

CM meets MANPAC: Union Home Ministry likely to arrange meeting

IT News
Imphal, Dec 1

A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held consultative meeting with the stakeholders of North East states skipping Manipur, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today invited representatives of the Manipur Peoples' Against CAB (MANPAC) today evening. The meeting began at around 4 pm today at the office chamber of the Chief Minister. Source from the CMO said that Convenor of MANPAC S. Dilip, Co-convenor L. Jadumani, President of NEFIP, Ningthouja Lancha among

others attended the meeting with the chief minister in connection with the introduction of the CAB. Earlier yesterday, President of NESO Sinam Prakash while talking to media persons said that the Home Minister did not invite the stakeholders NGOs from Manipur as he had already discussed about the issue on November 25. On the other hand Chief Minister of Manipur while briefing the media had stated that the Union Home Minister is also thinking of inserting a clause to the new CAB that will be introduced in the parliament. N. Biren Singh said that after the meeting with the 18

members COCOMI representatives on November 25 at New Delhi office, the Union Home Minister had asked him about the position of Manipur when the CAB is introduced. The Chief Minister N Biren Singh reportedly replied that he urged the Home Minister to insert a clause or arrange some mechanism to make sure that the state remain protected from the CAB. MANPAC on the other hand had stated that the Union Home Ministry is playing divide and ruled policy to the people of the North East people in this issue of CAB. They had stated that there will

be no turning back to the agitation against CAB. Meanwhile a source with the Imphal Times said that the Union Home Ministry may invite separately the representative of the NEFIP and the MANPAC may be invited as the Union Home Minister is preparing a strategy of no uprising from any sections particularly from the North East states when the CAB is introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha. The source added that the MHA is contacting the State Home department on whom to be invited for the consultative meeting with the Union Home Minister in connection with CAB.

Quest for final solution to Naga issue continues till today: Rio

NEPS
Kohima, Dec 1

Nagaland Chief Minister Nephthi Rio said the quest for a "final solution to the Naga political issue continues till today." Speaking at the grand celebration of the 57th Statehood Day of Nagaland State at the Khuochiezie, Kohima Local Ground on Sunday, the Chief Minister said the negotiations between the various Naga Political Groups (NPGs) and the Government of India (GoI) had concluded and they were poised on the "verge of history being made, as we could be very close to the final solution."

He further conveyed his Government's deep appreciation to all negotiating parties for showing magnanimity, a spirit of understanding and

foresightedness for achieving a breakthrough in the talks and for being able to reach common ground on all the issues that were being negotiated for long. He reminded the resolutions the Joint Legislators' Forum (JLF) adopted on the 13th of November 2019 where they appealed to all the stakeholders to continue the "spirit of unity and oneness amongst each other to facilitate the eventual solution to the protracted Naga political issue which is honorable, acceptable and recognizes the uniqueness of the history of the Naga people."

JLF also welcomed the proactive role played by the mass-based organizations, tribal hohos, NGOs, churches and civil societies who made all-out efforts to create a congenial atmosphere to ensure that negotiations were headed in a positive direction,

Rio said. JLF also made an appeal to the people of the "neighboring states" to extend all possible cooperation that the peace process could conclude in a successful manner which would ensure in bringing peace and stability in the region, he added. The Chief Minister also appreciated the determination and commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister, Amit Shah and Center's Interlocutor, RN Ravi for carrying forward the peace process in a concrete manner that had now resulted in bringing "consensus among the negotiating parties for successful conclusions of negotiations on a positive note." On the occasion, Rio also paid rich tribute to the founding fathers and visionary leaders for their sacrifices that brought into reality the State of Nagaland.

Alert protest continues

IT News
Imphal, Dec 1

Two days after the COCOMI held a consultative meeting with the people of the state, and resolved to continue the alert protest against a move to distort the integrity of the state the COCOMI today staged alert protest at Keishathong today.

Army organises Junior Karate Camp

IT News
Ccpur, Dec 1

Military Civic Action Initiative by Army in the remote locations of Manipur is not only giving impetus to the development in the state but also promoting games and sports, providing exposure to the younger generation.

In one such unique initiative, Naikhong Khunou Battalion of Loktak Brigade, Red Shield Division conducted a Junior Karate Camp at Lamdan village. Children aged between 7-14 years from nearby hill villages were selected and trained in Martial arts by trained instructors of Army over a period of last three months.

38 children passed the belt examination conducted by International Shito Ryu Organisation and were awarded certificates and Yellow belt during the culmination ceremony of the Camp. Free karate uniforms were distributed to these children by the Army in coordination with Humanism Foundation. Conducting such events is a testimony of the Indian Army's commitment towards social upliftment and promotion of sports in the remote areas of the state. The local populace responded favourably to the camp and expressed their gratitude to the Army.

Nana Patole elected as new Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec 1

The Congress MLA Nana Patole, the nominee of the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance, was elected unopposed as Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, since BJP nominee, Kisan Kathore withdrew his nomination minutes before the 10 AM deadline on Sunday.

Protem Speaker Dilip Walse Patil requested the opposition led by BJP, for consensus to elect the Speaker unanimously as per the tradition of the Maharashtra legislature and the BJP agreed to it. The election of the speaker was to be held on Sunday, after the ruling Sena-Congress-NCP alliance cleared a floor test conducted by pro-tem Speaker Dilip Walse Patil of the NCP on Saturday.

Patole, 56, a four-time MLA, representing the Sakoli Assembly segment in Vidarbh region, was earlier with the Congress, but quit and contested the 2014 Lok Sabha polls on a BJP ticket.

He defeated NCP strongman Praful Patel from the Bhandara-Gondiya seat. However, in December 2017 he quit the BJP following differences with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and returned to the Congress.

After his election as the Speaker, Patole, announced the name of Fadnavis as the Leader of Opposition. He said that the BJP is being accorded the status of opposition party in the Assembly and Fadnavis would be the new Leader of Opposition. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and some ministers greeted Fadnavis, after announcement by Patole. Later while speaking on a motion to congratulate Patole, Fadnavis said that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray should now fulfill his own earlier demand of Rs 25,000 per hectare to farmers for crop damages due to post-monsoon rains.

"Uddhav Thackeray, as leader of his party (Shiv Sena), while touring the state (last month,

when he was not the chief minister) had demanded Rs 25,000 per hectare for farmers as assistance. I think he should ensure now that farmers get the assistance," Fadnavis added.

Thackeray, Shiv Sena president was sworn in as chief minister, on Thursday last, after his party came together with the NCP and Congress to form government in the state. The three parties forged an alliance after the Sena fell out with pre-poll ally BJP over sharing the chief ministerial post.

Last month, when a bitter tussle between the Sena and BJP over government formation was on, Thackeray toured some areas where farmers suffered crop damages due to unseasonal post-monsoon rains this year. That time Thackeray had dubbed the Rs 10,000 crore package announced by the then Fadnavis-led state government as inadequate and had demanded that the affected farmers be given Rs 25,000 per hectare as compensation.

State social activist conferred honorary doctorate in social work

IT News
Thoubal, Dec.1

International Peace University, Germany conferred Honorary Doctorate in the field of Social Work to Moirangthem Sushilkumar Singh s/o Late M. Okendra Singh of Wanging Bazar, Thoubal Distric, Manipur in honour of his service in rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking and mentally ill persons in the last 10 years in a Convocation & Award Ceremony held yesterday at Shenbaga Hotel and Convention Centre, Pondicherry.

Dr. M. Anandarajan- Advisor, IPU, Dr. Mummadi Shivarudra Swamygala- Matadipatigala, Kshethra Maralegavimatha Karnataka, MS. Chrystella Raoamahenia- member Global Accreditation Council, France Dr. S. Chelladurai-

former Senator, Bharathiyar University, Prof. Dr. Nathan Raganathan- HOD, Tamil, IPU Dr. M. Ignisious Prabhu- Regional Director, IPU attended the ceremony as dias members.

Out of 51 Convocation Awardee from all over the country, Mr. Moirangthem Sushilkumar Singh brings laurels for our state Manipur. Mr. M. Sushilkumar Singh, founder of Centre for Development Activities (CDAC), Wanging which works for welfare of distress women, children in need of care & protection, rescue & rehabilitation works of victims of human trafficking, rehabilitation of mentally ill persons for the last 22 years. During this last 22 years he has rescued, rehabilitated, re-integrated and repatriated many women and girl victims of human trafficking from

Nepal, Myanmar and many children, women, girls of our state rescued from Chennai, provided shelter, education to children in need of care & protection and reintegration to family and rehabilitated many mentally ill persons. He is son of late M. Okendra Singh and M. Binodini Devi of Wanging Bazar, Thoubal district, Manipur. He started his social work in the year 1997 after completing his master's degree in social work (MSW) from university of Pune in 1996. Currently he is serving as a Psychiatric social worker in the department of health services, Govt. Of Manipur and now posted at District Hospital, Thoubal. Also, CDAC staff and members of the Managing Committee express heartfelt congratulation and gratitude to Mr. M. Sushilkumar for his service and achievement.

Two Day Training Programme for School Teachers conducted on Human Trafficking and Child Protection Systems

IT News
Imphal, Dec.1

FXB India Suraksha in collaboration with the Zonal Education Office, Govt. of Manipur organized a two day training programme for Teachers representing different schools across Imphal East and Imphal West on identifying and reporting incidents of human trafficking and child sexual abuse as well as the existing child protection mechanisms in Manipur on 28th and 30th November, 2019 in Zone I and Zone II in Imphal. 92 school teachers from different government schools participated during the two day programme.

The programme was organized as part of its project Mukti-an Anti Trafficking project to

address issues of human trafficking and child sexual abuse in Manipur supported by ECPAT Luxembourg. The primary objective of the programme was to train the teachers' about the crucial role they play as a care giver as well as service provider in addressing abuses against children and ensuring protection and safety of the children in schools and their accessible premises. Smt. Sucheta Khumukcham, ZEO, Zone I, Imphal West and Shri. M.Premchandra Singh, ZEO, Zone II, Imphal East were the chief Guest of the two day programme. Mr. Sunil Meitei and Mr. Wungreiso Sangh, Project Officers, FXB India Suraksha were the resource persons during the programme.

Addressing the participants, Smt. Sucheta Khumukcham, ZEO, Zone I, Imphal West addressing the participants said, "Such training programmes are very important considering the issue of human trafficking and CSA to be of high concern." "As teachers we should know the procedures and provisions available to address issues related to children." M.Premchandra Singh, ZEO, Zone II, Imphal East said, "As we are not much aware of procedures and provisions available to address crime against children, this is our golden opportunity to learn those and understand the role that we play in ensuring protection and safety of

children in Manipur. As teachers we have a huge role to play in society which is not only restricted to school premises but also extends to the communities that we live in." Mr. Wungreiso A. Sangh, Project Officer, FXBIS, Mukti Project spoke about various signs and symptoms to identify different abuses against children. He said, "Children who are victims of abuse especially sexual violence undergoes various forms of trauma and we as service providers has to understand it. Not all children opens up easily to report abuse." He therefore stressed upon the strategies to be adopted by the teachers to help children speak up about the abuse. He during

the session also spoke about various provisions laid out under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children's Act and informed the participants about their prime and responsible role in handling and acting over issues related to children during their interaction and interception with children within or outside school. Sunil Meitei, Project Officer, FXB India Suraksha, Imphal spoke about human trafficking and the vulnerabilities in Manipur. He spoke about various sections under law and also stressed upon the need of strong prevention mechanisms at the state. He said, "Human Trafficking is an organized crime and different

studies and reports has pointed out to the vulnerability of children especially girl children prone to trafficking. Hence, it is very much important for us as teachers to be alert as well as reaching out to children and aware them on such issues to reduce those vulnerabilities." The two day programme ended with lots of experience sharing. The teachers felt the need of such training to be organized at the school level too so that all teachers get the opportunity to learn about such a crucial topic which is relatively increasing day by day. So far FXBIS though it's Mukti initiative has trained over 300 Teachers and 10,000 school children in the Imphal and Ukhrul since 2016.