

Editorial

Monday, January 13, 2020

What ails Chief Minister gi Haksel gi Tengbang !

Though the health care scheme Chief Minister Gi Haksel Tengbang (CMHT) is named after the chief minister but we should remember that the scheme has to do with public money and health care for the public. Therefore, we, as a people, must be vigilant about how the scheme is doing. Health care schemes are always appreciated given that more than thirty-six percent of Manipur's population live below the poverty line, according to the most recent poverty estimates.

First, we should look into how much information on the scheme is publicly and readily available on the scheme. For this, we can look into the website of the scheme. In the website, if we go to the details of the scheme, it is introduced as "by producing the CMHT-Manipur Health card at the empanelled hospitals, a beneficiary can get cashless treatment without making any payment to the empanelled hospitals up to Rs. 2 lakhs for secondary and tertiary health care per year per enrolled family on floater basis." So, the scheme is not for primary health care such as cough or cold, it has to do with specialised treatment and more serious illness given that scheme clearly mentions it is for secondary and tertiary health care.

It further adds that "the benefit will be applicable on hospitalization and certain day care procedures only. This capped benefit of Rs 2 Lakhs will include the capped travel and daily allowance. Maximum cover per family is of Rs 2 Lakhs. The total benefit will be admissible up to the ceiling amount of Rs 2 Lakhs per year per family including transport and daily allowances." However, a recent Imphal Times news report on CMHT points out that there is a per day cap, even for serious illness. The news report states that CMHT's counter in JNIMS informed the patient that there is a cap of one thousand five hundred rupees per day. She was informed that she could not buy the medicine as the cost of the medicine was way more than the per day cap. The patient later informed Imphal Times that the concerned doctor even requested that the medicine should be given to the patient. But, CMHT's counter denied it. It is quite surprising that information on the per day cap is not mentioned in the government website for this scheme. It does not seem to be publicly and readily available information. More importantly, when we are dealing with secondary and tertiary care in this scheme. Furthermore, there should be a health coordinator to help the patient in the whole process of treatment and coordinate with the medical officer for the good of the patient. However, it is quite evident that such assistance was not offered to the patient, as per the recent report on CMHT in Imphal Times.

The report also claimed that the doctor referred some basic tests to a private diagnostic centre. Whether a person who is already under economic duress and carrying a CMHT card should be asked to go to a private diagnostic centre, given that the government claims to have these facilities in the government hospitals. What does the scheme say on this? It is unclear on the matter. Further, the website mentions if the treatment happens within Manipur then there is a "transport allowance (Rs.300 per visit) subject to an annual ceiling of Rs.3000 included in the total coverage of Rs.2 Lakhs per family." If the claim that there is a cap of one thousand five hundred rupees per day then the question comes that whether the travel allowance for each visit is included in this per day cap or not. There is a lot of confusion here.

These are the issues that we face when we look at this scheme. Though a scheme for healthcare, especially for the poor, is an excellent thing on its own but it should also be carried forward well. The actions should reflect the intentions. Therefore, we should do away with these issues and implement the scheme in its true spirit.

Editor's pick

Feed back on Imphal News report

By-Seema Irom

Our CM and other concerned authorities of JNIMS need to look up on this matter seriously. I'm also a patient who happens to come from a medical background family, so I'm quite knowledgeable about the troubles which the patients and patient party have to undergo through on regular basis. The progressive index of a state has a lot to do with how the state actors care of the health sector. If you responsible decision-makers of this region keep on ignoring this fact that majority of the Manipuris cannot afford to go to the private hospitals and clinics for further

critical medical treatment, then I'm very sorry to say but the pledge you took on day 1 in your respective office is just an apparent lie. Merely giving "assuring speeches" during medical functions, inaugurating rooms, cutting ribbons, getting photographs to put them in the newspapers "to let people know" won't suffice the need of the hour. So Mr. CM sir and other concerned authorities of this health sector, I reiterate that the "politricks" you're engaging in is a typical folly; politics should never come in between those who are already in pain (physically, psychologically and overall spiritually).

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110 Indian pilgrims prevented from proceeding to Iraq

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai/Jan 13

As a sequel to the recent Iranian missile strike on United States-led forces in Iraq, 110 Indian pilgrims who were on their way to "Najaf", were prevented from proceeding further by authorities at Mumbai international airport in the wee hours of Saturday morning. The pilgrims belonged to the Bohra community were proceeding to Najaf and 5 of the passengers also had passed through immigration clearance. Others were in the process of obtaining boarding passes. They were board

a 2.30 AM Iraqi Airways flight to Najaf on Saturday. However the police stopped the passengers and also asked airport authorities to stop issuing boarding passes to the Iraq bound passengers. The Union External Affairs ministry vide notification issued on 8 January 2020 has already made it clear that no immigration clearance for Iraq will be given to ECR and ECRNR passport holders, till further notice. Most of the pilgrims routinely visit Najaf and Karbala. Major airlines have cancelled flights to Iran and Iraq and have re-routed them from both countries' airspace,

following an Iranian missile strike on United States-led forces in Iraq. Germany's Lufthansa, Dubai-based Emirates and low-cost flydubai are among that airlines who have cancelled flights. But several other carriers have continued operations over the affected airspace. After Major General Qasim Suleimani, the head of Iran's Quds army, was killed in the US attack, on 3 January, an Ukrainian passenger plane was shot down by Iranian forces killing all 176 people on board. Within hours, the FAA barred U.S. carriers from airspace over Iran, the Gulf of

Oman and the waters between Iran and Saudi Arabia, citing "heightened military activities and increased political tensions in the Middle East, which present an inadvertent risk to U.S. civil aviation operations. Non-U.S. operators are not bound by the FAA's flight ban, but they and other regulators consider its advice carefully when deciding where to fly. Airlines have taken more steps to avoid flying over conflict zones since 2014, when Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was downed by a missile fired from Ukraine, killing 298 people. But re-routing increases flight times and burns extra fuel.

Aakarshi Kashyap, Mithun Manjunath win titles at Yonex-Sunrise all India senior Ranking Tournament in Bengaluru

By Correspondent
Bengaluru, Jan. 13

Top seed Aakarshi Kashyap emerged victorious in women's singles while 15th seed Mithun Manjunath took the title in men's singles as the Yonex-Sunrise All India Senior Ranking Tournament 2020 concluded here in Bangalore yesterday.

Kashyap did not have an easy time on the court though. 16th seed Gayatri Gopichand proved to be a tough one to crack as she grabbed the second game. But Kashyap calmed her nerves and produced some brilliant shots to outplay Gopichand in the decider and complete the marathon 21-17, 12-21, 21-9 win in 63 minutes.

The men's singles section witnessed a mini upset as the 15th seed Mithun Manjunath prevailed 21-17, 21-9 over 12th seed Kaushal



Dharmar in a solid performance from start to finish. The 21-year-old Manjunath, who made it to the top 75 in the world last year and has been picked by Pune7 Aces to play in the Premier Badminton League Season 5, had earlier accounted for the 6th seed Rahul Yadav

Chittiaboina and 10th seed Siddharth Pratap Singh this week. Both the men's and the women's doubles categories had the top seeds losing in the finals. In women's doubles, it was a sterling show from the unseeded pair of Rutaparna Panda and Manesha K,

who stunned top seeds and current National Champion Shikha Gauram and Ashwini Bhat 21-19, 21-7. The men's doubles summit clash was an enthralling showdown between the top seeds Krishna Prasad Garaga-Shlok Ramchandran and sixth seeds Utkarsh Arora-Saurabh Sharma. Garaga and Ramchandran made a strong start and pocketed the first game 21-14 riding on their fabulous footwork and aggressive smashes. But they could not keep away the sixth seeds who lifted their game by several notches in the second and showed some steely resolve in the third to finish the 14-21, 21-9, 21-16 victory. Manesha K tasted double delight as she teamed up with MR Arjun to triumph in mixed doubles as well. The two rebounded from losing the first game to win the match 17-21, 21-13, 21-11 against Dingku Singh Konhoujam and Ritika Thakar.

"Poverty and income inequality up in 25 states and UTs":

IT News
Mumbai/Jan 13

Nearly 25 states and Union Territories in the country have been facing poverty, hunger, income inequality and every fifth Indian is below the poverty line and hence the country needs to take huge strides to alleviate poverty says Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2019-20 released by NITI Aayog. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, was prepared after a survey in 640 districts in the country. The index is aimed at measuring performance vis-a-vis the United Nations-mandated Sustainable Development Goals.

The report released recently stated that more Indians have fallen into poverty, hunger and income inequality in the past two years. This is after reduction in poverty to the extent of 27.1 crore between 2005-15. This indicates that India is far from the first goal of "no poverty by 2030.

Only two states - Andhra Pradesh (plus 2 points) and Sikkim (plus 1 point) registered some improvement, while there had been no change in situation in Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. Besides 22 states ranged between



1 to 18 points indicating that the poverty increased in those states. Top big states to fall were: Bihar and Odisha (minus 12 points), Jharkhand (minus 9), Uttar Pradesh and Punjab (minus 8), Assam and West Bengal (minus 5). Classification criteria for the SDG Index was as follows: Aspirant: 0-49, Performer: 50-64, Front Runner: 65-99 and Achiever: 100. But no state was close to the figure for total property alleviation. Goa scored 76. Tamil Nadu scored 72 and Tripura (70) was one of the toppers. But these states also couldn't meet the target. Chhattisgarh was the poorest, with nearly 40 per cent of the population living below the national poverty line, followed by Jharkhand (37 per cent). Jharkhand had 22 points (off 100), followed by Madhya Pradesh (24).

Scores also dipped for Manipur, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Besides the Gujarat, Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Maharashtra were among the states that lagged. The report among other things, said India still had 364 million Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) poor of which 156 million (34.6%) were children. The country was worse off in several goals (SDGs): SDG 1 - alleviation of poverty, SDG 2 - ending hunger, SDG 8 - decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 - reduction in an inequality, SDG 15 - preservation of life on land and SDG 16 - upholding peace, justice and strong institutions. The Centre-backed think tank considered three new indicators: children (6-59 months) who were anaemic, children (0-4 years) who were underweight and gross value added in agriculture per worker.

Those apart, there were four existing indicators: rural households under public distribution system, stunted children (under five), pregnant women (15-49 years) who were anaemic and rice, wheat and coarse cereals produced annually per unit area. India's standing vis-a-vis United Nations-mandated goals, has improved marginally, but the country has slipped in key areas, related to food security, livelihood and standard of living. Neatly 21 states are yet to

NITI Aayog

provide pucca houses. The highest percentage of households living in kutcha houses is in Arunachal Pradesh (29 per cent), followed by Odisha (14.2 per cent) However official sources claimed that there had been improvement in some states in achieving the target of poverty alleviation. The Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam, graduated to the 'Performer' category (50-64) from earlier 'Aspirant' category (score in the range of 0-49). Also the Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Goa, and Sikkim moved up from the 'Performer' category to the 'Front Runner' category (65-99). Kerala achieved the first rank in the composite SDG Index with a score of 70, followed by Himachal Pradesh at 69.

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Phamsak:

Another aspect that makes this Phamsak one of its kind is how friends and well-wishers lend their hands to volunteer in organizing the event. Some help in preparing snacks (kanghau, bora, changang), some in catering, some sponsor an electric generator for light. It gives a sense of community building with the common inspiration to build each other up, offering a safe space where everyone is free to express.

Words that people would have feared to voice out in public and on the streets, the audience sing-along those words with the artists in this space that is so enclosed, yet so free. There is dialogue, there is singing along, there is expression with no barrier, there are resisting voices, all coming together within the four walls, however, has it bridged the gap between the storytellers and the audience? - A question that lingered as people get up from the phamsak.

A R apprehend Cadres of Prepak (Vc) and Unlf in Manipur

IGAR (South)
IT News/Jan 13

Troops of Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) along with Manipur Police apprehended three cadres of proscribed groups in three separate operations on 09th January.

Based on intelligence inputs, joint teams of Assam Rifles and Manipur West Commandos apprehended two cadres of PREPAK (VC) and

one cadre of UNLUF from Imphal West and Thoubal districts respectively. The two PREPAK (VC) cadres have been identified as SS Private Hijam Abe @ Icha Leima and SS Lance Corporal S Tombi Singh. The cadre belonging to UNLUF has been identified as SS Private Ningthoujam Shambhi Singh @ Itocha. All apprehended individuals have been handed over to the Police for further investigation.