

Interaction and collaboration between the elected leaders and the public is important for effective Governance: Minister K Shyam

DIPR

Imphal, Oct. 9. Minister of CAF & PD, Revenue, Karam Shyam expressed that the State will develop if the public co-ordinate with the Government in minimizing and checking the mistakes of the politicians from the grassroots level to the top. He was talking on the importance of constant interaction of the public with the elected leaders in order to propel the present society towards progress and development while gracing the Second Special Gram Sabha of Langthabal Mantrikong Naorem Leikai Gram Panchayat as Chief Guest at Keibung Oinam Leikai yesterday.

Pradhan of Langthabal Mantrikong Naorem Leikai Gram Panchayat, Aheibam Sunanda; Zilla Parishad Member of Imphal West, Laishram Roshan and senior citizen and social worker, Laishram Ibohah also shared the dais with the Minister at the function as President and Guests of Honour respectively. Briefing media persons, Minister Karam Shyam drew the attention of the public to stop the bad habit of criticizing others and overlooking our own mistakes. "Let's stop blaming others, let's instead try to inculcate a sense of responsibility and work together by supporting and correcting each other", he



said. Highlighting that the current political system needs change as it seems to favour the opportunists and victimize the timid and selfless altruists, he stated that there is need to change the election and political system to bring more transparency and better administration in the State. Governance is a tough task that requires sacrifice and keeping the overall interest and welfare of the society above self-interest and personal gains, he also stated. He also expressed regret that the Direct Benefit Transfer schemes cannot still be fully actualized due to certain reasons, he said.

He also appealed the masses to collaborate and support with the elected leaders by acknowledging the significance of the Gram Sabha and to give whole-hearted public participation. He also stated that the public should not stay as silent spectators to mob-lynching incidents and try render their civic duty if possible. Zilla Parishad Member Laishram Roshan stressed that the basic reason hampering development is the shortage of funds due to the devolution of power and finance to them. "At present, we get only 3% funds instead of 10% that the State finance should provide us. MNREGA is

going backward due to it", he stated. Staff of Horticulture Department, Lenin Khwairakpam gave a briefing on the various schemes taken up by their Department, creation of water sources & Human Resource Development during the functions. Primary Health Centre, Kakwa staff, N Roji also shared her expertise knowledge on making health cards using AADHAR cards for the disables and widows. Members and ex-members of Langthabal Mantrikong Naorem Leikai Gram Panchayat, senior citizens and its locals took part in the meetings.

Army Commanders' meet to discuss 'leaner and meaner' force to begin in New Delhi today

New Delhi, Oct. 9

The Indian Army's first step towards becoming a 'leaner and meaner' force is set to begin on Tuesday as top commanders in the force are set to discuss operational challenges and other reform initiatives during a week-long conference in New Delhi. The officers will brainstorm on various issues ranging from operations and administration to logistics and human resources during the meet from October 9-15, an official statement said. The previous Army Commanders' Conference was held in April 2018.

Commanders and directorates in Army Headquarters will debate in a collegiate on important studies that have been initiated to meet future operational challenges at the conclave. There are four studies examining the operational and optimization issues of Army and the headquarters, as well as that of human resources management aspects, the statement said.

The studies aim to improve the teeth to tail ratio, with the purpose of strengthening the structures within the Army, to make it combat ready for the future, it added. Issues related to reform initiatives in the force are also expected to be discussed at the meet. 'Tooth to tail' ratio (T3R) is a military term that refers to the number of military personnel it takes to supply and support (tail) each combat soldier (tooth). Simply put, the T3R in the Army is the ratio of fighting arms, which wage the actual battle such as the infantry and the armoured wings, to the support services viz. logistics, signals, and ordnance.

India has the world's third-largest standing Army and in order to make it a leaner and meaner fighting force, the then Chief of the Army Staff, General Dalbir Singh Suhag had ordered a high-level study to determine and recommend measures to improve its tooth-to-tail ratio. Army Chief General Bipin Rawat and top commanders had last month held detailed

discussions on ways to make the force "leaner and meaner", which included carrying out an extensive organisational restructuring and also downsizing of the force.

India's Defence Ministry has announced a series of reform measures for the Army, including redeployment of nearly 57,000 officers and other ranks as well as ensuring better utilisation of resources.

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court on Monday termed the Indian Army's practice of having only women in its nursing service as "gender discrimination".

"It is gender discrimination, only the other way round," a bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V K Rao observed after it was informed that male nurses were not recruited into the Army's nursing branch.

The court gave the Centre two months time to take a decision on the issue and set the date for the next hearing on the matter on 21 January 2019.

Pakistan-based JeM chief Masood Azhar bed-ridden for months with life-threatening ailment

Agency

New Delhi, Oct. 9

Masood Azhar, the chief of the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), has been confined to bed with a life-threatening condition, Indian intelligence officials said, and the proscribed Deobandi outfit is now operationally divided between his two younger brothers, Rauf Asghar and Athar Ibrahim, who continue to carry out jihadist attacks on India and Afghanistan.

Azhar, 50, is suffering ailments that have affected his spinal cord and kidney, the officials added, declining to elaborate. Intelligence officials, who asked not to be identified, said Azhar is believed to have been treated for his spinal cord and renal condition at the Combined Military Hospital in Rawalpindi, and that the jihadist leader has been bedridden for at least a year and a half.

Indian diplomats Agency spoke to could not confirm Azhar's illness but said the terrorist leader, whose designation by UN as global

terrorist (a move sponsored by India) was blocked by China, had not been sighted in public either in his home town Bhawalpur or anywhere else in Pakistan.

That makes India's job easier, one expert added. "There is no need to India to give concessions to Beijing over designation of Azhar as the terrorist has been struck with debilitating illness," said a senior counter-terrorism official based in the Capital. A dreaded Islamist, Indian officials hold Azhar responsible for a string of suicide terror attacks on Indian soil including the 2001 attack on Parliament, the 2005 attack in Ayodhya and the 2016 attack on Pathankot airport. Though these attacks were partially successful, they were aimed to either force India to initiate armed hostilities against Pakistan or cause communal conflagration in India.

Azhar was freed by India and transported to Kandahar in exchange for hijacked passengers of IC-814 in 1999; that hijacking was

supported by the then Taliban and al-Qaeda chiefs and the ISI.

The 814 hijacking was carried out by Athar Ibrahim, who is now handling terror strikes in Afghanistan and Baluchistan from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region, according to officials. The Jaish operation in Afghanistan has joined hands with Taliban, with whom it shares Deobandi ideology, for attacks against the Ashraf Ghani government in Ghazni province in August.

Azhar's other brother, Rauf Asghar has taken over terror operations against India particularly in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. India and the US are currently discussing moves to brand Asghar a global terrorist by the Trump administration and the UN 1267 committee, say intelligence officials. Jaish is also acting as an arm of Pakistan deep state and is involved, according to the officials, in neutralising Baluchi tribal leaders opposed to Islamabad and Rawalpindi GHQ (general headquarters).

Education Minister lays foundation stone for Govt. Engg. College & Model Residential School

DIPR

Imphal, Oct. 9

Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam, yesterday, laid the foundation stones of Government Engineering College and Model Residential School at Khangarok, Heirok.

He said that the Model Residential School is being constructed under the Minority Concentrations Block. The Minister was speaking at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony organized by the Department of Education. He said that out of seven residential schools to be constructed in Manipur for Thoubal district the school is being built at Heirok along with a hundred bedded hostels each. Th. Radheshyam said that upgrading the Residential Schools from VIII to XII standard, especially meant for the girl child belonging to economically minority section of the society was proposed voicing the campaign of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' emphasizing on the need to let the students have complete minimum education of up to XII standard. He explained that thus the Residential schools have now been upgraded to class XII being approved by the Ministry of HRD, the students presently studying in IXth standard can study upto XII standard in the same school. In Manipur all the nine Residential Schools including eleven KGBV have been upgraded, he added.



The Minister said that the HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar was also highlighted about the necessity of introducing another university in the State as the passing out number of students from colleges outnumbered the seat capacity of Manipur University. He explained that the Dhanamanjuri University and the Government Engineering College were both approved by the HRD Ministry after giving assurance and agreeing to the proposal of the Ministry that no issue will rise in regards to the land required for the construction of the institutions. He said that both the educational institutions being introduced in Khangarok will not only boost educational

competence of the area and Manipur as a whole but will also increase economic activities of the people of the surrounding villages. The college and the school being located at this far corner of the village will also lead to the development of the connecting route of the village to the location. For fast progress in the development of the institutions, the Minister sought the support and cooperation from the people for carrying out the construction and other infrastructural development work of the institutions. Vice Chairman, Manipur Infrastructure Development Agency (MIDA), O. Lukhoh said that the Government of India is giving huge emphasis in education sector, the most important

sector for the human resource development. He added that the college and the school are being provided as per the need and importance of the State. Director Education (S), Th. Kirankumar Singh said that when the new college becomes fully functional, it will help the State's inspiring students to pursue in the field of Engineering. The Minister who is also the MLA of Heirok also assured the people that certain developmental works in relations to agriculture, fishery and connectivity will be taken in the village. The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony organized by the Department of Education was attended by dignitaries, concerned officials of the Department of Education and locals.

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir

Srinagar, Oct 9

Most of the higher reaches in Kashmir received fresh snowfall while plains were lashed by rains Tuesday, forcing the closure of the Srinagar-Leh national highway, officials said. A Traffic department official said traffic has been stopped

on the highway on both sides as a precautionary measure in the wake of snowfall. He said due to snowfall on the alternate road-link, which connects Kashmir Valley with Jammu and the rest of the country, has been stopped.

Srinagar, received rains, the official said.

Owing to snowfall and rains on Zojila Pass, traffic on the Srinagar-Leh national highway has been suspended.

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There are reports of snowfall in most areas in the higher reaches in Kashmir, he said. The plains of the valley, including summer capital

Two arrested for impersonating BJP MP in UP

Muzaffarnagar, Oct 9

Two students have been arrested for impersonating BJP MP Sanjeev Balyan from Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar, police said on Tuesday. The students used to give

instructions to senior state officials by making phone calls posing as the BJP MP, Superintendent of Police Ompr Singh said.

During investigation, police seized their mobile phone and arrested them on Monday, he said.