

Shirui Lily Festival concludes with much fanfare

Governor Dr. Heptulla worries about the existence of Shirui Lily due to climate change impact

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The 3rd Shirui Lily festival organised by the state Tourism Department of the government of Manipur concluded today with much fanfare. Manipur governor Dr. Najma Heptulla, who is known for her admiration to the tradition and culture as well as the traditional attires of various ethnic community of the state, who even talk the world about the state of being the biodiversity hotspot attended the closing day of the Shirui Lily festival.

"It is unfortunate that the Lily which flowers in late May to early June, is becoming rarer and many experts have felt that it may ultimately become extinct, with the rising temperature and change in the habitat. It was earlier thought that due to forest fire, the plant was being affected with a plant now bearing only a few flowers while about 3 to 4 decades back, a stalk carried not less than 12 flowers. Nowadays, it is a common sight of small bamboos encroaching on the habitat of the Lily and the latter is losing



ground to the gregarious bamboos. There is need for more vigilance on the part of all stakeholders and a proper scientific study on the flower, so that this renowned flower can continue to thrive in its original habitat. I am glad that ICAR has taken up tissue culture of this plant and hope that it will perpetuate this plant not only in its original habitat but also in laboratory conditions so that it does not become extinct", Dr. Heptulla said while delivering her speech at INL ground today. She further said that Manipur

falls in one of the top biodiversity hotspots in the world and surely, the acclaimed Lily is indicative of such richness. The focus on global warming and climate change and its impact on our biodiversity and the efforts being made to leverage timely remedial measures are laudable. Nothing requires them more than the Lily. As already mentioned, if intervention is not made now with the urgency it deserves, the plant may be lost forever, the governor added.

"It is not only the Lily but other flora and fauna are also facing tremendous threat to their survival as their habitats are being gradually eroded" the governor said and expressed her happiness for taking the brand name of Shirui Lily, the State Flower of Manipur, for the festival for popularizing it far and wide.

Health Minister L Jyantakumar, PHED Minister Letpao haokip, Education Minister Th Radheshyam, Chairman of the Tourism Corporation Dr. Sapam Ranjan and MLA Khasim Ruivah were among those present in the closing ceremony.

Thousands throng to Ukhrul to witness live performance of Extreme

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Meanwhile, American rock band *Extreme* is all set to perform at the ShiRock festival which is being organised as a part of the Shirui Lily festival. The already crowded Ukhrul district headquarter is reportedly facing trouble with the number of visitors raising unexpectedly today evening. Gary Cherone and lead guitarist and founding

member Nuno Bettencourt are today the talk of Ukhrul town and people are eagerly waiting to witness their performance. Many fans from various parts of the country had already arrived to watch the band perform at decorated Bakshi ground in Ukhrul.

Over two dozen rock bands are competing for the coveted title 'Shirock 2019', which carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and the vice - the solo hunt for the individual prize

competition.

On the opening day of ShiRock on Wednesday night, popular Scottish hard rock veterans Nazareth captivated thousands of rock music lovers for nearly two hours during their debut performance in Manipur. The fifty-one-year-old rock band took the stage around 8.30 pm with a new number along with their evergreen 'Shot me down' etc as their opening track with Carl Sentance as lead vocalist.

ATRPFM threatens agitation demanding release of FOS funds within October

IT News
Imphal, Oct. 19

Alleging fund diversion of the TA&Hills including scholarships for students by BJP led Government and consequent failure to release on time the All Tribal Rights Protection Forum Manipur (ATRPFM) threatens strong agitation and litigations if fails to release all funds for tribal people within the month of October.

A statement by the ATRFM said that despite repeated approach and requests to release the fund of family oriented schemes (FOS), the State Government has failed to do the same till date which is illegal and a clear indication of poor governance. The beneficiaries are force to wait

till date when the Central Government has released the fund long ago

"If the State government fails to release the said fund within the month of October, 2019, ATRPFM would no more remain silent and explore all means including filing PIL before the High Court of Manipur in the interest of poor tribal people and in the interest of justice", a statement by James Haokip of the ATRPFM said.

The statement added that the ATRPFM had submitted charters of demand in pursuant to the resolution adopted on August 24, 2019 in the Joint Meeting of ATRPFM (All Tribal Rights Protection Forum, Manipur) and ATCFM (All Tribal Chief Forum, Manipur) along with

various tribal leaders of Manipur held at Mini-Conference Hall, TRI, Chingmeirong, Imphal.

The resolutions are (1) to press the State Government to re-allocated all the matters relating to the creation / recognition of new villages or bifurcation of a village in hill areas of Manipur in accordance with law; (2) for extension of direct funding to ADCs instead of grant-in-aid including revised of honorarium to Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Executive Members and ADC Members (3) to correct the inter-district boundaries i.e. doubling of villages in both the hills and valley district jurisdictions in the past Census records must be corrected in the coming Census 2021; (4) to include all

villages in the coming 2021 Census as well as in the current 7th Socio-Economic & Caste Census 2019; (5) to include the Village Chiefs/Ex-Officio Chairmen and all the members of Village Authorities in the warrant of precedence; (6) not to evict the tribal people from their residence/villages and (8) to give reservation to reserved categories in proportion with population in the interest of equal representation in all areas. However, State government has failed to give any positive response till date, it added.

The statement of the ATRPFM threatens to take action of its own and throw ball to the government for any unwanted eventualities due to the action.

128th Manipur Police Raising Day Held Government committed to uphold the territorial integrity of the state: CM

IT News
Imphal, Oct. 19

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the State government is committed to uphold the territorial integrity of the State. This was stated by him at the 128th Manipur Police Raising Day held at the Parade Ground of 1st Manipur Rifles Battalion today.

Speaking as Chief Guest of the function, Chief Minister said that the Centre has assured the State government that the territorial integrity of the State will not be affected in bringing solution of the ongoing Indo-Naga peace talks. Chief Minister said that the State government believed that the Centre and its leaders would respect sentiment of the State government. The State is vigilant and monitoring every stage of the ongoing peace talks, he added.

Responding to the ethnic issues in the State, Chief Minister said that it is tragic that most of the communities of the State always think for themselves rather than cohesive thoughts. When we start thinking for common good leaving aside personal/community benefits then there will be peace in the State, he asserted.

Stating that various welfare schemes have been introduced for the people, Chief Minister said that the government is committed to deliver inclusive governance and development in the State. In the last two and half years, with the love and support of the people peace has prevailed in the State. The government opens its door for any dialogue for resolving any issue in the State. Appreciating the efforts of the Manipur Police in maintaining law and order of



the State, Chief Minister announced that the government would construct a new City Police Station and also renovate the existing Imphal West Commando Barrack. Commenting on the contribution of the Women Police personnel, Chief Minister said that a special Women Commando Unit will be established. Around 100 women police personnel will be given special training in this regard, he added.

Chief Minister maintained that under a scheme of Home Ministry, a Police Memorial Park and Police Museum would be constructed soon as a mark of respect and tribute to those police personnel who have rendered selfless sacrifice and service for the good of the State.

Speaking on the occasion, DGP L.M. Khaute elaborately spoke on various activities and initiatives of the Manipur

Police in last one year. He maintained that 527 militants were arrested including 102 Arms with 8908 ammunitions in past one year. Around 925 cases were charge sheeted by the Manipur Police. In war against drugs, drugs worth Rs. 1336 crores were seized and 226 cases were registered under which 413 persons were arrested, he added. He also stated that Child friendly Police Stations have been inaugurated in various Police Stations.

Chief Minister distributed commendation certificates with cash to various police officers for their outstanding contributions in different fields. The best Police Station 2019 was bagged by Moreh Police Station, best Battalion 2019 was bagged by 5th Bn Manipur Rifles and best Police Officer 2019 was awarded to Md. Wakibuddin, Sub-Inspector of Lilong Police Station. Ms.

Bhumika Shamurailatpam, who topped the High School Leaving Certificate Examination 2019 was also awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5000 by the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister took salute from around 15 march-past contingents of civil police (male and female), police commandos, Manipur Rifles, India Reserve Battalion, Home Guards, VDF personnel and Manipur Police Dog Squad.

On the occasion, Chief Minister released a souvenir highlighting the various achievements of the Manipur Police Department in the last one year. Chief Minister also inaugurated Blood Donation Camp at Banquet Hall of 1st Manipur Rifles Battalion.

Deputy Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary and top civil and police officers also attended the function.

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of YMC defeated in no-confidence motion

IT News
Yairipok, Oct. 19

Major changes in the Yairipok Municipal Council is taking place after majority of the Councilors voted against them in the no confidence moved by the councilors. Five Councilors out of the 9 Councilors of the YMC voted against the Chairpersons L. Hariyari Devi while 6 (six) councilors voted against Vice Chairpersons Dilip. The vote for no confidence

motion was held at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner Thoubal district on October 17 with the DC N. Bandana attending as presiding officer.

The new political development in the Yairipok Municipal Council came after 5 of the Councilors of the YMC joined the BJP recently. Chief Minister himself attended the felicitation function of the 5 councilor who joined the BJP. Following the defeat of the Chairperson Hariyari Devi

and the Vice Chairperson Dilip, councilors had started camping for formation of a new council under new Chairperson and vice chairperson.

Source said that the rival councilors are still not disclosing on who will be the next chairperson of the YMC but source said that Longiam Kamala Devi may be the choice of the rival councilors. Longiam Kamala got elected from ward No. 9 and is also one among the 5 councilors who joined the BJP recently.

Soso Shaiza visited Chandel district for assessment of development prog.

IT News
Chandel, Oct. 19

National Commission for Women, India led by Member Soso Shaiza had visited Chandel yesterday and took stock of women related development schemes in district.

Various women related development programmes/schemes including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, One Stop Centre (Sakhi) recently set up in Chandel Swadhar Greh Scheme, Ujjawala

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) were highlighted in the above assessment meeting. Matters on opening of Working Women Hostel, opening of Creche Centre for working women, making widow Pension scheme eligible to young widows who are less than 40 years, opening of two more Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidya (KGBV) residential schools etc were brought up in the above meeting. The assessment programme

were participated by Smt Dr. Binota Meinam, Chairperson Manipur State Commission for Women, Shri Krishna Kumar, DC/Chandel, Shri N. Madhuni Singh, SP/Chandel, Shri Bantee Konthoujam Joint Director, Social Welfare Dept., Manipur. DLOs of Chandel and NGOs.

The assessment programme was successfully organised by District Administration, Chandel and held at Conference Hall, DC Office, Chandel District.