

more State

Minister Jayantakumar Cheques Amounting Rs. 57,50,000 Distributed To Five ADCs

DIPR
Imphal, August, 16,

Art & Culture Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh today handed over Cheques Amounting Rs. 57,50,000 (fifty seven lakhs and fifty thousand) to five ADCs of the state. The autonomous district councils include Chandel, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Tamenglong and Senapati.

The cheques were distributed under the Art & Culture Department, Government of Manipur in the presence of the media persons at the conference hall of the minister at old Secretariat Complex. Speaking at the occasion Minister Jayantakumar said that the government is committed to develop and promote art & cultural activities of the state which is indigenous in nature. He said

that despite financial constraints of the state the art and culture department is initiating all possible measures to boost the rich art and culture of the state. Each autonomous districts received two different cheques bearing a value of Rs. 7,00,000/- (Seven lakh) and Rs. 4,50,000/- (four lakh fifty thousand) respectively. Rs. 7,00,000/- (Seven lakh) is meant for development of District Library and Rs. 4,50,000

(four lakh fifty thousand) is meant for development of indigenous form of art and culture, minister added. The amount is released for the year 2018-19. Minister also assured to increase the amount in the coming years. Director Art & Culture, A. Shivas Sharma, Joint Director, Shri Kesorjit Singh, representatives and officials from ADCs were also present at the occasion.

Assam Rifles Celebrates 73rd Independence Day

IGAR (South)
Imphal Aug 17,

Assam Rifles to commemorate the 73rd Independence Day celebrations, witnessed a range of activities at various locations in Manipur under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) on 15th August 2019. The 73rd Independence Day was celebrated by the units of 9 Sector Assam Rifles at the Sector Headquarters, all Battalion Headquarters and Company Operating Bases with the locals and the school children. The celebrations included hoisting of the National Flag, playing of the National Anthem, conduct of cultural programmes, games and competitions. The 73rd Independence Day was also celebrated with much fanfare in Ukhrul where a total of 44 contingents including Army Veterans, Police, Manipur Rifles, NCC and School students marched on the tune of Somsai Battalion Assam Rifles band. The participation and enthusiasm shown while hoisting the national flag setup a patriotic backdrop to the Independence Day parade. In spite of the rain and cloudy weather thousands of locals came to witness the parade. Nothing could deter the spirits of both the participants and the spectators. Kendriya Vidyalaya Ukhrul secured the first position and was adjudged the best marching contingent. Somsai Battalion of 10 Sector Assam Rifles performed various functions for the youth at Poi, a remote village near Indo-Myanmar border to include painting competition and sports events. The celebrations began with the flag hoisting and singing of National Anthem. The painting competition was organised on the theme of 'Independent India'. The young children participated with full zeal and enthusiasm. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by the young talent. It was followed by prize distribution and culminated with refreshments for the students. In addition, a volleyball match was played between the local youth club and Assam Rifles soldiers of Poi post. The villagers expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the genuine efforts of Assam Rifles in reinforcing the spirit of national integration. Moltuk Battalion celebrated 73rd Independence Day at their Battalion headquarters and at all Company Operating Bases in remembrance of the



sacrifices made by the freedom fighters, in which the locals and school children participated with lots of enthusiasm and zeal. Games and competitions to include drawing and painting competition were also organised for the school children and youth who had attended the function. The day also saw enthusiastic participation from everyone and provided an opportunity to interact with the locals, spread awareness about security forces and generated a sense of patriotism amongst all attendees. The endeavour of Moltuk Battalion in promoting peace and harmony in the region was appreciated by all. Churachandpur Sector Assam Rifles commemorated the 73rd Independence Day with great zeal and enthusiasm across all headquarters and operating bases in the districts of Churachandpur and Pherzawl. The celebrations involved wide range of activities to include flag hoisting, wreath laying, motivational lectures in schools, interaction with ex servicemen and the families of martyrs etc. The main ceremony was organised at Churachandpur Sector Assam Rifles wherein the Sector Commander paid homage to the martyrs and their sacrifices in the form of a wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial. Later, the Commander also interacted with over 50 Ex-Servicemen and their families to understand their concerns while assuring all necessary measures to ameliorate the same. On the occasion of Independence Day, Deputy Commissioner, Pherzawl hoisted the flag in District Level Independence Day 2019 celebrations in which Aina Battalion provided significant support. March past by the school students on the tune of Assam Rifles anthem and National Anthem played by Assam Rifles band was able to instill the feeling

of patriotism among the civil dignitaries as well as the youth and school students. In the end Deputy Commissioner culminated the event giving vote of thanks to Assam Rifles for their unflinching support to local people of the area. This collaborative effort of civil dignitaries and Assam Rifles on Independence Day Celebrations again proved Assam Rifles to be the True Friends of North East. Sajik Battalion organised a series of events to commemorate 73rd Independence Day. Flag hoisting and distribution of sweets was conducted at all Company Operating Bases of the Unit, which was attended by large number of locals with lots of enthusiasm and zeal. The celebrations began by hoisting the National Flag followed by the release of a video showcasing the unflinching nationalism of people of Sajik Valley in synchronizing with the spirit of one nation. Subsequently, inauguration of Ex-Servicemen Facilitation Centre was done to provide single window assistance to all Ex-Servicemen of the area. The program concluded with jointly planting the saplings, emphasising the bonhomie between Assam Rifles and local population and their united effort for conserving the environment. In order to promote healthy motherhood, the Unit Hospital conducted the Antenatal Camp in coordination with civil PHC staff. This included medical examination and interactive sessions to educate young mothers. The positivity and nationalism created by the event will certainly usher the area towards peace and has forged irreversible bonds between the locals and the Assam Rifles. The 73rd Independence Day was also celebrated at Shelhon Battalion Headquarters as well as in all their company operating bases. It was celebrated by all ranks of this unit with

great zeal and enthusiasm with villagers of the remote Samtal Salient. The celebration started with hoisting of national flag and singing of national anthem with full enthusiasm and a message of bon-homie, freedom and friendship was shared under the national flag which further cemented the bond between the villagers and troops. A total of 150 villagers of the region participated in this auspicious occasion. The aspirations of the locals are being fulfilled by the Samaritan deeds of Shelhon Battalion where the entire population of the Samtal Salient is part of nation's inclusive growth. The celebrations culminated with traditional lunch organised by Shelhon Battalion for the entire attendees. To celebrate 73rd Independence Day and amalgamate the local population in the celebration, Joupi Battalion also organized a two-day Volleyball competition with effect from 14 to 15 August 2019. A total of 10 boy's team including team of Joupi Battalion Assam Rifles and 06 girl's team from as many nearby villages participated in the tournament with an exemplary zeal and fervour. The competition culminated with the team of Joupi Battalion and Hollengiang village declared winner and runner up respectively in the boy's category. In girl's category, the team of village Saibol Joupi and village Joupi were declared winner and runner up respectively. The prize distribution ceremony was carried out to felicitate all the participating teams. A total of 100 boys and 60 girls participated in the competition while hundreds of local people witnessed the competition over a period of two days. The competition was well received by the local population wherein all the village Chiefs and population expressed their gratitude.

'Kashmir is a signal for us, It's a warning for us to be very careful about this government'

By Mrudula Bhavani
Courtesy – Keyboard journal

The BJP led government abrogated articles 370 and 35 A and Kashmir's enduring an unprecedented siege. As a Manipuri how do you see this situation?

I feel article 370 was just there for namesake as India never respected it. Whatever the Indian government and Indian army had been doing in Kashmir was the same, they had been treating Kashmiris in a similar way for the past seven decades. I think people are more aware of the situation now as they scrapped these articles. Before that itself they were treating the people in the same manner. I think here the Indian government would be exposed, now everyone globally is getting to know the way they treat a particular community. Manipur also is militarized in the similar way, every nook and corner is occupied by the Indian army from before. Kashmir is a good example now

to prove they can do anything wherever they want. Specifically in North East, which is not part of 'cow belt area', they can do whatever they want. It's a signal for us. It's a warning for us to be very careful about this government. That's what India had been doing towards the minorities.

Regarding North East, Indians are now talking about article 371 and how they fantasise of scrapping it. But for the North East the real scary thing is the Citizenship Amendment Bill (2016). Imagine they scrap 371 and pass CAB, demographically north east will become the 'cow belt'. It will totally destroy our culture, history, identity, etc. And I am sure it must be one of the dreams of this government under their one nation one religion goal. Media houses like NDTV made their stand clear that they consider Kashmir as an integral part of India. What you have to say about this and

the arrest and attack on press rights of Kashmiri journalists?

It is funny we have seen it before. The liberal Indians would support Palestine but they would never support Kashmir's fight for self determination. The Indian media is an example of that.

A series of constitutional amendments were executed in parliament recently. What do you have to say about Indians who are silently watching these aggressive developments?

More than half of Indians selected this fascist government. So I am not surprised the whole country is quiet. And I believe UAPA bill is a real threat to all the activists and concerned citizens. The government knows how people would react to what they are doing with Kashmir that's why they need such draconian and inhuman bill.

Akh Chingangbam is the founder of Manipuri political rock band Imphal Talks.

Private hospitals – in imperative call for a robust CGHS system

By a Correspondent
Dr Vinay Aggarwal,

In order to improve the healthcare structure in India, Government has come up with one of the world's largest public healthcare programs – Ayushman Bharat, which being an insurance scheme will provide with cashless transaction. While the question remains unclear regarding the reimbursement, when even a much smaller scheme for the central Government employees, CGHS, is already suffering and is in a muddle. Recently, the hospitals empanelled under CGHS have been issued notices for refusing to admit CGHS beneficiaries and that the government is bound to take strict action against the hospitals. While still the question remains that most of the private hospitals have not yet received the reimbursement amount for rendering services from the government and the value now amounts to around Rs 700 crores. Again the setback remains with the payment terms, while the CGHS payments are not made for months together or the hospital receives fewer amounts without any indication of the reasons for deduction. In this view, many hospitals have been closed and some

are on the verge of being closed. Even the corporate chains are facing the same concern. Understanding the CGHS muddle

Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) runs under the administration of Ministry of health and Family Welfare, was introduced with an aim to provide complete healthcare services to the Government servants at subsidized costs in cashless mode through a network of hospitals empanelled under CGHS (70% in the private sector), which shall further claim their reimbursement from the Government later.

No Legal Agreement - Since 2014, CGHS has entered into an agreement with the empanelled private hospitals valid for two years, but neither the agreement was ever signed and provided to the hospital nor the extension took place. This clearly indicates that there exists no such legal agreement validly signed by both parties.

Unbattered pricing for Hospitals – After the arbitrary agreement for voluntary participation of hospital in the CGHS, the pricing agreed upon during 2014 remains unchanged even in 2019. There seems no

justification for the prices provided by the Government to the hospitals as the hospital's costs surely increases with every year.

Reputed credit terms – As it is evident from the outstanding reimbursement amount to approx Rs 700 crore, CGHS has never paid the hospitals as per the agreed credit period. While the foremost duty and responsibility of the hospital is to treat the patient, but the Government never thinks that the hospitals end up locking their working capital for the sole purpose of treating CGHS beneficiaries as the payments are delayed for months. According to the agreement, CGHS has agreed upon to pay 60% of the bill value within one week of submission, which until now remains hypothetical.

The need of the hour – A Robust CGHS system

Evident enough, currently CGHS system is monumentally inefficient and under-funded. The Government should come forward and take responsibility to enhance the reimbursement process and make things insync. Being an indirect blame game on the part of both Government and Private Hospitals, patients and society is the ultimate sufferers.

There should be transparent, clear cut directions along with a robust reimbursement system in this scheme to be implemented. The rates for various medical procedures should be decided in consultation with various stakeholders. Abysmally low or unmanageable rates will breed corruption and make this scheme unviable. In order to clean up the mess around the CGHS and improve the current condition, there is an incessant need for improvement and quality control, along with a streamlined reimbursement process which will make CGHS as desired for all.

Sun Valley hospital to conduct next media OPD clinic

By a Correspondent
Guwahati Aug 17,

City based Sun Valley hospital, a unit of Sun Valley Diabetic Care & Research Centre, will conduct tomorrow's media OPD clinic at Guwahati Press Club on 17 August

(Saturday), where the scribes along with their families will be offered free consultations from experienced physicians between 4 am and 6 pm (of 17 August). The participants will also get the opportunity to check their blood sugar & pressure.