



CM re-assured protection of state from CAB

IT News
Imphal, Dec 6

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh today re-assured that the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 which the Union government is all set to pass in the Lok Sabha will not affect the state of Manipur or its people.

Soon after landing at Imphal Airport, N. Biren Singh, while talking to reporters said that the Citizenship Amendment Bill will no way affect the state of Manipur.

“With an authority I convey to the people that the Citizenship Amendment Bill will in no way affect the people of this state”, N. Biren said with full confidence.

He said that the Central leadership including the Union Home Minister had assured to



arrange a legislation of the state either by revoking the executive order for scrapping of the Inner Line Permit System existed in the state in 1950 by the then Commissioner Himat Singh or by extending the

presently existed Inner Line Permit System in the neighbouring states of Manipur. “I believe the Central leadership and I also said time and again that no government other than the present

government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah will fulfill the aspiration of the state”, the confident Chief Minister told media person appealing people to stay calm in the passing of the CAB.

Regarding the meeting with the Defence Minister Rajnath, Chief Minister N. Biren said that, he called on the Union defence Minister to thank him for his support to the people of the state by not passing it in the Lok Sabha last year on the request of him. He added that he had assured a protection mechanism for the state of Manipur if CAB is passed and this time too the Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured a mechanism for protection of the state from CAB.

CBI begins investigation on mysterious death of Ningthoujam Babysana

IT News
Imphal, Dec 6

Central Bureau of Investigation Special Crime Branch Kolkata has finally registered a case for investigation of mysterious death case of N Babysana, as per the directives given by the High court of Manipur on its ruling of November 6. The investigation of the case will be taken up by three member team constituted headed by C R Das DSP CBI (SCB) Kolkata. The team of CBI SCB Kolkata submitted their report before Chief Judicial Magistrate Imphal West regarding the intimation of registering a regular case by CBI under section 305/ 34 IPC and 75 Juvenile Justice (Care and

Protection of Children) Act

It may be mentioned that 14-year-old Ningthoujam Babysana Chanu, a student of class VII at Standard Robarth Higher Secondary School in Imphal's Canchipur was found hanging in her hostel room on the intervening night of July 17 and 18. A controversy surfaced after the family of the deceased alleged foul play. JAC formed against the mysterious death along with students' bodies and civil society organizations of the state staged serious protest demanding probe by an independent body like CBI. Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh had conveyed verbal assurance for handing over the case to the CBI and even wrote to the Union Home Ministry regarding the matter.

However, due to reason best known the CBI took some time in registering a case in connection with the mysterious death of N. Babysana for reason best known to the authority until the Manipur High Court passed an order directing CBI to take up investigation in connection with the mysterious death on November 6 this year. Earlier too, the state government had instituted a Special Investigation Team headed by the Additional SP of Imphal West and the team had picked up the school wardens, Principal and the administrator of the Standard Robarth Higher Secondary School. They have been however released recently on bail.

3 MANPAC leaders detained for few hours by state police

IT News
Imphal, Dec 6

Three members of the Manipur Peoples' Against CAB (MANPAC) were detained for few minutes to the office of the Imphal West district Superintendent of Police soon after their landing at Imphal Airport today afternoon. News over the detention had infuriated the section of people with multiple calls receiving at Imphal Times enquiring and criticizing the detention.

Imphal Times staff while reaching out one among the leader of the MANPAC said that three of them landed Imphal at around 11.30 am today morning at Imphal Airport. He said that the police did took them to the office of the Imphal West district Superintendent of Police and the SP told them not to organise the scheduled press conference that they announced to be held at Kwairambandh Ima Keithel due to security reason. The

MANPAC team said that they could not decide on where to hold the meeting, as 5 other leaders of the MANPAC were yet to arrive. However the MANPAC team assured the SP to try their best in shifting the meeting place from Kwairambandh Keithel in consultation with other leaders of the MANPAC. Following that the police team dropped them to their respective home.

The news about the detention of the MANPAC leaders started spreading on Social Networking site Facebook with some people even uploading by a facebook user at which he wrote that the MANPAC leaders were detained by a police inspector and uploaded a photo of a picture taken at the Airport, Chief Minister N. Biren reply that the post was not true and that no leaders of the civil bodies had been detained by the police.

'We strongly condemn detention of MANPAC leaders'

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 6

News about the detention of the MANPAC leaders irked the Convenor of the apex body Yunnam Dilipkumar soon after his arrival at Imphal airport, expressed strong condemnation to the act of the government.

“We condemn the detention of the MANPAC leaders in the strongest term”, Dilipkumar said to reporters at Imphal airport. He said that the MANPAC leaders went to meet the Union Home Minister to convey the message of the people in connection with the passing of the CAB and that after conveying the message the MANPAC had to discuss the matter on what to take up in the new development. Why should the government detained our leaders when they allow us to meet the Union Government, an angry Dilipkumar said.

In connection with the stand of the MANPAC, Dilipkumar said that the MANPAC had laid down the demand of the

people and that they will continue to uphold the demand – “No CAB in the NE”. Regarding the meeting with the leader of the Union Government Dilipkumar said that they are however thankful to the government for arranging meeting with the leaders of the Union government for conveying message of the people as no other government had given such opportunity.

Later, a press meet was held at the office of the All Manipur United Club Organisation (AMUCO) at Kwakeithel. In the press meet Dilipkumar categorically stated the sequence of the meeting with the Union Home Minister. He said that the MANPAC had conveyed their message “No CAB in NE” and there is no change to the stand. He added that they have been assured by the Home Minister to protect the state of Manipur from CAB and as they still are yet to receive the Bill that is going to be tabled in the Lok Sabha they will wait for discussion with the people.

NEFIS demands immediate reduction in high fees being charged for HSLC examinations

IT News
Imphal, Dec 6

The activists of North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS) today submitted a memorandum to Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BSEM) Chairperson, Th. Kirankumar regarding the issue of very high fees being charged from the students for the upcoming board examinations. Further, the exam fee submission for HSLC examinations to be held in 2020 is to be made only through online mode.

It should be noted that the majority of students who are going to appear in the HSLC examinations are studying in government schools. These students mostly come from deprived backgrounds and would therefore find it extremely difficult to pay the exorbitant fees being charged. Moreover, it is the

government's primary responsibility to make public education accessible for those coming from marginalized sections. As such, very high fees would be contrary to the stated purpose of public education. Moreover, these students and their families have very poor access to internet facilities, and as such making fee submission available through online mode would be a cause of

unnecessary trouble for them. Regarding this concerns the activists demanded in the memorandum that the fees for HSLC examinations should be drastically reduced and only very nominal fees should be charged. They also demanded that fees submission should be made available through offline mode as well. NEFIS pledges to continue its struggle for equality in education in the coming days.

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12,500 “Arogyavardhini” centres to be set up in the country for Ayurveda treatment

By Raju Vernekar
Pune, Dec. 6

The Union AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) Ministry is planning to set up 12,500 arogyavardhini centres through out the country to make available ayurveda treatment at cheaper rates, the Union Ayush minister Shripad Naik, said here.

Speaking as a chief guest at “Sandu Ayurved Gaurav awards” function organised to felicitate ayurveda practitioners, by “Sandu Brothers” at Annabhau Sathe auditorium, Bibwewadi, in Pune in Maharashtra, Naik said that his ministry is also planning to start short term courses for foreign students to learn yoga. This is under “learn in India” initiative, he added.

Also All India Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy will be set up at Goa in the next two years. Various initiatives, including setting up of Ayush departments in rural hospitals which have ayurvedic medicines and panchakarma facilities, to set up botanical gardens in and around Ayush hospitals in the country, are on cards, he said.

Five Ayurveda practitioners were felicitated with “Ayurved Bhushan” and “Ayurved Gaurav” for their

contribution to Ayurveda, at the hands of Naik. The chief secretary of AYUSH department Rajesh Kotecha and Director of Maharashtra ayurved department Kuldeep Raj Kohli were present.

On the occasion, Medha Joshi, Vikram Chauhan, Anandkumar Chaudhari and Jyoti Mundargi were felicitated with “Ayurved Bhushan” while Omprakash Gupta was given the “Ayurved Gaurav” award.

“The ancient science was striving to get the mentorship of the rule, which was not coming across since the independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, by constituting Ministry of Ayush in 2014, gave its mentorship to the ayurveda and other streams like yoga, unani, siddha and homeopathy of medical science. We are thankful to him for the attempt,” Sashank Sandu, director, “Sandu Brothers” said in his speech. “Sandu Brothers” has been engaged in the manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines since 1899.

In the meanwhile the Ayushman Bharat Yojana - National Health Protection Scheme, which has now been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), plans to make secondary and tertiary healthcare completely cashless. The PMJAY beneficiaries will get an e-card that can be used to avail services at an empanelled hospital, public or

private, anywhere in the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolled out PMJAY on 23 September 2018 to cover about 50 crore citizens in India. As of September 2019, it was reported that 21,000 hospitals were empanelled, over 64 lakh beneficiaries were admitted and over 10 crore e-cards were issued. PMJAY is being implemented in 32 States and Union Territories. Based on the hospitalized cases so far, the treatment cost per hospitalization comes to Rs. 16108 compared to Rs.20135 estimated by the National Statistical Office (NSO). In order to cover 50 crore targeted poor, it is estimated that an amount of Rs. 23357 crore is required annually by the government, compared to the 2019-20 budget provision of Rs. 6400 crore.

The coverage includes 3 days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days of post-hospitalisation expenses. Besides, around 1,400 procedures with all related costs like OT expenses are taken care of. All in all, PMJAY and the e-card provides a coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per family, per year, thus helping the economically disadvantaged obtain easy access to healthcare services.

Other steps to reduce out of pocket expenditure include i) regulating irrational drug prescriptions, diagnostic and drug prices, opening more PM Jan

Aushadi Stores, providing services closer to the habitations of the poor, etc.

As per the report “Social Consumptions in India: Health” released on 23 November, by the NSO, based on a sample survey conducted from July 2017 to June 2018 covering about 1.14 lakh households across the country, 7.5 percent of the people suffered from ailments during 15 days preceding the date of survey. This means that during the said reference period of 15 days, over 10.1 crore people were ailing in India out of the total population of about 135 Crore. The average cost of ailment per, was estimated at Rs. 636 indicating that an amount of Rs. 6440 Crore was spent on the treatment in a 15 days period or about Rs. 157, 000 crore in a year.

The survey also estimated that 2.9 percent of the people were hospitalized during July 2017-June 2018, meaning that 3.92 crore hospitalizations occurred during this period. The estimated treatment cost per hospitalization estimated by the survey was Rs. 20135 indicating that an amount of about Rs. 79, 000 crore was spent on hospitalized treatments. The annual OPD and hospitalization treatment cost comes to a whopping Rs 2.36 lakh crores, (approximately 1.2 percent of GDP).