

Finally, MHRD seeks President's approval for removal of Manipur University VC AP Pandey

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19

Manipur University finally is going to have a full-time Vice-Chancellor as the Ministry of Human Resource Development had reportedly sought permission for removal of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey over allegations of administrative irregularities, according to government officials familiar with the matter.

The Manipur University has been running by an Administrator since October 11, 2018, by an order of the Manipur High Court after Prof. Pandey was put under suspension during an inquiry conducted against him over prolonged absence and irregularities.

A report appeared in *Hindustan Times* written by said that Amandeep Shukla said that the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry has written to President Ram Nath Kovind, seeking his approval for the removal of Manipur University's vice-chancellor Adya Prasad Pandey over allegations of administrative



irregularities, according to government officials familiar with the matter.

The ministry's action comes after a two-member inquiry committee indicated that there was substance in allegations of prolonged absence, and some other charges brought against Pandey, who has been heading the central university since 2016.

"The HRD ministry has written to the president about the issue, as he is the chancellor of all central varsities. The ministry has suggested that the vice-chancellor be removed," said a senior ministry official who asked not to be named. The allegations against Pandey include that he stayed away from the varsity for long periods, and delayed filling up key positions such

as registrar and controller of examinations.

There have also been protests by teachers and students on the campus during Pandey's term. In September 2018, the HRD ministry suspended Pandey, citing concerns over the volatile law-and-order situation on the campus. It also handed over the administration of the university to Manipur chief secretary Jarnail Singh, who is listed as vice-chancellor on the Imphal-based varsity's official website.

Pandey said he was not aware that the ministry was seeking his removal. "I am not aware of the development so I would not like to comment," he said when asked for his version. In the past, Pandey said he was being targeted by a section of

teachers and students, who were supported by political parties, especially those belonging to the Left.

The HRD ministry has, in recent years, taken a stern view of allegations against vice-chancellors.

In 2016, the vice-chancellor of Pondicherry University, Chandra Krishnamurthy, was removed following allegations of plagiarism. Last month, Allahabad University vice-chancellor, RL Hangloo, resigned citing personal reasons after a controversial tenure in which he was accused of administrative and financial irregularities. The ministry accepted his resignation and initiated an inquiry into charges of financial and administrative irregularities.

Recently, a vice-chancellor of Tripura University, Vijay Dharurkar, resigned after a video of him allegedly accepting cash emerged during a sting operation. A vice-chancellor of Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, J.L. Kaul, was also removed in 2016 over allegations of irregularities.

Horti Dept sends ginger consignment to a Delhi Company

IT News
Imphal, Feb. 19

Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) under the aegis of Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department is all geared up to send organic ginger produced by the 1,000 ginger growers of the Pherzawl district to Nature and Cure, a Dubai based company this year.

As part of the mission to benefit the registered organic farmers, Horticulture and Soil Conservation Minister Shri Thounaojam Shyamkumar today flagged off 3.5 MT (metric tonne) organic ginger consignment of the Sinlung Organic Farmers Producers Company (FPC), Pherzawl registered under MOMA which will be supplied to Revanta Foods Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi. It is the first consignment of the Sinlung Organic FPC, Pherzawl.

Addressing the media persons at the Horticulture and Soil Conservation Department

office in Sanjenthong, Minister Th. Shyamkumar said that the department with its agency MOMA is working sincerely for the welfare of the organic farmers under the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCDNER), a central scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Stating that the department officials have been working tirelessly to market the organic food produces of the State, he said with sheer dedication and sincerity the officials have been successfully marketing organic produces outside the State. He further said continuing the effort, organic ginger produced by the farmers of the Pherzawl and surrounding areas of Pherzawl district has been marketed to a New Delhi based company. Lauding the entire officials of the department, he motivated them to continue their work with utmost sincerity and enthusiasm.

Debadutta Sharma, Project Director, MOMA said the department is focusing on producing more organic produces in the State in order to benefit the farmers. He said the department is sincerely working and is motivated after Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh and Horticulture and Soil Conservation Minister gave a special focus to the ginger farmers of Pherzawl district. He further said that the certification process for the 1,000 ginger farmers began last year in the Pherzawl district.

He said the department is all set to send organic consignment in large quantity to a Dubai based company and believed that such initiative will surely benefit the large number of certified organic ginger farmers of Pherzawl district. He said last year, MOMA was able to supply 4,000 MT organic ginger outside the State, benefitting the farmers of above Rs 12 crore.

Government Aided School Employees threaten to commit suicide revised pay

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19

"We will commit suicide either in front of Chief Minister's Bungalow or in front of his house if the ROP already passed on September 26, 2019, is not put into action on or before February 25 this year".

This was stated by Thokchom Koireng, spokesperson of the Joint Administration Council (JAC) All Manipur Government Aided School Employees Organisation. He said that other teachers of primary school had got already ROP and more than that they demanded the 7th pay commission but for the Added teachers they were still at 5th pay commission. However, the money that they got was unmanageable for the present trend in their family. He further said that the JAC

members were with hope when the CM passed the bill but as of now after meeting the CM on 15th January and meeting of the Educational Minister on February 4, 2020, no further initiative was seen so far. He stated that there were

584 added schools and 1699 teachers together at village and hill but since October 2019 they did not get pay till now and he continued that an added teacher got Rs. 9,945 per month irregularly.

Arjuna Awardee Suraj Lata Devi files case against her husband for domestic violence

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19

Former skipper of Indian women's hockey team and Arjuna awardee Suraj Lata Devi has filed a complaint against her husband for alleged domestic violence during her visit to the town in November. Investigation is on following a complaint filed by her at Heingang Police station Suraj Lata said while talking to media persons at Manipur Press Club today. She said she had filed the

complaint at Heingang PS in January. The case was transferred to Sultanpur Lodhi as the incident had reportedly occurred here during their stay for a tournament at the Rail Coach Factory. Suraj Lata Devi reportedly married with Ksh Shantakumar of Singamei Kshatri Leikai on November 4, 2004 and have two sons. The hockey player, on whom the Bollywood film "Chak De India" was based, has got her husband booked under Sections 325, 343, 354 and 498A of the IPC.

Drive against trapping of migratory birds conducted

IT News
Thoubal, Feb. 19

A surprise drive against the illegal trapping of migratory birds in Pumenl and Khoidum part were conducted today. N. Munal Meitei, Range Forest Officer, N. Brojen Singh, Forest Beat Officer, Waikhong and his staffs and M. Open Singh, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Thoubal were also in the drive.

In today's drive, 5 (five) number of 300 feet long bird traps were recovered and removed. Luckily, no bird was found in the traps. The trap offenders escaped taking the advantages of the thick morning fog. With the occasion, N. Munal

Meitei, Range Forest Officer told that last year after a frequent drive, bird trapping were much reduced in these wetlands but unfortunately today we come to know that frequent visit to these wetland areas and conducting the awareness program with the villagers in and around these wetlands may be required. His told that their such drive in all wetlands his Range will continue from tomorrow.

N. Munal mentioned that one of the fish farmer namely Shri O. Ingobi Singh did a tremendous job for protecting and guarding about 30-40 shurit birds in his fish farm. It was really a wonderful work for saving the migratory birds

in his own field. Therefore N. Munal Meitei appeal to all other fish farmers to love and care for the migratory birds just like Ibocha in their fish farms also. The migratory birds have best senses and they want to live at the places where they are love and care. N. Munal Meitei told that migratory birds are precious gift of God to us and we should not kill them. The present day dreaded coronavirus in China is also claimed to be related with the killing and eating of the wild birds and animals. Therefore he appealed to everyone not to kill wildlife and birds for the sake of future generation and a beautiful Manipur.

Imphal based folk rock band *Imphal Talkies* enthralls Bangladesh audiences

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19

Imphal based folk rock band Imphal Talkies enthralls audiences in Bangladesh with their aesthetic performance during their tour. The band toured Bangladesh and played three shows for the Manipuris in Bangladesh as a followed up of "Re-imagining Manipur" tour which started in June 2019 in Assam. The band performed three consecutive shows from February 13 to 15, in Lamabazar (Sylhet), Bishgaon (Habiganj) and Bhaugach (Moulvibazar). The band played the new album "Ema gi Wari", a concept album which tells the stories of



Manipuris in Assam and Bangladesh. Imphal Talkies' frontman Akhu travelled across Assam and Bangladesh in 2018 and met many poets, writers, activists,

etc. The many conversations that he had with them and their stories have culminated in this album "Ema gi Wari". The songs were written and composed partly during his

travel. The album looks at Manipur beyond the geographical boundaries. The tour and the shows were organised to create a dialogue between the band and the audience to share stories of past and struggles within the community. The band believes it is just a beginning of a lifelong sharing of stories and finding roots.

Imphal Talkies is very grateful to Lamabazar Naharol Lup, Bishgaon Manipuri Club and Bhanugach Meetei Naharol Lup for making this tour possible. The band also thanks India Foundation for the Arts for supporting this tour and the album "Ema gi Wari"

9th Kanglei Mega Sports Festivals 2020

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19

"The 9th Kanglei Mega Sports Festivals 2020" will commence from March 8 and concludes on March 13. This Mega Sports Festivals had been conducting since 2012 by Kangleipak Student's Association with an aim not to indulge in activities like using colours, waters and subscription of money during Yaosang", said Sanjoy Khullakpam, Secretary of Youth Affairs and Sports while speaking to media persons at KSA office today evening. He said that the Sports Festivals would be held at different parts of Manipur and

he further requested all Kangleicha to co-operate, support and help in all Sports events and other activities.

As a part of this Sports festivals the 9th Kangleipak Football Trophy would be held at Mapal Kangleibung in association with All Manipur Football Association with an award of Rs.35,000 and Rs.25,000 with trophy for winner and runner respectively. And the 9th Kangleipak Kang Trophy would be held at Gopaldeva Kangshang, Yaikul and Singamei Kangshang and a Marathon Race would be at Imphal Ring Road.

CM, IPR Minister visits AMWJU president, wishes him speedy recovery

IT News
Imphal, Feb 19,

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh visited All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) president Bijoy Kakchingtabam, who is being treated for an illness at RIMS Hospital today. Yesterday evening IPR Minister Th. Bishwajit also visited Bijoy Kakchingtabam at RIMS and wished him speedy recovery.

N. Biren Singh enquired about the scribe's condition to the attending doctors, RIMS Director Prof. A. Santa and Medical Superintendent Prof. Ch. Arunkumar. The Chief Minister wished Shri Bijoy a speedy recovery and a healthy life. Later, speaking to media persons, the Chief Minister said that as per the attending doctors, Bijoy's condition is stable now and recovering fast. He then expressed hope that the senior journalist would fully recover very soon. Media Advisor to CM Irengbam Arun also accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.