

## CM inaugurates new building of Horticulture Department; 'Horticulture sector key to state's economic prosperity'

DIPR  
Imphal, July 18,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated the newly constructed building of Directorate of Horticulture and Soil Conservation at Sanjonthong, Imphal East District today.

Speaking at the occasion as the chief guest, Shri N. Biren said that the State needs to focus on some specific items like pineapple, lemon, orange, ginger and yongchak etc., which are suitable to the soil of the State, for economic prosperity.

He informed that since 2015-16, Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) had been able to register 12,500 organic farmers covering 12,500 hectare in the State. Under this mission, the Chief Minister said, 10 Farmer Producer Companies (FPC) had been formed, and an additional five more FPCs are in the process of forming. As a marketing achievement, N. Biren informed, around 150 MT of organic pineapples were airlifted to Delhi and other cities last year which hugely benefitted the pineapple growers. Currently, consignment of organic Manipur pineapple to marketing platforms such as Big Basket and NE Agro Products through flight is taking place for sale at major cities in India, he added.

Stating that the Government had also been actively working for upliftment of ginger growers of Pherzawl District, the Chief Minister said that the Government had been able to link buyers with ginger growers this year.



Around 4000 MT of ginger had been marketed outside the State fetching more than Rs. 12 crore this year. In 2018, sale of 1000MT of ginger was made by MSTC Ltd., a Government of India company fetching Rs. 1.9 crore, he informed.

Saying that organic produce of Manipur had been exported to different countries, N. Biren said that organic U-morok had reached Australia, Canada and USA. Directorate of Horticulture and Soil Conservation had acquired Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kachai lemon, he said and added that now Kachai lemon has become the only lemon variety of India to have a GI tag.

The Chief Minister said that MOMA was awarded with the prestigious Jaivik India Awards by International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture (ICCOA), Government of Karnataka and APEDA for efforts and

achievements in promoting organic farming in the State. Maintaining that the Government always welcomes agro-entrepreneurs, who are willing to invest efforts in horticulture opportunities, the Chief Minister said that Manipur State Co-operative Bank Ltd. had recently provided loan to an apple grower. Last year as well, financial assistance of around Rs. 95 lakh had been provided under StartUp Manipur to a strawberry grower, he informed.

N. Biren further said that cold storage infrastructures are being set up in various districts for the convenience of farmers. After amending the Indian Forest Act, 1927, bamboo is no more categorised as a tree. As such, bamboo can now be grown in private or homestead land for livelihood or sale, he added. Saying that large scale destruction of forest cover due to poppy cultivation leads to

environment degradation and climate change, N. Biren said that the State Government is trying to provide alternative livelihood based on horticulture farming to poppy growers.

Regarding the inconvenience faced by the public due to potholes on different roads, the Chief Minister said that the Government is aware of the pressing need for immediate mending of potholes on the important roads in the district headquarters. To effectively implement the works, necessary directives had been given to upload photos of roads before and after repair, in the WhatsApp group of PWD, the Chief Minister said. Bills for these maintenance works would be cleared by Superintending Engineers concerned posted at different divisions of PWD, N. Biren said.

Speaking at the function as the guest of honour, Horticulture and Soil Conservation Minister Th. Shyamkumar said that development of horticulture sector can make Manipur an economically self-reliant State. For this, he said, experts of Directorate of Horticulture and Soil Conservation need to give proper training to farmers regularly.

Principal Secretary (Horticulture and Soil Conservation) J.C. Ramthanga was the functional president. Horticulture and Soil Conservation Director K. Kigen, past Directors and other officials of the Directorate also attended the function.

## Class 7 Student found hang in her hostel room at Standard Robert Higher Sec. School Canchipur

IT News  
Imphal July 18,

A minor student studying only Class 7 was found hanged today early morning in her hostel room. The incident took place at the Girls' Hostel of Standard Robert Higher Secondary School Canchipur.

The deceased student identified as one Ningthoujam Babysana aged 14 years, daughter of Ningthoujam

Tomchou from Thangmeiband Meisnam Leikai.

She was a student of Standard Robert Higher Secondary School pursuing 7 standard staying at the Girls' Hostel of the said school. The dead body was taken away by the police for post mortem.

Reporters who went for coverage of the event were denied entry by the school authority in connivance with the so call parents body. No

authority of the school comes out to brief the reporters on how the incident was happened. The attitude of the school authority suggested that they were trying to cover up the incident just to protect the school image. And reporters now suspects false play in the incident as reporters are not allowed to cover news regarding the hanging of the class 7 going student.

## Bomb threats to Deputy Manager of Babina Diagnostic Center

IT News  
Imphal, July 18,

A bomb was found placing at the gate of the residence of Thingom Sukumar, age about 50 yrs, son of Th. Shanti at Yaikul Hiruhamba Leikai in Imphal West at around 5.30 am today.

Thingom Sukumar is the deputy director of Babina Diagnostic Center. Family members said that the explosive was found lying at

the gate when Th. Shanti was cleaning the area as usual.

Police team which was informed by the family members rushed the site and with the help of Bomb Disposal Squad picked up the bomb and defused it at around 8.30 am.

Speaking to media persons Sukumar said that he had never received any threats from any persons or armed group. He said it may be a mistake of those persons in placing the

bomb. He however, said that such act is condemnable and should not repeat in future as it is residential area.

Meanwhile, source of the police said that the bomb was planted in such a way to explode as it was fitted with agarbati and the lever was tied by a thread.

So far, no groups has claimed responsibility but the police had started investigation over the placing of the bomb.

## Vehicle fallen at Imphal River recovered

IT News  
Imphal, July 18,

After massive hunt by rescue team of the State Fire service, the Tata DI vehicle which had fallen into Imphal River by crushing the Lilong Bridge was recovered today afternoon. However, except for one person believe to be the driverno companion who

was believed to be inside the vehicle at the time of the incident were not found inside the vehicles.

Report said that the tata DI vehicle coming from Imphal towards Thoubal side seems to went out of control while trying to divert possible accident with a four wheeler car coming from the opposite direction fall in the river by

crushing the bar. Hectic search were conducted since early today morning by the rescue team of the state fire service.

Identity of the two persons is yet to be established. The registration number of the ill fated vehicle is MN01S1300. The owner of the vehicle is identified as one MD. Altaf Hussain.

## Life attempt to HR defenders daughter condemn

IT News  
Imphal, July 18,

Conflict widow forum Manipur decry the police inaction to hue and cry of the people of the state demanding punishment of those culprits who were involved in the shooting of the daughter of Human rights defender, U Thoibi on July 4, by a group of hoodlums coming in a gypsy vehicles.

The Conflict widow forum in a press meet held at Manipur Press Club demanded immediate arrest of those involved failing which the forum threatens intense agitations across the state.

## Volunteers of MPCC staged sit-in-protest against price hike

IT News  
Imphal July 18,

Volunteers of Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee today staged sit-in-protest in front of Congress Bhavan against price hike. The protest was organised by Kishan Cell of MPCC.

Speaking to media persons President of MPCC Gaikhangam stressed that the people of the land has been facing tremendous problems because of the price rise of all the items. He added that the rise of petroleum products rise to an unaffordable rate.

Denying that the reason of the price rise is not natural Gaikhangam said that it was because of the failure to manage properly.

He demanded to decrease the price hike of the items to a more affordable rate for the welfare of the people.

## UKLF says KNO/KNA clarification to the killing of its cadre as false propaganda

IT News  
Imphal, July 18,

United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF) today made a press statement terming the statement of the Kuki National Army by the name Mr T. Stephen Kukui on 14th July 2019 as false allegation regarding the gruesome murder of 2nd Lieutenant John Gantge by KNO/KNA on 13th July 2019. Reacting the statement the UKLF said, "It is shocked to learn from the media report that the banned drug W.Y. packaged was recovered from the victim body. However, the Investigation Team of UKLF after thoroughly enquired and

found some flaws on the reports. That, in the Seizure Memo of Moreh police seized by Mr. T. Paominlun Haokip, ASI of Moreh PS there is nothing mentioned about drugs being recovered from the body of Late 2nd Lieutenant John Gantge".

The statement added that the organisation have doubt upon the Investigation Officer to manipulate and changed the seizure report in collusion with the culprits to tarnish the image of the organisation. therefore, the media report made by KNO/KNA is baseless and Just to mislead the investigation on the heinous came they had committed.

"In fact, the organization suspected that there may be unholy nexus between Mr. T. Paominlun Haokip (IO of the case) Moreh PS and that of KNO/KNA particularly Mr. Telsing Thangboi @ Thapui Haokip of KNO/KNA Moreh Tactical OC who is the man culprit of the brutal killing of 2nd Lieutenant John Gantge", the statement added. The UKLF appealed the higher authority to Intervene on these contradictory reports and urged to find out in whose nexus do KNO/KNA made such media reports.

While stating that the UKLF always worked to eradicate the banned drugs substances and

## ATSUM warns RIMS authority to stir agitation if they didn't rectify the violation of reservation

IT News  
Imphal July 18,

Concerning about reservation violation of tribal in the notification for LDC of RIMS and also the seats of MBBS

students All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM) warned intense agitation if RIMS authority doesn't rectify it at the earliest.

Addressing in a press meet held today at Administrative centre of ATSUM, Adimjati Complex Chingmeirong General Secretary of ATSUM Seiboi Haokip said that the notification for the post of LDC of RIMS violated the reservation system. He added that as per the guidelines of Department of Personnel and Training there is a clear cut policy to follow State Reservation Norms at the Central Institution which is around 34 percent for ST in our State.

Unfortunately according to the notification out of the nine posts for LDC, 5 were Unreserved, 2 reserved for SC, 1 reserved for ST and 1 reserved for OBC which completely violate the DOPT guidelines, Seiboi stressed.

He further said that they have given written application to the Director regarding the matter

but no sign of rectification was done from the RIMS. Seiboi urged the RIMS authority to rectify it under the State reservation norms.

Regarding 25 additional seats of MBBS he said that there is also a violation of reservation system where 11 seats are reserved for economically weaker section, 10 were unreserved seats and 4 for all India.

The economically weaker sections have 10 percent reservation for the general category. The central institution should also follow state norms regarding reservation where 7 seats for SC, 4 seats for OBC, 1 seats for ST and 23 seats for Economically weaker section and 10 seats should be unreserved out of the 25 MBBS seats.

He also urged the authority to rectify it at the earliest. Seiboi warned that ATSUM will launch agitation if the authorities fail to rectify it. "We will fight for our right for our 'befitting share'", he concluded.