

RTI Week Celebration concludes

Politics should be totally excluded from the activities and agenda of RTI: Minister K Shyam



DIPR
Imphal, Oct. 10,

CAF & PD Minister Karam Shyam expressed that Right to Information Act 2005 is very important in a democratic State like Manipur for ensuring full transparency and accountability of the different activities and functioning of the Government for the service and interest of the public. He said this while gracing the Closing function of Right to Information Week Celebration-2018 at Lamyamba Shanglein, Konung Lampak yesterday. Deputy Chairman of Manipur State Planning Board, Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh; Chief Information Commissioner, Th Ibobi Singh; Information Commissioners Dr. S Ibocha Singh and Onam Sunil Singh also attended the function as President and Guests of Honour respectively. The function was organized by Manipur Information Commission with sponsorship from Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of

Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension, Government of India, New Delhi. Comparing India with other civilized foreign countries, Minister Karam Shyam stated that RTI is not at all required to the same extent we need here because in Manipur, we face critical situation and big challenges in connection with bringing transparency in governance unlike them. RTI activists need sound knowledge and power to be able to perform their tasks effectively and efficiently, he added. Elected leaders should not abridge the rights of the people in any way and use properly the local area developed funds entrusted to them in the interest of the public, he assured. Appealing the students to create a State without a need for RTI in their times, Minister Shyam said that honestly should be inculcated since childhood. S Rajen highlighted that Government schemes regarding health and start-up programmes with a total investment of Rs.3 crores with

30 % subsidy for the innovative youths should reach the rightful hands of the people. He also appealed the officials and RTI activists present at the function not to misuse the RTI for personal gains and political assassination. Manipur strongly needs RTI for ensuring quality maintenance, bringing sound development in all departments and for striving for a corruption-free State. Sharing his knowledge on RTI and its need in Manipur, Chief Information Commissioner Th Ibobi stated that information exchange is very important the public should use RTI for right purpose apart from bringing transparency and accountability. Amarjit Okram, Namrata Chinglembi Konsam and Tourangbam Sonia Serafina clinched the top 3 spots of the RTI essay competition. Government officials of related Departments, Public Information Officials, Zilla Parishad members, RTI activists students took in the RTI Closing Ceremony.

New Farakka Express derailed near Rae Bareli; eight killed

Uttar Pradesh, Oct. 10

Eight people were killed and more than two dozen injured after 5 coaches including the engine of the New Farakka Express train derailed near Harchandpur railway station in Raebareli this morning. NDRF teams from Lucknow and Varanasi have reached the spot and are helping with the rescue. Local people are also helping them in rescue operation. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced 2 lakh rupees

compensation for the deceased and 50000 rupees for the seriously injured. Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has announced an ex-gratia of 5 lakh rupees for the next of kin of the deceased in the incident of derailment of New Farakka Express this morning. Mr Goyal has also announced a compensation of 1 lakh rupees for those with serious injuries and 50 thousand rupees for those with minor injuries. The Minister has directed the railway administration to

effectively undertake relief and rescue operation and provide best possible medical help to the injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed grief on the loss of lives due to the rail accident in Raebareli. In a tweet, he said, Uttar Pradesh Government, Railways and NDRF are ensuring all possible assistance at the site of the accident. The Prime Minister offered condolences to the bereaved families and wished speedy recovery of the injured.

President Kovind inaugurates two-day Accountant General conference in New Delhi today

Agency
New Delhi, Oct. 10

President Ram Nath Kovind today called for introspection and deliberations on the need to further promoting accountability, transparency and good governance. Mr Kovind was speaking after inaugurating the two-day Accountants General conference in New Delhi today. He said the

government is making great strides in ushering digital India. The President said, the institution of the Comptroller and Auditor General plays a vital role in ensuring transparency of operations and promoting good governance. He said, the 150 year-old institution has lived up to the country's expectations and has graduated from promoting accountability through accounts to

ensuring that the right things are done in the right and least expensive ways. Mr Kovind said, the broad mandate and range of audit assignments, transactions and operations as well as the expertise required for a thorough analysis is challenging and the institution has always risen to the occasion. The theme of this year's conference is auditing and accounting in a digital era.

SC asks Centre to provide details of decision making process in Rafale deal

Agency
New Delhi, Oct. 10

The Supreme Court today asked the Centre to provide details of the decision making process in the Rafale fighter jet deal with France in a sealed cover but clarified that it does not want information on pricing and technical particulars. The apex court sought

information from the Centre by 29th October and fixed the next hearing on the PILs on 31st October. The bench, comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph, also made it clear that it was not taking into account the allegations on corruption in the deal made in the petitions. Attorney General K K Venugopal told the apex

court that the issue in question pertains to national security and such issues cannot be reviewed judicially. The apex court, however, did not issue notice to the Centre on two PILs filed by two separate lawyers seeking a court monitored probe in the deal. The top court was hearing various petitions seeking directions, including asking the Centre to reveal details of

the deal and the comparative prices during the UPA and NDA rule in a sealed cover to the apex court. The Rafale deal is a defence agreement signed between the governments of India and France for the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter aircrafts in a fly-away condition as a part of the upgrading process of Indian Air Force equipment.

Nagaland BJP has taken strong roots all over the state: Ram Madhav

Agency
Mokokchung, Oct. 10,

Ram Madhav was speaking at the BJP Nagaland state unit's 7th State Executive meeting at Town Hall in the city. The BJP national general secretary claimed that BJP has "taken strong roots all over Nagaland". BJP national general secretary, Ram Madhav on Tuesday asserted that the people of Nagaland have rejected the NPF in the last election. The mandate of the people should be respected and ensure that the ruling PDA coalition government is allowed to run smoothly, he said.

Speaking at the BJP Nagaland state unit's 7th State Executive meeting at Town Hall here, Ram Madhav affirmed that pre-poll alliance with the NDPP and others would be maintained in order to maintain a stable government in Nagaland. Taking a jab at the opposition NPF with which his party was in alliance in the previous government, Madhav said that politics was not charity, saying political parties want to strengthen their base and grow. He claimed that NPF restrained BJP's growth in Nagaland prompting the latter to forge a pre-poll alliance with NDPP on seat sharing basis. Making the stance of the BJP clear, Madhav challenged the state BJP to "capture power to serve the people." He, however, said that the BJP was a party of discipline and accountability, adding that the party ought to "grow through our performance." Claiming that BJP has "taken strong roots all over Nagaland", BJP national general secretary congratulated the state BJP on being in the ruling PDA government. He said BJP attaches "great importance" to the party's "victory" in Nagaland. Madhav expressed confidence that the party's next target should be to install its own government in Nagaland. Earlier at the meeting, Ram Madhav launched the official website of the State BJP. Delivering his presidential address at the meeting, Nagaland BJP president and minister for H&TE, Temjen Imna Along Longkumer, said that 12 BJP legislators being elected to the present NLA was unprecedented, adding that it was the "beginning of a new BJP" in Nagaland. Encouraging party workers, state BJP chief said party was for development and that it was upon the workers to let the lotus bloom in every nook and corner of the state. He also urged the BJP workers to be

active at the grassroots level, saying state BJP would try to bridge the gap between rural and urban Nagaland. Later, he declared that two new "political districts" of Aboi in Mon and Mangkolemba in Mokokchung would be created for better political maneuvering. He also said the state BJP would also institute an ex-servicemen cell. It was also declared that state BJP would hold its executive meeting once every three months, with next meeting scheduled at Noklak. In his address, Nagaland deputy chief minister Y. Patton, who is also the leader of BJP

legislature party, said that BJP was neither anti-Christian party nor Hindu party, but a political party for all Indians and committed to development. He reminded that it was former prime minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee who recognised the uniqueness of Naga history in 2003. Regarding rail link construction from Dimapur-Zubza, Patton said the contractors have assured the government for early completion of railway line. He said the central government was ready to sanction funds for construction of Express Highways and railway from Thelma, Peren district to Tizit, Mon district provided all the affected districts provide NOC. In this regard, he appealed to all the affected districts to provide NOC and receive the better development. Organizing secretary north east in-charge, Ajay Jamwal and Nagaland minister P Paiwang Konyak also addressed the meeting. The meeting was attended by delegates from all the 12 districts of Nagaland, state BJP central leaders, state BJP legislators and other BJP functionaries. The meeting also adopted a seven-point resolution.

Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot raided, CM Arvind Kejriwal hits out at Centre

Agency
New Delhi, Oct. 10

Income tax authorities are carrying out searches at 16 locations linked to Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot including his Vasant Kunj house. Searches were also underway at Brisk Infrastructure and Developers Ltd and Corporate International Financial Services Ltd. Tax officials have raided locations in Delhi's residential areas such as Defence Colony and Vasant

Kunj as well as offices and residences in Paschim Vihar, Najafgarh, Laxmi Nagar and Palam Vihar area in Gurugram. The raids started early this morning, Delhi government sources said. The searches are being conducted as part of a tax evasion probe against two firms that are operated and owned by the family members of Gahlot, officials said, according to news agency PTI. They said multiple transactions and alleged

under-reporting of profits has led the department to launch a tax evasion probe against the promoters of the two firms and their operations. While the former company is engaged in the real estate sector, the latter is said to be a Non-Banking Financial Company. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his party AAP alleged the raids were another example of what it called was the BJP's political vendetta.

Cyclonic storm Titli intensifies into severe cyclonic storm today

Odisha, Oct 10

The cyclonic storm 'Titli' over west central Bay of Bengal intensified into a severe cyclonic storm today. It is very likely to intensify further into a very severe cyclonic storm during next 12 to 18 hours. The system is moving north-northwestwards and is very likely to cross Odisha coast and adjoining North Andhra Pradesh coast between Gopalpur and Kalingapatnam around tomorrow morning. Under the cyclonic impact heavy rain is now occurring at many coastal and isolated places of Odisha. As per the information received from Bhubaneswar met office, the wind speed-reaching 60-70 km

per hour gusting to 80 km per hour and is very likely to commence along and off Odisha coast from today evening. The Met office said the intensity of the storm is likely to increase gradually becoming 130 km per hour gusting to 145 km per hour from tonight onwards along and off Odisha coast. Currently Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Ganjam, Puri, Gajapati districts are receiving medium to heavy rain fall. The Met office also said the rain will continue till Friday. Meanwhile, the Odisha government has geared up to face the situation setting a target of zero casualty. It has ordered closure of schools,

colleges and anganwadi centres in Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri and Jagtsinghpur from today. The government directed the collectors of at least 15 districts to remain on and take all possible measures to tackle the situation. Special Relief Commissioner's office said around 300 motor boats have been arranged to assist in the rescue operation and the entire 879 cyclone and flood shelters have been kept in a state of preparedness. During previous cyclones such as Phailin in 2013 and Hudhud in 2014, the government had ensured zero casualty and earned laurels from the United Nations for successful disaster management.

Patna: 3-year-old allegedly raped by karate teacher, hospitalised

Agency
Patna Oct 10,

A three-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her karate teacher at Digha area of Patna late on Tuesday. The girl has been admitted to a private hospital. The teacher has

been arrested. Police said the karate teacher, who was supposed to take the girl to her relative's place on his bicycle, took the girl instead to a secluded spot where he allegedly raped her. "The teacher fled the spot after the girl had started

crying", said a Digha police station officer adding the girl's parents started searching for the girl when she was not found at her relative's place. The police found her in a semi-conscious state near a field. The teacher was arrested later.