

Govt. lays foundation stones for improvement of 60 Govt. Schools

DIPR
Imphal, Aug 17,

In what could be called as a historic move of the State Government, foundation stones for improvement of 60 Government schools under 'School Fagathansi' mission were laid at different places of the State today. The main function was held at the Cabinet Hall of Chief Minister's Secretariat, where Chief Minister N. Biren Singh interacted with the dignitaries and officials present at seven different schools through video conferencing. During the interaction, he directed the *School Fagathansi Mission Management Committees* to work sincerely

and ensure completion of improvement works within three months.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the State Government is giving serious thrust to improvement of education system of the State. He appealed to all the Government teachers to work with dedication, while stating that he has received information, though not confirmed, regarding sending substitutes by some teachers. He asked such teachers to immediately stop such malpractices if they are really indulging in it. Like in Manipur Police Department, he said, the State Government is in active consideration to install biometrics attendance machines in Government schools to ensure presence of teachers at their posting places.

N. Biren Singh said that the State Government had taken up the initiative of 'School Fagathansi' mission to give a renewed thrust towards overall improvement of Government schools in terms of physical and manpower infrastructural gaps and also to increase in enrollment in the Government schools. He stressed that feedbacks gathered through his Government's 'Go to Village' and 'Go to Hills' missions had been an important input for the Government to mend certain gaps and factors hindering development in the State. Economic condition of common people has not improved despite Government's effort as they generally spend huge amount of money in their children's education. As such, the Government decided to enhance the condition of Government schools by initiating the mission, he added.

In his speech, N. Biren Singh also appreciated the Education Minister, Education (S) Department, teachers and general public for their efforts and cooperation

in making the initiation a success. He also said that around 2200 teachers/Lecturers had applied for posting in the model schools selected each in all the 60 Assembly constituencies under the mission. He informed that adequate number of motivated and committed Lecturers/teachers would be posted in these model schools. Once a teacher is posted in these schools, he or she would stay there for at least 3 years, he said. Additional infrastructures like classrooms, decent school campus, sufficient school furniture, outdoor gymnasium, separate toilets for boys and girls, drinking water facilities among other basic standards as per the Right to Education norms will be provided at the schools, he added.

He also expressed glad that most of the MLAs had shown willingness to contribute some portion of their Local Area Development Funds towards improvement of these schools. Meanwhile, a proposal for financial assistance had been submitted to the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) for infrastructure improvement of remaining around 2000 Government schools of the State as well, he added.

It may be mentioned that Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh launched the 'School Fagathansi' mission at a function held at Yumnam Huidrom Government High School, Wangoi in Imphal West District on January 18 this year. Under the mission one High or Higher Secondary School in each Assembly Constituency was selected in the first phase. The schools shall have classes from Pre-Primary to Class X or Class XII, except in nine schools. Enrollment in Government schools is targeted to increase from 26,000 at present to around 44,000 in the next academic session.

Boy injured in collapse of school

IT News
Imphal, Aug 17,

While the government of Manipur is on a mission to improve 60 government schools in the state, a boy was badly injured when a school construction site collapsed yesterday evening at Laphupat Tera Mayai Leikai. The State government today laid foundation for improvement of the 60 government schools under its School Fagathansi Mission. The school was constructed with SAA funds recently. The local people at Laphupat Tera Mayai Leikai had already cautioned that the school was constructed without maintaining any proper quality and had stopped the construction of the school.

The walls collapsed when a boy was playing at the premises of the construction site of the school. The boy was immediately taken to RIMS Hospital and was further referred to JNIMS Hospital. Students' Union of Kangleipak (SUK) urged that the construction of the school should be stopped immediately. It should be found out who is responsible for the construction and how it was constructed without maintaining any quality. President SUK said that the boy who is now injured, due to the negligence of those who are responsible for the construction of the school, should be given compensation for the treatment he is undergoing now.

Imphal saw mass sit-in-protest for Babysana

IT News
Imphal, Aug 17,

Imphal valley areas witnessed mass sit-in-protest demanding justice for Babysana today.

As almost all the Meira Paibis of every locality (Leikai) staged sit-in demonstration; while the community hall in and around the Imphal valley was filled with women in white clothes staging sit-in-protest to hasten the investigation and to deliver justice to Babysana who died in her boarding dormitory in a mysterious circumstances and also to release the arrested JAC members.

Khwairamband market, Paona market, Thangal market were all shut down for the day and the women vendors of Ema keithel staged sit-in-protest for Babysana. The protest at Khwairamband market was jointly organised by Khwairamband keithel Nupi Sempat Sagat Lup and



Khwairamband Keithel Nupi Sempat Sagat Lup.

General Secretary of Khwairamband keithel Nupi Sempat Sagat Lup Thingujam ongbi Rani condemned the government for not finding the truth about the death of Babysana till now as a month has been passed since her death. She said that the people did not believe the claims from the investigators where Babysana died due to suicide. How such a minor girl can have the intention of suicide, Rani added. She further urged the government to hasten the investigation and let the people know the truth about the death

of Babysana and added to give befitting punishment to the person responsible for the death of Babysana.

Rani also said that the mothers of the three Ema keithel will support all the steps taken up by the JAC for delivering justice to Babysana.

Meanwhile, a minor confrontation occurred between students of Imphal College as they tried to stage a rally in connection with the protest for justice for Babysana. Police fired Tear gas to disperse the students.

The irate students retaliated by pelting stones towards the police. A journalist was injured after he was hit by a stone.

Police bust Brown Sugar Factory in Thoubal district

IT News
Imphal, Aug 17,

Thoubal district police team along with the assistance of ANJUMAN volunteers today busted a brown Sugar Factory

run at the residence of brown Sugar. Various items used in the manufacturing of heroin brown sugar including suspected Ammonium Chloride, lime equipments and tools were recovered from the factory.

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JNIMS Teacher's Association calls suspension of Dr. Nimmi unjust; threatens agitation

IT News
Imphal, Aug 17,

Jawaharlal Institute of Medical Sciences - Teacher Association (JNIMS-TA) has condemned the suspension of Dr. Nimmi calling it "arbitrary and unjust" and demanded the revocation of the suspension order, in a special emergency general body meeting of the teacher's

association on August 16. The TA demanded the inquiry which started on August 14 on the matter must be completed within ten days and revoke the suspension order. The TA threatens to intensify the agitation after August 24 if the suspension order of Dr. Nimmi has not been revoked.

The association began their protest wearing black badges today. It has decided to take mass casual leave on August 19 in solidarity with Dr. Nimmi, except those who in emergency, ICU, ICCU, SICU,

NICU and Ward Patients service. The teacher's body has stated that "members of TA, JNIMS feels insecure working in such an unfavorable environment and not ready to sacrifice a doctor every time a patient dies in the institution." TA Vice President, Dr. Th. Opencro said that the hasty suspension order was given under the "influence of a section of people with vested interest without any enquiry." The association also accepted the resignation of its president in the special meeting of the teachers.

State Assembly session

IT News
Imphal, Aug 17,

8th Monsoon Session of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly will be held on August 26 and 27. The decision was taken during the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee chaired by the Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly Yumnam Khemchand on Friday evening. As per official source the first day of the session will begin with obituary reference, presentation of the BAC report by the leader of the house and other business. The 2nd day session (last day) will have question and answer session, presentation of Government business and Committee report.

Art Exhibition

IT News
Imphal, Aug 17,

An art exhibition was held from 23rd July to 14th August, a 21 days art exhibition at Roop Chand Institute of Art, New Delhi on the theme of "An Exhibition of Paintings Monsoon Colours".

A well known Manipuri Actress namely Biju was painted by Thokchom Thouba from Bashikhong, Manipur, showing the beauty of Manipur Meitei lady to the people.

Speaking to the media, Thokchom Thouba said that students should not focus only on engineering and medical studies, but also focus in arts. He further said that the painting displayed the beauty of Manipuri women and phanek. The exhibition was participated by 10 artists and covered by national media like Times of India, Hindustan Times, and The Hindu. Various known personalities also paid visit to the exhibition. Having studied Fine Arts in Delhi, Thokchom Thouba had also participated in 2 national level exhibitions.

Minister Biswajit stresses on teachers' role in shaping students' future

DIPR
Imphal, Aug 17,

Works Minister Thongam Biswajit Singh also laid the foundation stone for school improvement of the Eastern Ideal High School, Akampat under the School Fagathansi Mission which is being launched in all the 60 Assembly Constituencies simultaneously.

Addressing the gathering, Biswajit stressed on the role of teachers in moulding the students. He said teachers need to work harder to provide their students a better future and consider them as their own children. Teachers are immortal in the sense that they will be remembered by their students long after they are gone, and as such they should also act responsibly, he added.

Both the guardians and the teachers have important roles in bringing up a child, he said adding that children are the pillars of our society. Biswajit also said that today we can get proper and quality education in the government schools. Children can get free education including uniforms, textbooks, etc. from the government schools, he added.

He added that books and syllabus are not different for the government and private schools; however, the only difference is in how the teachers associate with their students and how much hard working the students are. Education, he said, is the only way to fight poverty. Our society will be resourceful if we can improve our human resource, he said, adding that a resourceful society will be a

developed society. Education alone can also bring an end to the problem of unemployment and bring development, he added. Speaking to the students present, the Minister encouraged them to work harder and become successful in their lives.

Biswajit also urged the teachers to take out a short part of time from their regular classes to narrate stories of great personalities to their students to inspire them. He lauded the initiative of the staff and teachers of the school to conserve rain water in the school campus.

Speaking on the occasion, AI of Schools ZEO, Zone II Shri L. Shyamchand Singh sought cooperation from the locals in improving the condition of the school. He also encouraged the

teachers to work harder and consider students as their own child.

Head Mistress, Easter Ideal High School, W. Jyotsana expressed the grievances faced in their effort to improve the condition of the school. She said that the school has faced damages during the 2017 cyclone.

Expressing hope that the school will improve manifold under the mission, she showed gratitude to the government for selecting their school for the mission.

It may be mentioned that the Mission is being launched with the aim to improve government schools both in physical and manpower infrastructure and to develop the selected schools (one each from the 60 assembly constituencies) into Model Schools.

Labourers at FCI & FSD Jiribam stop loading and unloading of rice bags

IT News
Jiribam, Aug 17,

Labourers of FCI, FSD Jiribam has begun cease work strike by staging sit-in-protest at Jiribam Rail Head since yesterday morning. The labourers are demanding for increase of the charge for unloading and loading of rice bags and began their agitation since August 13. Earlier the labourers had staged a rally.

At present the wage for loading and unloading of 50kg rice bags at FCI Jiribam is Rs 2, which they feel is antiquated.

They have been demanding to increase their wage to Rs 6 for loading and unloading per 50kg rice bags. The labourers also denied to accept July 2019 wage.

"Due to no positive response from the handling contractor M/S Mathai Enterprises, we will continue our agitation with a sit-in-protest and cease work which will be followed by vigorous agitations from various other FCI depots of Manipur", a representative of the CAF&PD Labourers' Welfare Association, which is spearheading the agitation said.