

Governor addresses seventh session of 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly

DIPR
Imphal, Feb 20,

The 7th session of the Eleventh Manipur Legislative Assembly began today with the Governor's Address. Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla in her address to the first session of 2019 highlighted achievements and developments of the State administration.

Governor said that Government strongly believed in this principle in letter and spirit and doing our best to bring communal harmony with inclusive development to bridge the emotional and developmental gaps between hill and valley area without any discrimination and with the active participation of various communities of the state. Towards achieving this, the Government has launched "Go to Village" programme in a mission mode under which every census village in the State has been covered successfully reaching out to the people.

A "State Level Empowered Committee" was constituted to review and facilitate timely approvals, clearances, implementation and completion of mega projects and flagship programmes within a stipulated time frame. Government has also established an "Investment Facilitation Centre" to enable single window project clearance process for promoting investment in the state.

The governor speech elaborated about the improvement of the law and order conditions.

"State Human Rights Commission which was non-functional for nearly 9 (nine) long years has been re-established and made functional. The government has strengthened the office of public prosecutor by recruiting 7 (seven) more Assistant Public Prosecutors to ensure timely disposal of pending cases. The government has always kept its doors open for negotiations with any insurgent group in order to bring total normalcy in the

state. Securing the highways in the State has been the priority of my Government. Government of India has sanctioned 2 (two) India Reserve Battalions for Manipur state, for which recruitment process has already started", she said.

Pertaining to Finance and Planning the Government is committed to enhancing State's own resources and ensuring fiscal consolidation so that public investments and growth are not undermined. Implementation of Goods and Services Tax has improved tax

collection with increased compliance by taxpayers. She informed the august House that recently Manipur was awarded by the Government of India as the best performing State in e-procurement implementation in the North-East.

Under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources, the state secured an assistance of Rs 79.15 crore this year for 8 new projects and 10 ongoing projects. The allocation of funds under North-East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme is

increased to Rs 194.95 crores. The Government is successful in getting approval for a new scheme called "Hill Area Development Programme" this year, with an outlay of Rs. 90 crore from Ministry of DoNER, for infrastructure development of Tamenglong and Noney Districts. With the support of Ministry of DoNER, 4 projects costing Rs. 69.92 crore under Social and Infrastructure Development Fund have been taken up in the remote hill areas for infrastructure development in Communication and Water Supply sectors.

She further said that "Manipur Start-up scheme" is one of the most ambitious employment generation schemes conceived and launched by the State Government. Its objective is to create a vibrant start-up ecosystem to nurture innovation, encourage entrepreneurship and to create employment opportunities. Under Manipur Startup Scheme - Round 1, 334 startups under different categories have benefited through disbursement of loan and subsidy component.

Employees of IMC staged sit-in-protest

IT News
Imphal Feb.20,

Putting pressure to discuss the issue of the employees of Imphal Municipal Corporation over their demand in the ongoing Budget session which begins today, employees of the IMC staged sit-in-protest at the gate of IMC office and banned the Mayor Municipal

Commissioner and Asst Municipal Commissioner of the municipal corporation from entering the office. Speaking to media person Vice president of Imphal Municipal Employees' Union N. Nimaichand said that the cease work strike begin since January 24, 2019 demanding to clear pending salary and arrears of 8 months which the government has already given

the issued orders to clear it. He further said that the employees urged the concerned MAHUD minister and other officials to put up the issues of implementing the 6th pay commission and clearing of their salaries. But sadly the issues of the IMC failed to put up at the cabinet session happening today.

Angered with the failing of

putting up the issues of IMC, the employees not only staged sit-in-protest but also banned the mayor Commissioner and assistant Commissioner from entering the office.

Placards 'Go back Mayor' 'Go back Commissioner' and 'Go back Asst Commissioner were also pasted by the angered employees.

Kolkata Institute collaborating fisheries dept for self-sufficient in fish production

By a Correspondent
Imphal, Feb 20,

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), Kolkata which developed the roadmap for inland openwater fisheries for NE states for ushering in blue revolution, is collaborating with Manipur government for the self-sufficient in fish production by 2020.

As part of the initiative, an interactive workshop on openwater fisheries management of Manipur was organised by ICAR-CIFRI, Kolkata in collaboration with the Directorate of Fisheries, Government of Manipur in Imphal on Monday.

The workshop which aims to provide promising technology

for increasing fish production using the open water resources, was attended by about 50 fisheries department officials.

Speaking to this reporter, Director Dr BK Das of ICAR-CIFRI said that objective of the workshop is to impart newly developed knowledge on management of inland openwater in the state like Manipur which have enough potential to increase the fish production.

"We're getting only about 75 kg of fish from one hectare which is very low against the production potential. But the production reach 100 to 200 kg in other stocking methods such as pen and cage culture," Dr BK Das said. "Generally the state fisheries officials do not have much knowledge on such practices, so we'll work to give

knowledge so that something comes up for the betterment of the state."

Manipur has vast fisheries resources comprising of 30,171 hectares (ha) of natural lake/ floodplain wetlands, 13,888 ha of rivers and streams, 11,442 ha of ponds/tanks and many reservoirs which approximately 2.52 percent of the total geographical area of the state, according to ICAR-CIFRI. Despite having a production potential of 65,000 tonnes of fish, Manipur produces about 32,000 tonnes as against the requirement of 52,000 tonnes. This shortage is partly met by importing the fish from other states.

Optimal utilisation of available fisheries resources and application of modern scientific fisheries management protocols and aquaculture

techniques are needed for harnessing the potential.

The initiative of Manipur government is being taken considering the siphoning of a huge amount of money outside the State to purchase fish feeds every year and also to increase fish production. A State Level Committee had also already been formed under the initiative of chief minister N Biren to achieve self sufficiency in fish production by 2020.

During the event, Principal Scientist Dr AK Das of ICAR-CIFRI, scientist Dr Sona Yengkokpam and Dr Dipesh Debnath also made presentations on technologies interventions leading to visible changes in openwater fisheries, on pen and cage aquaculture in openwater of northeast India.

Has the MCPCR Chairperson appoints her husband as consultant ?

IT News
Imphal, Feb 20,

Rumours are spreading around about the appointment of the husband of the Chairperson of the Manipur Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Sumatibala as consultant (without mentioning specific subject).

Source said that Ibomcha Ningthoujam has been appointed as the consultant of the commission by an official order issued by his wife Sumatibala, Chairperson, MPCCR on April 26, 2018.

An RTI query regarding the matter, sought by one Thoudam Akashkumar Singh remained unanswered even after one month. In the RTI, Akshalumar sought information about the official expenditures for travel and others by the consultant till January 22 since his appointment.

It was also questioned whether appointment of a spouse as consultant by the Chairperson of the MPCCR is legal, ethical and appropriate as per the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

Myanmar woman caught with over 3 crore worth brown sugar by state police

IT News
Moreh, Feb 20,

A Myanmar woman, identified as Themneilam Haokip @ Neilam (age about 35 years) daughter of Ngamsei Haokip, a resident of Namphalong Ward No 12 of Tamu District of Myanmar was rounded up by Moreh police along with huge quantity of brown sugar from near Sunrise Ground of Moreh Ward No. 4 of

Tengnoupal district of India. As per source the woman was caught by police team consisted of women constable and supported by troops of 43 AR was smuggling 143 packets of Brown Sugar, weigh around 1.817 kg at around 6.25 am from inside the Indian Territory. The value of the narcotic substances she was carrying is worth around Rs. 3.63 crore in international market.

AR continues relentless operations against drugs menace in Manipur continue

IT News
Imphal, Feb 20,

The relentless operations by Assam Rifles, to rid the Manipuri youth of the devastating effects of drugs on not only the individual drug addict but also on the society at large, led today to seizure of a massive quantity of WIY Tablets at the bordering town of Kudenthabi in Tengnoupal District of Manipur.

On Monday evening at around 1730 hours, based on specific inputs from their reliable sources, a team of Tengnoupal Battalion troops of Khudenthabi Post stopped a Dark maroon Coloured SUV TATA ARIA bearing registration No AS01AZ 1722. The vehicle was travelling from Moreh to Imphal. On carrying out a thorough check of the vehicle blue coloured pouches containing tablets suspected to be the highly addictive WIY Tablets, were found hidden inside the doors and body of the vehicle.

The contraband was being transported by a person named Angam Jonathan aged 36 years and Jhamtinsei Touthang aged 29 years. Angam Jonathan is resident of

Maichammun Village, Churachandpur and Khamtinsei Touthang, son of Jakhomang Touthang, is a resident of Zalenphai Part-III, Morehead Ward No.3, Tengnoupal Sub-Division, Chandel District.

The WIY Tablets were in packed in 243 separate bricks covered with off whitish coloured paper, containing 10 packets each with each packet having a total of 200 tablets making it into a huge quantity of nearly five lakh tablets. The total 4,86,000 tablets counted till filing of this report is already worth approx Rs 14.58 crores estimated at the very conservative rate of Rs 300 per tablet.

Over the years, IG Assam Rifles (South) has been making huge recoveries of drugs, gold and other contraband items along the Indo Myanmar border as well as from the valley region. Since January this year alone Assam Rifles South has been instrumental in recovery of contrabands worth more than 22 crores.

Remaining true to their motto of being 'Friends of the North East People' Assam Rifles remains committed to making Manipur a drug free society.

Health care service for all turns flop show at Pinjang Village

By - Chingkhel Luwang
Imphal Feb.20,

Government promises for better health care facilities to all the people of the state turned another flop show in interior villages of the state as most Health care Service center of the government runs with flagstaff and inadequate infrastructures. Nungleiband Primary Health Sub Centre of Pinjang Village in Noney district, which was inaugurated in 2005 still stand more like a monument as it never open or provides health care facilities to anyone as no staffs or doctors attended a day after its inauguration. Chief Minister's auspicious

Health care scheme -CMHT is being mocked by the condition of the Nungleiband Primary Health Sub Centre.

Pinjang, a village under Khoupum Sub division of Noney district having a population of about 400 people residing near the river bank of Leimatak River. Even though the village is about only 60 kilometres from Imphal, it doesn't even have mobile network facilities around the place in this world of information technology.

The villagers went to Bishnupur which is 30 km from their village to check up even for basic health problems thereby facing a lot of hardships to the villagers.

Even though the state government initiated various schemes and plans for the underprivileged and economically backward people of the state, the villagers of Pinjang still didn't get any schemes of health, housing, sanitary or old aged etc. Such schemes are a dream for the poor villagers who need it the most. Though Chief Minister's 'Go to hills' arrived at their place also, collecting various documents still no benefits from the government was there for them.

And also now the government started to change its focus from 'Go to village' to 'Go to school', the only school which is a lower

primary school of the area gives about 2/3 mid-day meal programs once a year which is a complete violation of norms of SSA. The teachers are also hired to make the school functional. The main occupation of the village is plantation of Banana and Chillies. Even though the amount of income gathered through the harvest of Banana plantation differs on being seasonal or not, but on an average a family gathers around only 50,000 rupees a year through it.

Speaking to media person village authority Member Dominic Kamei said that the village has been lacking lot of facilities. He urged the government to make the

health centre functional as the villagers face a lot of difficulties travelling up to Bishnupur even for minor problems. He also appealed the government to build a veterinary hospital as the livestock died a lot because of various health problems and the villagers also felt helpless on it.

Finally Dominic concluded that the villagers would be very obliged if the government could sponsored to organise a banana festival which will facilitate the economy of the farmers and also motivate them to plant even more as banana not only has many nutritious value but also interconnected with the people socially and ritually.