

## Governor visits landslide survivors at Assam Rifles Hospital



IT News  
Imphal, July 05:

Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan today visited Assam Rifles Multispecialty Hospital at Head Quarters IGAR (South), Manipukhri, in Imphal and enquired about the health condition of the injured landslide survivors which have been undergoing treatment there. He enquired all the seven injured army personnel of 107 Infantry Battalion (TA) and expressed solidarity with them and also prayed for speedy recovery.

Later, Governor attended the Memorandum-of-Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony held at the Haflong Hall of IGAR (South) complex. The memorandum was signed

among Assam Rifles, Axis Bank and NEIDO for setting up of Assam Rifles Centre of Educational Excellence at Kangvai in Churachandpur district. Addressing the gathering, Governor said, we are all shocked with the sudden demise of precious lives in the landslide which occurred at Tupul in Noney area, a few days back. They dedicated their lives for the nation and we are all with the bereaved families.

On setting up of the Centre, La. Ganesan said, the Assam Rifles has been taking up a good initiative namely "Assam Rifles Centre of Educational Excellence" for the young and aspiring students of Manipur. This initiative will provide students with a safe environment and secure place

to concentrate on their studies under the mentorship of NEIDO & Assam rifles. He continued that the Centre will help to build confidence among the highly intelligent students of Manipur at IIT-JEE & NEET entrance examinations. This initiative will provide the students with best infrastructure and access to good tutoring for the exams so that they can do their parents, State and the country proud.

Governor further stated that the Assam Rifles with their outreach programme will take the initiative to aspiring students of all rural and semi rural areas that do not have access to good higher education. NEIDO with its expertise and experiences from the previous initiatives all over the country

along with the assistance from AXIS Bank will shape a bright future for the children of Manipur. The youth of Manipur have shown their brilliance & performed outstandingly in sports and arts. With this initiative, they will have access to good professional education and will make the country proud, he added.

Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair, YSM, AVSM, Director General, Assam Rifles said that their aim is to reach out to the remotest part of the North East. He said, there is ample talent among the students in the region and therefore it has to be streamlined. It is with this idea that Assam Rifles has been taking up the initiative for setting up of Centre of Educational Excellence through which students can have access to good coaching facilities to face national level entrance examinations like IIT-JEE, NEET etc. Under the project, Centres will be opened in Arunachal Pradesh and Silchar in the coming month, he added.

The memorandum was signed by Brigadier Ashish Ranjan, VSM, Commander, 27 Sector Assam Rifles, Rudrapriya Ray, Head of Corporate Affairs, AXIS Bank and Dr. Rohit Srivastava, CEO, NEIDO. Earlier, on his arrival at Head Quarters, Governor was accorded a warm welcome by IGAR (SOUTH) Major General Rajan Sharawat, VSM.

## Thonglang-Songjang boundary bridge collapsed, completely halts communication in I.T Road

IT News  
Imphal, July 04:

After a week of major landslide took place at the village boundary between Thonglang and Songjang Pakang, today Joint Monitoring and Development Committee, JMDC, of I.T Road took up the road clearance including at Lamlenkon, near T. Waichong. With heavy rains during the working hour, they couldn't persist as fresh mud slide continues to flow causing more damage to the road.

This landslide at the boundary between Thonglang and Songjang has now completely cut off I.T Road owing to the bridge collapsed. JMDC have no option other than to wait for another sunny day in order to clear the road for emergency usage. JMDC also would like to appeal to concern authority to take stock of the condition so as to resumed early normal activities in the area. The landslide has put halt to many activities which is a grave concern.

At present, I.T Road have three routes connected to Kangpokpi DHQ via T. Waichong. The main road, aka the oldest road in Manipur, I.T Road is now obsolete as the Bridge between Thonglang and Songjang Pakang collapsed completely and the other at Lamlenkon, which is more dif-



ficult to clear as debris and mud continues to slide on every raining day.

The two PMGSY routes i.e. one from Chawangkining-Tamei via T. Waichong and the other from Thonglang -Tamei via T. Waichong, both of which were commonly used until recent months.

However, the one from Thonglang to Tamei via T. Waichong was no longer in used as there occurred cracks at multiple locations besides the rise in Irang River which is used to ply vehicles through.

Now, the only alternative route is the road from Chawangkining to Tamei via T. Waichong. Even this route is at stake as multiple vehicles ply on daily basis. There is no certainty that this alternative route will serve the area for months or more. Therefore, in the interest of public, JMDC I.T Road appeal to its highest form to the govt to kindly expedite the work process at Lamlenkon and the Thonglang-Songjang pakang boundary bridge collapsed as earliest possible to avoid public inconveniences.

## NH-37 between Tupul & Noney closed

IT News  
Imphal, July 05:

Following Continuous rock falls along the NH-37 between Tupul and Noney District Headquarter (near Namduanjang) since last night, the Deputy Commissioner of Noney in an order has close movement of vehicles along this portion with immediate effect.

"While NHIDCL has made all efforts to clear the accumulated debris, the rock falls continue periodically, thus posing danger to life and property for those vehicles plying along the NH-37 road", the order by the DC Noney read.

"Given the uncertain road conditions, it is hereby ordered that NH-37 between Tupul and Namduanjang villages be closed for all heavy vehicles, all medical vehicles and all civilian vehicles except those carrying emergency supplies; Noney police shall give effect to this order and enforce it strictly in the interest of public order and safety", the order by Deputy Commissioner of Noney read.

## CM attends inaugural session of Capacity Building Training Programme for Women Traders

IT News  
Imphal, July 05:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attended the inaugural session of "Capacity Building Training Programme for Women Traders of 3 Ima Keithel" held today at the Sangai Conference Hall of Hotel Imphal as Chief Guest. The training programme was organized by National Commission for Women, New Delhi in collaboration with Manipur State Commission for Women.

Speaking on the occasion, N. Biren Singh maintained that women of Manipur, being in the forefront, had always taken part in many causes of the State for the last many years and took a commendable role in its development. He added that many women are currently holding important posts of the State Government Institutions, taking part in the administration of the State. Continuing that women of Manipur had already been empowered, he stated that that time has come for the women to take a lead-

ing role in development works.

Stating that the contribution of women vendors had been a major part of the rural economy, the Chief Minister stressed the need for them to be well aware of the digital world so that they could cope up with the flow of development. He continued that the capacity building training programme would help out in better usage of mobile technology in marketing their products and going with cashless transactions.

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## Grenade hurled at Agriculture Department Director's house for the 2nd time

IT News  
Imphal, July 05:

In less than two weeks miscreants hurled another Chinese made hand grenade to the residence Nongthombam Gojendra, Director, Agriculture Department, at Tera Sapam Leirak in Imphal West.

However, the hand grenade did not explode.

This is the second time that the miscreants attacked the Agriculture Director's residence with bomb. Earlier, on June 24 night, miscreants

lobbed a China-made hand grenade at the director's house. The CCTV camera had caught two scooter-borne youth hurling the bomb. The shrapnel damaged some cars parked inside the compound and the front wall of the house.

The family told the police station at Lamphel that a member found the grenade when he went to collect the newspapers near the gate. On receipt of information, bomb experts and police commandos rushed to the house at Tera

Sapam Leirak. The CCTV camera caught an unknown person throwing the hand grenade. So far, no outlawed underground organisation has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The family members say that they do not know whether any insurgent group was behind it. They have not received any threat from anyone, including insurgents.

Police have registered a case and no arrest has been made in connection with the two attacks.

## Manipur HC forbids the Manipur Lokayukta from exerting pressure on the Manipur Government in relation to the recommendation regarding MSPCL

IT News  
Imphal, July 05:

The Manipur High Court has directed the Manipur Lokayukta not to pressurise the Manipur Government in relation to the recommendation regarding MSPCL.

It should be mentioned that on February 7, 2022, the Manipur Lokayukta recommended to the state government that the MSPCL Managing Director be removed from

his position in response to a complaint lodged against the MD, MSPCL, and some other MSPCL employees.

One Th. Nirosh Singh filed a complaint dated 25-09-2020 in the Manipur Lokayukta's Office, alleging that the contract work for the construction of a 2x1 MVA 33/11 KV Sub-Station at Chakpikarong along with the associated 33 KV line and related civil works on turn-key basis under NLCPR was executed by M/S Shyama Power

(India) Pvt. Ltd. under work order dated 25-09-2009 with a total contract amount of Rs.9,45,80,605/- (Rupees nine crore forty-five lakh eighty thousand six rupees One hundred and five) only from December 2009 to December, 2015 and that the said firm failed to supply two transformers. The Power Department put in the transformers somehow, or rather, without supplying the said articles, and thus the company and the concerned officials of the Department

colluded intentionally and willfully to mislead the general public by manipulating the public funds in their pocket. In the said complaint, it was also alleged that the company executed only 4 km. LILO (2+2) as against 45 kms which has been sanctioned by the Government of India under and therefore, a balance amount of Rs. 5,18,98,440/- seems to have been misappropriated.

Following receipt of the complaint, the Manipur

Lokayukta ordered a preliminary investigation into the allegations in the complaint. On February 7, 2022, the Manipur Lokayukta recommended to the state government that the MSPCL Managing Director be removed from his position. It was recommended that the function and duties of the said post be delegated to a state government official until the investigation was completed.

The MSPCL Managing Director has challenged the

Lokayukta Manipur's recommendation dated 7.02.2022 in Manipur's high court (under the writ petition no. 168 of 2022).

When the case is still on the court, various attempts to mislead the MSPCL as well as the Lokayukta were traced. As a result, the MSPCL had filed an additional case in the High Court, challenging the recommendation. Even the petitioner's signatures have been discovered to be faked.

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# ★ Editorial

## Marangching tragedy: Is it Human error, or negligence?

Rescue team of both the center and state government still continue to search for dead bodies if any, at marching area of Noney district where a massive landslide occurred on June 30 has caused the worst tragedy in the history of Manipur. As per report death toll has risen to 47 and officials and volunteers on rescue mission are on the hunt of 15 more. The number may be rise. It is indeed no time to discuss about the cause of the tragedy, as tears of thousands still wet the eyes of the near and dear ones of the victims. Those survive are still in trauma while recounting the horror that occurred on that ill fated days. Majority of the victims of the landslide are from the Territorial Army and the Assam Rifles, and people have reason to rethink on what went wrong and why mother earth turn violent that took so many precious lives.

The tragedy occurred on June 30 and on July 2 edition of this newspaper, we in the Imphal Times had extended our gratitude to the immediate and timely response of the state government as well as the central government. The tireless and nonstop operation to rescue survivors and to recover death bodies by both the state and central security forces, civilians, among others showed that the human instinct still exists. With the kind of effort by the authorities carrying out rescue mission cum search operation for the dead bodies, the people of the nation have reason to believe that - those died or rescue will be given with highest dignity and honours. Well, the question right at the moment is - completion of the search for dead bodies and rescuing of those survivors will close the chapter of the Marangching tragedy. This is being raised as the site where the massive landslide that killed many and injured dozens others is a place where tunneling and constructions of big building for the Indian railway project is taking place. Its today seventh day, that the tragedy occurred and neither the authority of the central government as well as nor the State government had ever started taking initiative to constitute enquiry commission to find the cause of the landslide. Landslide or any other natural disaster are often left thinking or considering as an act of God. However, as it is a much for testing of soil or examining of the condition of the area before taking up construction of any developmental infrastructures. It was because of the constructions taking place for the Indian Railway that the large number of Security Forces belonging to the Territorial Army and the Assam Rifles had been posted at the site and died at the spot.

If the report appeared at certain sections of newspapers, where expert from the Remote Sensing Department stated that the area where the landslide occurred at Noney district is near the epicenter of the 2016 earthquake. As per the news report, the expert was quoted as stating that there are two big hollows under the earth crust in that area and such sinking of large portion is expected and may happen at any time. In another news report appeared today at Sanaleibak newspaper, a retired professor of the Earth Science department of the Manipur University was quoted as stating that the reason for the cause of the massive landslide was due to unscientific constructions works taking place at the site without using proper scientific method. Soil nature of the area has also been explained and need for extra care in the construction works was described in scientific way by the former professor. Both this news explains about some human error as the cause of the June 30 horror. In this case, an enquiry is a much to find out if the two news-reports are authentic or not.

Landslide or mudslide occurred in the state many times particularly during rainy season. In India, 13% of the land mass is prone to landslides, particularly in the Himalayas and the Western Ghats.

But then there is a Landslide Early Warning System (LEWS) working in progress in the country. In December last year, the central government had told the parliament that the system was being evaluated and tested by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in two pilot areas - Darjeeling (WB) and Nilgiris (TN). The GSI has been banking on the multi-consortium Landslip project, which aims to improve landslide risk assessment and reliability of forecasts on the basis of which alerts are issued.

Now the question again is had the LEWS been used in digging tunnels and also in making the roads and other constructions at Hill areas in the state of Manipur while taking up the railway project or any other development project. If LEWS is still awaiting for official purposes scientific diagnosis of the land should be properly conducted. If not, than those responsible for conducting the land diagnosis before starting construction should be liable for the loss of the brave hearts in Marangching tragedy.

## Landslides: Causes-Effect and Reduction

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

The terms landslide or mudslide refer to the downward movement of large masses of rocks, soil, mud and organic debris. Areas with steep slopes, for example mountainous regions, are particularly susceptible to landslides. The term "landslide" encompasses five modes of slope movement: falls, topples, slides, spread and flow. These are further sub-divided by the type of geologic materials (bedrock, debris or earth). Debris flows (commonly referred to as mudflows or mudslides) and rock falls are examples of common landslides types.

Almost every landslide has multiple causes. The primary cause of a landslide is the influence of gravity acting on weakened materials that make up a sloping area of land. Slope movement occurs when forces acting down-slope (mainly due to gravity) exceed the strength of the earth materials that compose the slope. Causes include factors that increase the effect of down-slope forces and the factors that contribute to low or reduced strength. Landslide can be initiated in slopes already on the verge of movement by rainfall, snow-melt, and change in water level, stream erosion, and changes in ground water, earthquakes, volcanic activity, disturbance by human activities or any combination of these factors. Earthquake shaking and other factors can also induce landslides underwater. These landslides are called submarine landslides. Submarine landslides sometimes cause tsunami that damage coastal areas. While some landslides occur slowly over time (e.g. land movement on the order of few meters/year per month), the most destructive ones happen suddenly after triggering event such as heavy rainfall or an earthquake. **Landslide (29 mid-night of June 2022) at Makhhum village in Noney District of Manipur could be such an example (due to heavy rain).** Water can trigger landslides and mudslides because it alters the pressure within the slope, which leads to slope instability. Consequently, the heavy water-laden slope materials (soil, rock etc.) will succumb to the forces

of gravity. Excessive water is thought to be one of the most common triggers for landslides. Other factors that weaken slope materials also contribute to the occurrence of landslides. These factors include both natural events such as geological weathering and erosion and human-related activities such as deforestation and changes made to the flow of groundwater. Destruction of vegetation by droughts, fires and logging has been associated with increased risk for landslides. Landslides are classified according to the types of materials that falls and how that materials move down slope. For example, there are rock falls, mudslides and debris flow. Lahars are volcanic mud flow or debris flow that is capable of travelling at very fast speed down the slope of volcano.

The negative effects of landslides are: they damage/destroy ecosystems, harm agriculture, damage built infrastructure, lead to economic losses, deaths, social disruption and can lead to other hazards. When landslides occur, they can seriously damage or destroy ecosystems. Sometimes the effects can last for thousands of years. They can pollute streams and water bodies with sediment and debris. This invariably has severe repercussions on water quality and marine life. What's more, these hazards can wipe out large tracts of forests, wildlife habitats and remove productive soils from slopes. In 1960, an earthquake triggered several landslides in Chile which destroyed more than 250 km<sup>2</sup> of forest. Also, they can dam up rivers and streams. In doing so, water flow is restricted. Marine and terrestrial organisms that depend on the water flow may eventually die. Conversely, dams may flood the opposite side too. Outburst floods can introduce a tremendous amount of new sediment into streams. Or they can submerge and kill vegetation in the flooded region. One of the most damaging effects of landslides is the destruction of agricultural land. Debris spread over farms, cultivation and pastures, covering important agri-

cultural land. They destroy seeds, plants, food stocks and grazing land. These lands can remain inaccessible for years ultimately impacting on farmers' livelihoods. In Guatemala as an example, watersheds collapsed in 2005 due to landslides associated with Tropical Storm Stan. Consequently, farmers were severely affected by this event. Landslides can cause serious damage to the built infrastructure. They can destroy and/or damage houses, buildings and infrastructure close to hills and mountains. They block roads, railroads and shipping lanes. In 1980, a debris flow from Mount St Helens volcano filled the Columbia River with more than 34 million m<sup>3</sup> of sediment. Cargo ships could not reach Oregon until the sediment was dredged. As it currently stands, economic losses due to these hazards have been increasing during the past decades. This is mostly linked to increasing development and investment in landslide-prone regions. Basically, landslide costs include both direct and indirect losses. Direct losses refer to costs of repair, replacement or maintenance of properties and assets affected by landslides. All other costs like loss of agricultural productivity, effects on water quality and reduced real estate values are indirect losses. The devastating 1983 Thistle landslide in Utah, United States, had direct and indirect economic losses on the order of \$688 million.

Landslides are responsible for a number of deaths, injury to people, and damage to housing, infrastructure and agricultural lands. In the United States alone, some 25-50 people are killed by landslides each year. In Italy, more than 10,000 people died in 840 landslides during the period 1279 to 1999. More often than not, the disasters happen without warning giving people no time to escape. Sometimes, such events can impact on the mental health of people also; children and youngsters especially at more at risk. Moreover, victims of landslides can develop crush injuries or crush syndrome after they have been rescued from the debris. Very often, land-

slides can trigger other hazards like tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, wildfires and earthquakes. One of the most famous landslides that initiated baffling tsunami waves is the 8000-year-old Storegga submarine landslide off the coast of Norway. Tsunami waves flooded coastlines as far away as Greenland. Similarly, the 2007 landslide in Vancouver, Canada, resulted in the discharge of 3 million m<sup>3</sup> of debris into the Chehalis Lake. Several hectares of shoreline forest were destroyed and tsunami waves pulled out trees from the shoreline to a height of 18 m.

Vulnerability to landslide hazards is a function of location, type of human activity, use, and frequency of landslide events. The effects of landslides on people and structures can be lessened by total avoidance of landslide hazard areas or by restricting, prohibiting, or imposing conditions on hazard-zone activity. Local governments can reduce landslide effects through land-use policies and regulations. Individuals can reduce their exposure to hazards by educating themselves on the past hazard history of a site and by making inquiries to planning and engineering departments of local governments. They can also obtain the professional services of an engineering geologist, a geotechnical engineer, or a civil engineer, who can properly evaluate the hazard potential of a site, built or unbuilt. The hazard from landslides can be reduced by avoiding construction on steep slopes and existing landslides, or by stabilizing the slopes. Stability increases when groundwater is prevented from rising in the landslide mass by (1) covering the landslide with an impermeable membrane, (2) directing surface water away from the landslide, (3) draining groundwater away from the landslide, and (4) minimizing surface irrigation. Slope stability is also increased when a retaining structure and/ or the weight of a soil/rock berm are placed at the toe of the landslide or when mass is removed from the top of the slope.

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## Van Mahotsav, Festival of Peace and Hope



By: N. Munal Meitei

Van Mahotsav festival started during 1950 is celebrated from July 1 to 7 every year. Van Mahotsav, the festival of trees has the ambitions to save the Mother Earth. In this festival, every citizen is purposed to plant a sapling for greening the motherland and to spread message to conserve the forests. This beautiful initiative surely save the environment to which we all owe. But, Forests without birds and animals is meaningless.

Forceful encroachment on nature leads to the conflict, which spells doom to biodiversity, leading to environmental degeneration. To reduce conflict between man and nature, man and animal, we need to increase the green coverage. Here, we always remembered, Padma Shri, Jadav Payeng, the Forest Man of India who alone planted 40 million trees over 550 hectares in his 30 years of life.

The state government is planning to plant 75 lakhs seedlings in this festival along with the children, students and youths. One of the silent beauties is adoption model of molehills for schools and colleges.

And also, during the celebration, seedlings will be planted in the premises of the universities, colleges, schools, hospitals, industries, courts, gram panchayats and other barren lands. But plantation of native trees is encouraged as they readily adapt to the local climate, integrate into Eco-system, have the higher survival rate and supporting the whole local biodiversity.

No life is possible on the earth without plants. Thus, Van Mahotsav is the festival of life, peace and hope and creates the enthusiasm among masses for forest conservation and planting trees. Seeing the present day numerous environmental catastrophes, preservation of nature has become an integral part of life.

The planting of trees provides alternative fuel, increase food resources, creates shelter for biodiversity and wind-belts around the fields to increase productivity, provide food for cattle, decorative landscapes, conserves deterioration of soil fertility etc. Trees provide fodder leaves for cattle to relieve intensity of grazing over forests and shades to increase the aesthetic value of the landscape and also provide small poles and timber for housing and agricultural implements.

Van Mahotsav will help in increasing forest cover and promote fruit and timber trees from non-forests. Open fields, river banks and barren lands can be slowly converted into integrated tree land or semi forests or orchards. Finally through Van Mahotsav, we can bring back our lost forests.

Humans with their greedy needs have cut down globally the forest cover at the rate about 6 billion trees annually which is the size of 20 football grounds per minute. In the name of urbanization and globalization such as construction of flyovers, roads, railway tracks, dams, hoardings and pavements, trees are considered as the major restrictive block and get rid altogether. This declining number of trees has brought a major challenge in climate too. So there is a dire necessity of Van Mahotsav festival to restore the forest cover on non-forest areas of the country.

The festival is now seeped into the hills and villages too, bringing home to the villagers the idea that trees mean better crops, better living conditions, better cattle and a more beautiful villages. Unlike the other religious festivals, Van Mahotsava is a symbol of unending movement towards a greener life.

Manipur has now becoming vulnerable to floods, droughts, heat waves, cyclones, and other natural disasters and this trend is increasing with each day. With continuous human intervention against nature, these disasters can no longer be considered 'Natural'. The recent Marangching massive landslide claiming many lives was the meaningful signal. Poppy plantations taking up in the hill districts is one of the biggest social and environmental challenges. If an alternative solution is not found out at the earliest, then we may face an irreparable environmental lost. It is not the law to stop

them but it is the mindset to do so.

Schools and colleges should adopt "one student one tree" scheme, where the responsibility of survival of the tree should lie with the students. This will link a learning experience and make an inseparable bond with the trees.

Now it is our turn to reverse the damage that we have caused and to restore back the balance between the nature and man, the first step to change is planting trees. The Civil Societies, NGOs and Meira Paibis now need to involve in the movements of saving the environment. We may also organize house to house tree plantation campaign.

During the school admission, students must be asked to produce the "Tree Plantation Certificates" just like the birth certificates. This will surely pave the way to achieve our national goal of 33% forest cover. Thus, let's welcome the Van Mahotsav festival by planting at least one tree and nurturing the already existing trees around us as trees are the easiest and best way to solve the environmental crisis. The only viable industries that we hope to cope up the huge unemployed educated youth of the state is the tourism. Tourism means beautiful landscapes with full of trees and wildlife.

Therefore in this Van Mahotsav celebration -2022, please join hands for mass tree plantation along with all the family members for sake of the mother earth and for a green and beautiful Manipur.

(The writer is Environmentalist. Email- [nmunal@yahoo.in](mailto:nmunal@yahoo.in))

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# Veteran scribe attacked; Police reluctant to record statement

Agartala: July 05:

Once again, a veteran journalist of a vernacular daily in Tripura came under ferocious attack while returning home after work in the newspaper office in the heart of the capital city on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday.

As per reported Tripura Observer, it is reported that Tapas Das, journalist of Syandan Patrika was brutally attacked by unknown miscreants at about 12 midnight when he was returning home on his bicycle after working in the newspaper office. The miscreants broke the fingers of both his hands and sustained injuries on his head. Hearing the hue and cry of the journalist, local people of the area rushed to the spot and shifted him to GBP Hospital.

There are marks of severe injuries on his body. He is currently undergoing treatment in GBP hospital here.

Veteran journalist and editor of the Syandan Patrika, Subal Kumar Dey told reporters that "In this newspaper, 110 people are working. The person who was attacked is polite in nature. He is the news editor. If Syandan Patrika had incurred any loss of anyone, why is an employee being targeted by a brutal attack? The policy of a media organization is decided by its editor or board of directors. If anyone is having any problem, knock on the doors of the judiciary. Without adopting the legal process, these hoodlums are attacking the media, which in turn is attacking democracy. This culture of attacking media personnel, especially journalists,

started in recent times. Till now 26 incidents of attacks on media personnel took place in this state."

Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and leader of opposition Manik Sarkar visited GBP Hospital and met with the injured veteran journalist. During conversation with Das, Sarkar came to know that the Police Outpost located beside the state's top referral hospital did not come and recorded his statement. Till reporting of this news, police were reluctant to record his statement.

Later speaking with reporters, former CM Sarkar said "The doctors in GBP Hospital examined his condition. Fingers in both the hands were broken while one hand has been fractured. His head was bandaged. However, no fatal injury has been reported

on his brain. Recently on July 1, CPI M secretariat body met with the state's top bureaucrat i.e. the Chief Secretary and mentioned how to initiate measures in stopping the attack on the fourth pillar of democracy. But within three days, such a highly condemnable incident took place in the heart of state's capital Agartala city. I wish him a speedy recovery."

He also demanded immediate arrest of the accused persons involved in the attack. Apart from this, Assembly of Journalists condemned this incident of attack on a veteran journalist. This organization demanded immediate arrest of culprits who attacked the journalist Tapas Das. Tripura Workers Journalists' Association and Agartala Press Club also condemned the incident.

# Navy Children School Student Summits Mt Denali, Alaska

Becomes the Youngest Indian to Achieve the Feat



Kaamya Karthikeyan atop Mount Denali. (Inset): Kaamya (second from left) with her guiding team in Talkeetna, Alaska.

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, July 05:

Ms. Kaamya Karthikeyan, the mountaineering prodigy and daughter of Commander S Karthikeyan of the Indian Navy, carried the tricolour and the Naval Ensign to the summit of Mount Denali (20310 ft) on June 27, becoming the youngest Indian to achieve the feat.

Her mountaineering expedition was flagged off by Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Naval Command, Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, on June 03.

The remote Alaskan peak is the highest in the North American continent and is perhaps the toughest of the seven summit challenges. With this climb, she has crossed the fifth milestone on her way to climb the highest peaks on all seven continents and ski to both the poles. With

Mounts Everest and Vinson, and the polar ski traverses remaining, Kaamya is well placed to complete the Explorer's Grand Slam, probably being the youngest to do so.

The 14-year-old Kaamya is a student of class 10 in Navy Children School, Mumbai. In 2020 she summited Mt. Aconcagua, the highest peak in South America and outside of Asia to become the youngest girl in the world to summit that peak. She submitted the 6,962-metre (20841 feet) tall Argentinian mountain peak on the first of February (04.00 hrs), unfurling the Indian tricolour.

She bags a long list of summits to her credit and swears by her running and cycling workouts to be the wind behind her wings. As a child, Kaamya had developed a deep passion for mountaineering as she listened to her father's stories of Himalayan-

scaling expeditions. Initially, she started with basic treks in Lonavala, (Pune, Maharashtra) at the age of three, and by nine, she had completed several high-altitude Himalayan treks with her parents including (Roopkund (5020 meters) in Uttarakhand.

She began exploring the Himalayas and trekked to many beautiful locations like Chandrashila Peak, Har-ki Dun, Kedarkantha Peak, Roopkund Lake, Brighu Lake, and Sar pass. Her most notable trekking accomplishment came in May 2017, when she trekked to Everest Base Camp in Nepal at 17600 ft to become the second youngest girl in the world to accomplish the feat.

In August 2017, Kaamya climbed Mt. Stok Kangri at 20187 Ft to become the youngest climber in the world to climb a peak above 20000 Ft or 6000 Metres. No stranger to tall mountains, on August 24, 2019, under extreme cold weather conditions, she summited Mt Mentok Kangri II (6262 m) (20,544 feet) peak that overlooks the Tso Moriri lake in Ladakh.

Her mission is to conquer the highest peaks on every continent and ski to both the Poles. She has already bested the highest peaks in Africa, Europe, and Australia. The Indian Navy wishes her the best in all future endeavours. May she grow from the summit to summit, an official statement said.

# One more journalist shot dead in Pakistan, PEC demands punishment to perpetrators

IT Correspondent  
Geneva, July 05:

Press Emblem Campaign (PEC), the Geneva-based global media safety and rights body, has demanded adequate punishment to perpetrators who were involved in the murder of Pakistani journalist Ifthikhar Ahmed on Saturday last. Ifthikhar becomes the 74th media worker to be killed this year, whereas globally 79 media persons lost their lives to assailants in the entire year of 2021.

Associated with Pakistan's influential Express Media Group for many years, the talented journalist was shot dead in his own Shabqadar locality



of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa on 2 July 2022. Pakistan has already lost three media workers namely Hasnain Shah, Murtaza Shar and Athar Mateen to assailants. It has now an equal number of media casualties with neighboring

India which witnessed the killing of Rohit Kumar Biswal, Sudhir Saini, Juned Khan Pathan and Subhash Kumar Mahato.

"We are appalled by the large number of journalists killed this year which is 100% compared to 36 deaths in the same period last year. The war in Ukraine and the rampant criminality in Mexico are the main reasons for this alarming deterioration. All these crimes must be fully investigated with no impunity to the culprits," said Blaise Lempem, president of PEC ([www.presseemblem.ch](http://www.presseemblem.ch)).

In Ukraine, the conflict triggered by Russia has claimed 30 victims among media workers, 16 in the line of duty and 14 journalists killed in fighting as soldiers or volunteers in the army. Mexico witnessed 13 media victims so far which ex-

ceeds the total figure for 2021 (10 killed). Haiti and Yemen lost 3 journalists each. PEC recorded 2 victims in Bangladesh, Brazil, Honduras, Israel/Palestine and the Philippines, and 1 victim in Myanmar, Turkey, Chad, Chile, Guatemala, Kazakhstan and the United States.

PEC's south Asia representative Nava Thakuria informs that Bangladesh lost Mohiuddin Sarker Nayem and Abdul Bari, while Myanmar witnessed the death of Pu Tui Dim in military atrocities. The entire region continues to be hazardous for working journalists, where the scribes are being targeted with impunity. Besides the killings, more journalists have been facing legal and illegal atrocities from the State and non-State actors, he added.

# Indian Navy to recruit 20% women in first batch of 'Agniveers'

Agency  
New Delhi, July 05:

Indian Navy officials on Tuesday noted that 20% of the candidates in the first batch of Agniveers for the Agnipath Recruitment Scheme will be women. They will be allocated to different parts and branches of the Navy. The Indian Navy is set to induct 3000 'Agniveers' in 2022.

Notably, the Indian Navy began the recruitment process for the first batch of Agniveers on July 1. Around 10,000 females reportedly registered for the process. Post the registrations, the online application process for the Indian Navy would commence from June 15 to July 30.

Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi in a media interaction last month noted that recruitment of 'Agniveers' will be gender-neutral. "Both female and male Agniveers are allowed for this," he said.

"Indian Navy has 30 women officers at present sailing on different Indian Navy ships. We have decided that under the Agnipath scheme, we will recruit women also. They will be deployed on warships also," Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi added.

Vice Admiral Tripathi also noted that the first Naval 'Agniveers' will start reaching the

training establishment at INS Chilka, Odisha from November 21, 2022.

In the same media interaction, Lieutenant General Anil Puri, Additional Secretary, Dept of Military Affairs informed that 'aspirants who were a part of protests, and vandalism (against the Agnipath scheme) have no place in the army.'

# Marksheet Lost

I, the undersigned, Thoi Meikam Devi, have lost my class X (HSLC) examination mark sheet, bearing Roll No. 38200, issued by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur on the way between Sekmajjin to Mayang Imphal on 27/06/2022.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-

Thoi Meikam Devi  
D/o M. Santa

Sekmajjin Awang Leikai, Sekmajjin  
Mayang Imphal, District - Imphal West  
Manipur, Pin - 795132

# GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR DIRECTORATE OF HANDLOOMS & TEXTILES

# NOTICE

Imphal, the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

No. HL-17/H&T/2017(I): Applications in the prescribed form obtainable from [www.dhmanipur.com](http://www.dhmanipur.com) are invited from eligible candidates for direct admission [LATERAL ENTRY] into the 2<sup>nd</sup> year (3<sup>rd</sup> Semester) of Three Years Diploma Course in Handloom and Textile Technology (DHTT) under Lateral Entry Scheme at Indian Institute Handloom Technology, Guwahati for Academic Session of 2022-23.

2.0: Eligibility Criteria:

- (a) Educational qualification: Passed 10+2 examination with Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry OR Passed 10+2 examination in vocational stream of any Textile Discipline OR Passed 10<sup>th</sup> standard + ITI (2 years) OR Passed 10+2 & 2-years ITI.
- (b) Age as on 26/07/2022: (i) General - 24 years and (ii) ST/SC - 26 years.
- 3.0: Selected candidates will be paid a monthly stipend @ Rs. 2500/- during the course.
- 4.0: Aggregate of marks obtained in SSC (10<sup>th</sup> standard) OR Equivalent qualifying examination shall be the basis for determining the merit of candidate.
- 5.0: The last date for receipt of duly filled in application is 26/07/2022.

Sd/-

Director of Handlooms & Textiles,  
Manipur

# Training cum Production of Khamba Thoibi Dance concluded

Imphal, July 05:

The One Month Residential Training cum Production of Khamba Thoibi Dance under Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme (CFPGS), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India organised by Repose Foundation (RF) of Thangmeiband Meisnam Leikai, Imphal West which was started on June 5, 2022 was concluded on July 4, 2022 at Singjamei Khongnang Pheidekpi, Imphal West, said a release.



# Manipur Apex Handloom Weavers & Handicrafts Artisans' C.S. Ltd.

Sponsored by the Government of Manipur

Head Office : paona Bazar, Imphal West (Manipur)  
Fax & Tel. 0385-2450340

Email: [Manipur.apex2018@gmail.com](mailto:Manipur.apex2018@gmail.com), [manipurawas@yahoo.com](mailto:manipurawas@yahoo.com)

# NOTICE

Imphal, the 4th July, 2022

No. 16/AWAS/NOTICE/2010-11: In taking reference to the letter of the O/o Development Commissioner for handlooms, Ministry of textiles, Govt. of India, vide No. 4/22/DCH/PM&E/Manipurapex/19 Dated 12/05/2022, applications are invited from the **Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies/ Awardees/ Individual Weavers/ SHGs/ Handloom Entrepreneurs/ Producer Company / NGOs** who have already registered to **Handloom Mark or India handloom Brand or Undergoing for registration** to either of the above for participation in the State Handloom Expo 2022-23 to be organized by the Manipur Apex Handloom Weavers & Handicrafts Artisans C.S Ltd. (AWAS), Governor's crossing, Paona Bazar From 13/07/2022 to 26/07/2022 at Urban Haat, Nilakuthi, Imphal East, Manipur. Eligible and interested ones are informed to submit the filled in application forms on or before 11th July, 2022 to the office of the undersigned during office hour. Selection of the applicants has been made on first come first basis. Forms are available at AWAS Office during office hour.

Sd/-

L. Ojit Singh  
Business Manager,  
AWAS

# Army Recruitment Rally for Manipur under Agnipath Scheme

IT News  
Imphal, July 05:

The Union Cabinet on 14 Jun 2022 approved an attractive recruitment scheme for Indian youth to serve in the Armed Forces. The scheme is called AGNIPATH and the youth selected under this

scheme will be known as Agniveers.

Army Recruitment Rally under the Agnipath Scheme will be held for all districts of Manipur at Bhagat Stadium, Rangapahar Military Station, Dimapur from 07 September to 23 September 2022. Detailed notification giving out eligibil-

ity criteria and QRs are available on [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in). Online registrations for the candidates will be open from 05 Jul to 03 Aug 2022. Online registration is mandatory for participation in the rally. Candidates will be intimated date of attendance through admit cards 10 days before the rally.

For the present recruiting year, the Government has given a relaxation in age by two years. The scheme also allows bonus marks for candidates, who have qualification from Government recognised ITIs. All details related to the rally are available in the notification published on the website.

## Public notice of Election to the office of Vice-President of India

PIB  
New Delhi, July 05:

Whereas a notification under sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, for the holding of an election to fill the office of Vice-President of India has been issued by the Election Commission, I, Utpal Kumar Singh, the Returning Officer for such election, do hereby give notice that—

(i) nomination papers may be delivered by a candidate or any one of his proposers or seconders to the undersigned at his office in Room No. 18, Ground Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi, or if he is

unavoidably absent, to the Assistant Returning Officers, Shri P. C. Tripathy, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat or Shri Raju Srivastava, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat at the said office between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. on any day (other than a public holiday) not later than the 19th July, 2022;

(ii) each nomination paper shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the entry relating to the candidate in the electoral roll for the Parliamentary constituency in which the candidate is registered as an elector;

(iii) every candidate shall deposit or cause to be deposited a sum of rupees fifteen thou-

sand only. This amount may be deposited in cash with the Returning Officer at the time of presentation of the nomination paper or deposited earlier in the Reserve Bank of India or in a Government Treasury and in the latter case a receipt showing that the said deposit of the sum has been so made is required to be enclosed with the nomination paper;

(iv) forms of nomination papers may be obtained from the above said office at the times aforesaid;

(v) the nomination papers, other than those rejected under sub-section (4) of section 5B of the Act, will be taken up for scrutiny at Room No. 62, First

Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi on **Wednesday, the 20th July, 2022 at 11 A.M.**;

(vi) the notice of withdrawal of candidatures may be delivered by a candidate, or any one of his proposers or seconders who has been authorized in this behalf in writing by the candidate, to the undersigned at the place specified in paragraph (i) above before **three o'clock in the afternoon of 22nd July, 2022**;

(vii) in the event of the election being contested, the poll will be taken on **Saturday, the 6th August, 2022** between the hours of **10 A.M. and 5 P.M.** at the place of polling fixed under the rules.

## India logs 13,086 fresh Covid-19 cases, positivity rate stands at 2.9%

Agency  
New Delhi, July 05:

India reported 13,086 new cases in the last 24 hours, 18.9 per cent lower than Monday, taking the total caseload to 4,35,31,650, according to the Union Health Ministry data. The positivity rate stood at 2.9 per cent during this period. Meanwhile, 19 more

deaths were registered on Tuesday, taking the total death count to 5,25,242.

According to the data, the active cases increased by 611, taking the caseload to 1,14,475.

The top five states which have registered maximum cases are Kerala with 3,322 cases, followed by Tamil Nadu with 2,654 cases, Maharashtra

with 1,515 cases, West Bengal with 1,132 cases and Karnataka with 749 cases.

71.62 per cent of the new cases are reported from these five states, with Kerala alone responsible for 25.39 per cent of the new cases.

Meanwhile, India's recovery rate stood at 98.53 per cent. A total of 12,456 patients recovered in the last 24 hours,

bringing the total recoveries to 4,28,91,933 across the country.

In addition to this, India administered a total of 11,44,805 doses in the last 24 hours, which brought the total tally of doses administered to 1,98,09,87,178.

4,51,312 samples were tested in the last 24 hour, as per the data.

### Sports

## Indian boxer Alfiya stuns former world champ to clinch gold in Elorda Cup

Agency  
Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan), July 05:

The reigning Youth World champions Alfiya Pathan and Gitika produced sensational performances to win gold medals while India's other two female boxers Kalaivani Srinivasan and Jamuna Boro signed off with silver medals in the Elorda Cup in Kazakhstan's capital Nur-Sultan on Monday.

Nagpur girl Alfiya thrashed the 2016 world champion and strong contender for the title Lazzat Kungeibayeva by 5-0 margin without breaking a sweat in the women's +81kg final while Gitika clinched a thrilling 4-1 win over compatriot Kalaivani in an intense all-Indian women's 48kg final.

It was also the debut senior international event for both the youngsters, Alfiya and Gitika.

Alfiya proved too strong for the reigning Asian champion Kungeibayeva as she completely dominated the bout which eventually ended as a one-sided affair with unanimous decision in Alfiya's favour. The experienced Kazakh boxer looked clueless



against the young Indian, who demonstrated remarkable skills.

"It's an amazing feeling to win a gold medal, especially against the World Championships medallist," an elated boxer Alfiya expressed after winning gold.

On the other hand, Gitika, who hails from Rohtak, handed the country first gold by winning an intense all-Indian final against Kalaivani wherein both the boxers

started off with an aggressive intent and kept attacking each other.

While they continued to exchange heavy punches, Gitika effortlessly shifted the gears as the bout progressed and did enough in the end to tilt the result in her favour.

"It was a great feeling to win a gold medal in the first senior international tournament. This is a start; I want to win more medals at the senior level in international competi-

tions," Gitika said after her win.

Meanwhile, the 2019 World Championships bronze medalist Jamuna gave her all against Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova but ended up with a 0-5 loss in the 54kg final.

Alfiya and Gitika fetched themselves a prize money of USD 700 for their gold medal-winning feats while silver and bronze medal winners were awarded with USD 400 and USD 200 each respectively.

Contd. from Page 1

## CM attends inaugural session....

The training programme would also facilitate in accessing banking services and availing the benefits of various Government Schemes as most of the women vendors had already had a bank account, he added.

N. Biren mentioned that the State Government had already constructed 7 Ima Markets and many such markets are also under construction with the aim to empower women and contribute more towards economic development. He further informed that women markets would be constructed in the remaining new districts of the State. Maintaining that the Government never makes any discrimination among communities based on their populations, he informed that the State Government is planning to construct a market for accommodating all tribal communities at Lamphel area. Different market sheds would be provided for each community, he added.

The Chief Minister appealed to the women vendors to take part in the training session seriously so that they could provide the knowledge and information to their fellow vendors who couldn't take part in the training programme.

Social Welfare Minister Heikham Dingo, while delivering his speech, stated that Ima Market of Manipur is well known across the world due to its

unique features. He stressed the need to be well aware and informed about the digital world to be able to sustain with the changes in technology. He appealed to the women vendors to participate in the training seriously so that they could access the benefit of technology which is important for the growth of the three Ima Markets.

He also sought support of all women vendors in the State Government's development works to make the State a progressive one.

Chairperson, National Commission for Women Rekha Sharma, thanking the Manipur State Commission for Women for the support in organizing the training programme, stated that she could notice women of Manipur taking part in every activity carried out in the State. Women had already been empowered and as such the need of the hour is women led empowerment where women show the ways for development to others.

Stressing the need for women vendors of the State to be aware of e-marketing to sell the products, she continued that their market shouldn't be limited to the State only, rather it should reach to customers around the world. Rekha Sharma informed that the training programme would also provide knowledge of e-commerce and ways to avail

loans from banks under various MSME Schemes of the Central and the State Government. She was hopeful that the trained women would be the torch bearers for others and would also help in making other women aware of the digital technology. She also informed that training programmes would also be conducted for women vendors of hill areas.

Chairperson, Manipur State Commission for Women (MSCW) Thumlip Tiningpham Monsang, Members (MSCW) Lourembam Dayabati Devi and T. Chuongsin Koreng, Director, Social Welfare Department Ngangom Utam, officials of the Social Welfare Department and Women vendors of 3 Ima Markets also attended the programme among others.

During the programme, the Chief Minister led the others in observing one minute silence as condolence to the departed souls of persons who lost their lives in the recent massive landslide tragedy at Tupul Yard Railway Construction Camp.

The training programme will have three technical sessions on topics including Knowledge of relevant Banking Schemes and how to use online banking, Knowledge of Tax Laws / New GST Laws and Tax Compliances and E-Commerce Demonstration.

## Manipur HC forbids the Manipur....

Thiyam Nirosh's signature in the complaint letter to the Manipur Lokayukta differs from his signature in the RTI application filed with the MSPCL earlier. Amobile number 8974002604 identified by truceller as belonging to one Manihar Sarangthem was written in a complaint application to the Manipur Lokayukta, which differed from the mobile number 9862206077 written in an RTI application.

During the course of hearing, held on 21-05-2022, 01-06-2022, 02-06-2022, 06-06-2022 & 08-06-2022 learned senior counsel appearing for the MSPCL submitted that the Manipur Lokayukta derives its jurisdiction for ordering an investigation and making appropriate recommendations only on the basis of a valid complaint and that the Lokayukta has no power to order an investigation and make recommendations suo motu. It has also been submitted that in the present case, there is no valid complaint before the Manipur Lokayukta inasmuch as the signatures appended to the complaint dated filed before the Manipur Lokayukta and on the basis of which an investigation has been ordered by the Manipur Lokayukta are not the genuine signatures of the complainant and those signatures have been forged and fabricated by another person other than the complainant. Accordingly, it has been submitted by the learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioners that the Manipur Lokayukta had transgressed its jurisdiction in passing the impugned judgement and order and that the said impugned judgement and order is not sustainable in the eyes of law and is liable to be quashed and set aside as having been passed without any jurisdiction.

The learned senior counsel appearing for the MSPCL further submitted that despite the comments furnished by the competent authorities in connection with the preliminary enquiry report in connection with the allegations made in the said complaint case No. 2 of 2020 as being unfounded and baseless, the Manipur Lokayukta passed the impugned judgement and order dated 07-02-2022 in the said complaint case. It should be noted that on 01-12-2021, the competent authority of the Power Department submitted in a letter to the Director (Inquiry) of Manipur Lokayukta that after reviewing the Joint Inspection team report, there are no lapses made by the executing agency namely, Electricity Department/Manipur State Power Company Limited in the execution of the project - Construction of 2x1 MVA, 33/11 KV Sub-Station at Chakpikarong along with the associated 33 KV line and related civil works on turn-key basis with assistance from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and allegations made by the complainant, Thiyam Nirosh Singh in the Hon'ble Lokayukta Manipur are unfounded and baseless.

According to the learned senior counsel, findings against the petitioners and the basis on which further investigation had been ordered are found to be summarised at paras 6 to 9 of the impugned judgement and order. It has been submitted that a cursory reading and minute examination of the said findings of the Manipur Lokayukta along with the comments submitted by the MSPCL as well as by the competent authorities and also the clarification given by the Department of Planning, Government of Manipur, the findings against the petitioner are only the alleged irregularities and not a case of misappropriation of funds, gratification or otherwise, and accordingly, the order for further investigation under Section 20 (3) read with Sections 28 and 32 of the Lokayukta Act is

not only highly misconceived and misplaced but the same was also in a transgression of its jurisdiction.

The learned senior counsel also submitted that the ingredients required for the commission of the offences under Section 7(B)(13) PC Act and Section 120-B/34 IPC are entirely absent in the findings given at paras 6 to 9 of the impugned judgement and order, and thus it has been submitted that having regard to the provisions contained in Section 50 of the Lokayukta Act, as well as the jurisdiction of the Manipur Lokayukta as envisaged under Section 14 of the Lokayukta Act.

In an unprecedented move, the Manipur Lokayukta has requested an action taken report from the appropriate state government officials regarding its recommendation made in paragraph 25(D) of the contested judgement and order for not allowing the current petitioner to serve as MD, MSPCL and transferring out two other officers in the Manipur Lokayukta's subsequent proceedings in relation to the matter.

On February 17, 2022, Dr. Shailesh Kumar Chourasia, the power secretary, wrote to the deputy registrar of Manipur Lokayukta, stating that such recommendations are not feasible and assuring him of full cooperation throughout the investigation.

The Manipur Lokayukta issued a number of orders directing the concerned state government officials to appear personally before it, demanding justification for rejecting such recommendations and pressuring state officials to implement such recommendations if they failed to provide justification.

In an order dated 04-07-2022, the High Court of Manipur of Manipur instructed the Manipur Lokayukta not to compel or direct the State Government officials to carry out or implement such a recommendation.