheshyam Singh appealed to the sports persons of Manipur to prepare and achieve better performance in the 2nd edition of North East Olympic Games to be held in Arunachal Pradesh next year.

Expressing concern over the unexpected performances by sportspersons of the neighbouring states in the 5 days 1st North East Olympic Games which concludes here on October 28, Radheshyam said, "We still need to have better performance in the upcoming games." Stating that the host state Manipur could bag the overall team champion in the Games with the blessings of the people of the State, he lauded the coaches and the players representing the State for their dedication and hard-work to win this coveted title.