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## Will take measures to eradicate poverty in state: Manipur CM N Biren Singh

Agency  
Imphal, March 4,

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has said his government would take "steps to eradicate poverty" in the state and work toward ensuring that the beneficiaries of welfare schemes receive their dues on time. Addressing people after inaugurating a revamped school in Imphal West district Sunday, Singh asserted that the "prevailing system of governance and administration in the state has to be rectified to achieve the target". "As a part of this endeavour, two important missions - 'Go to Hills' and 'Go to Village' - were launched by the government last year to redress the grievances of the people living in the hills and the valley," the chief minister said. Singh also said that the schemes will be reviewed every month to ensure that the benefits reach people on time. "The government will take steps to eradicate poverty from Manipur. It is sensitive to the needs of the people.

"We have already taken measures to ensure that people get electricity and gas connections without having to wait in queues outside government offices," he maintained. Stressing on the important of imparting quality education in schools, the CM said the BJP government in the state will launch a new mission to provide better facilities in government-run institutes. "Education plays a vital role in bringing about all round development. The mission, 'School Fagat Hansi' or 'Let's make schools better' is aimed at providing improved facilities and quality education to the students," he added.



## Contract staffs of MSPDCL stage protest

IT News  
Imphal March 4,

As a protest against the government for not regularizing the staffs of MSPDCL, the All Manipur QUASS Staff Union staged sit-in-protest at the gate of Keishampat Power House. The union also begins cease work strike from today onwards. Speaking to Media persons General Secretary of All Manipur QUASS Staff Union Konthoujam Swadesh Kumar said that they have been working as a staff under MSPDCL since 2014 but they haven't been regularise till now. Various protests were had staged earlier demanding regularisation of the staffs. Memorandums were also given to the authorities many a times, he added. He also said that there wasn't any positive response given to them and added that The government with all its tactics cajole them again and again but neglecting their demands. During this issue the government has been trying to recruit new staff sidelining the previous staffs in regularizing them, he added.



Swadesh Kumar further said that now the cabinet session is going to end but their demands hasn't been discussed till now. He questioned the government whether they don't consider them as citizens of Manipur. It can be mentioned that memorandums to regularize the staffs were given again on the Feb 28 on the speaker as well as chief minister to discussed it on the ongoing

assembly session. Unfortunately no positive response from the government has been given till now, Swadesh Kumar added. He appealed the government to take in the experience staff as a regular one. As their demands aren't made till now Swadesh Kumar declared that the union started siezed work strike until positive response from the government has been assured.

## President gives assent to Ordinance allowing voluntary use of Aadhaar

Agency  
New Delhi, March 4,

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to an ordinance that allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as ID proof for obtaining mobile SIM cards and opening bank accounts. The ordinance was necessitated because the Rajya Sabha could not approve a Bill after its passage by the Lok Sabha. Last week, the Cabinet had approved the promulgation of an ordinance to give effect to changes proposed in Aadhaar and two others legislations. The amendments provide for stiff penalties for violation of norms set for the use of

Aadhaar and violation of privacy. The ordinance gives effect to the changes in the Aadhaar Act such as giving a child an option to exit from the biometric ID programme on attaining 18 years of age. The amendments also make it clear that anyone not offering Aadhaar cannot be denied any service, be it opening of a bank account or obtaining a mobile phone SIM card. The amendments will enable UIDAI to have a more robust mechanism to serve the public interest and restrain the misuse of Aadhaar. President has also given his assent to the draft Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019. It seeks to

extend the period for reconstitution of the Central Council from existing period of one year to two years so that the tenure of the Board of Governors may be extended for a further period of one year with effect from 17th May 2019. President has also given his assent to an ordinance for an amendment to the special economic zones act, 2005. The present provision of the SEZs Act, 2005 do not permit trusts to set up units in special economic zones. The amendment will enable a trust to be considered for grant of permission to set up a unit in special economic zones. This will facilitate investments in Special Economic Zones.

## PM Modi asks opposition to stop questioning valour of armed forces

Agency  
New Delhi, March 4,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asked Opposition to stop questioning the valour of our armed forces. Speaking after inaugurating various development projects in Jammu, Gujarat, he said, the entire nation agrees that the menace of terror has to be eliminated. He said, we should be proud of our armed forces. Mr Modi said that if India had Rafael aircraft during the recent airstrike on terrorist camps, then the result would have been more positive for us. Referring to Ayushman Bharat, the Prime Minister said, India is home to one of the biggest healthcare programmes in the world and the coming of this initiative ensures top quality and affordable healthcare for the poor. He said, Gujarat has witnessed a revolution in the health sector in last many years and hospitals with

modern facilities are coming up across the state. The Prime Minister stressed on the needs for the structural and long term measures to overcome the challenges the country is facing. Mr Modi said, for many years, there was an issue of water shortage in Gujarat and the state has been drought prone. Mr Modi however said, the Sardar Sarovar Dam has brought much relief to the people of the state. He said, this project was completed despite neglect from earlier state governments and adversities from various quarters. Earlier, Mr Modi inaugurated 750 beds Annexe of Guru Gobind Singh Hospital in Jammu, Gujarat. During his two day visit to the state, the Prime Minister has also inaugurated the newly built PG hostel of the hospital. Mr Modi also visited the Hospital complex and interacted with students and faculty. Prime Minister has also

unveiled the Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation-SAUNI projects at the venue through the press of a button. This project includes Und-1 to Ranjitsagar Lift Irrigation Scheme and Machu-1 to Nyari Lift Irrigation scheme. Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of Jodiya Desalination Plant and Und-3 to Venu-2 Lift Irrigation scheme. He has also flagged off Bandra- Jammuagar Humsafar Express through a video link. Besides it, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the 51 kilometer pipeline from Aaji-3 to Khjadia by unveiling the plaque. He laid the foundation stone of Rajkot-Kanauas Railway Line doubling project. Prime Minister has also handed over keys to the beneficiaries to mark the dedication of 448 houses constructed by Jammuagar Municipal Corporation and 1008 flats constructed by Jammuagar Area Development Authority.

## EC to announce Lok Sabha poll schedule on March 9

Agency  
New Delhi, March 4,

The Election Commission of India to announce Lok Sabha poll schedule on March 9, Saturday. Last week, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora had said that general elections in the country will be held on time. "The election in the country will be held on time," Arora told reporters in Lucknow when asked about the poll schedule in the wake of tensions between India and Pakistan. He said as per a new notification of the commission, candidates will have to give details of their properties abroad, besides those in the country. "The I-T department will look into it and, if any, discrepancies are found then it will be uploaded on the Election Commission (EC) website and strict action will be initiated," the CEC said. The commission is committed to holding free and fair polls, and will promptly act on any complaint regarding this, the CEC said. In all the 1,63,331 polling centres, VVPAT machines will be used this time, he said.

## China says it doesn't recognise Pakistan, India as nuclear powers

Agency  
New Delhi, March 4,

As India and Pakistan remain entangled in their gate-crashed nuclear power status, China reminded the world again on Friday that they were not legitimate members of the exclusive club, and it did not recognise them as such. The comments came in Beijing through the foreign ministry spokesperson who was saying that China had no intention to recognise North Korea as a nuclear power. "China has never recognised India and Pakistan as nuclear countries. Our position on this has never changed," Chinese spokesman Lu Kang told a media briefing in Beijing, Press Trust of India said. The United States has helped India in acquiring a degree of legitimacy as a nuclear power, but the Chinese objection has

stalled any outright legitimacy. Saying China never recognised India and Pakistan as nuclear powers, he ruled out extending such a status to North Korea following the unsuccessful second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Vietnam. He was replying to a question whether China would recognise North Korea as a nuclear state like India and Pakistan as talks between Trump and Kim at the second summit in Hanoi broke down over Pyongyang's refusal to give up two nuclear processing plants. China's comments on the nuclear status of South Asia rivals come in the wake of global fears of a war breaking out between the two countries. Pakistan on Friday returned to India an Air Force pilot who

was arrested after his plane was shot down over Pakistan on Wednesday. China has been blocking India's entry into the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) on the ground that New Delhi has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). India has said it has dropped bombs on "terror camps" inside Pakistani territory and killed a "very large number of terrorists". But, Pakistan says that's not the case. After India applied for NSG membership, Pakistan too applied for the same following that China has called for a two-step approach which states that NSG members first need to arrive at a set of principles for the admission of non-NPT states into the NSG and then move forward discussions of specific cases.

## "You Lied Again": Rahul Gandhi On PM Modi's "Made In Amethi" Swipe

Agency  
New Delhi, March 4,

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Rahul Gandhi's constituency Amethi in Uttar Pradesh to launch a manufacturing unit for AK-203 rifles and targeted him at a rally there, the Congress president posted a tweet accused him of "lying by force of habit". "I laid the foundation stone of the ordinance factory in Amethi in 2010. For many years it has produced small arms. Yesterday you went to Amethi and as is your habit, you lied again. Have you no shame," the Congress president tweeted in Hindi this morning. Shortly afterwards came a retort from Union Minister Smriti Irani, who has been a frequent visitor to Amethi since she contested the 2014 election from the constituency against Rahul Gandhi and lost, but by a lesser margin than the Congress expected. "You are

so afraid of development in Amethi that you didn't bother to see that yesterday a joint venture was launched at Korva. This is a joint venture between India and Russia to produce AK 203 rifles," tweeted the Union Minister. PM Modi yesterday travelled to Amethi for the first time since he came to power in 2014, and addressed a political rally in the constituency that has voted the Gandhi family for decades and has elected Rahul Gandhi since 2004. Smriti Irani, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were also at the event. The Prime Minister called Amethi the best example of his government's motto "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas (development for all)" and said the town would have a "new identity" and would be known by the AK-203 Kalashnikov rifles that would be made there. "The AK-203 rifles will be

manufactured in Amethi under Russia-India joint venture...these rifles will be known as 'made in Amethi' and will help our jawans in encounters with naxals and terrorists," said PM Modi at the event where Nirmala Sitharaman also read out a message from Russian President Vladimir Putin. Targeting Rahul Gandhi repeatedly without naming him, the Prime Minister told the gathering: "Some people go around giving speeches of 'made in Ujjain', 'made in Jaipur', 'made in Jaisalmer'...this is Modi. Now 'Made in Amethi' will be AK-203 rifles. It will help our jawans." Referring to the groundbreaking ceremony of the weapons factory by Rahul Gandhi, he accused the Congress chief of renege on his promise of jobs. "When the foundation was laid by your MP, it was said that work will start in 2010.