

MPCC president Okram Ibobi welcomes social activist Pheiroijam Nando Luwang, who, along with Wangkheimayum Richard, son of former MLA late W Brajabidhu, joined the Congress party

CS calls for effective, people-centric governance

DIO/**IPR**



PZWL/CCPUR: Chief secretary Rajeev Singh Thakur on Monday chaired a review meeting with district-level officers (DLOs) at the Conference Room of the Pherzawl DC Camp Office, Muolvaiphei, to assess the progress of departmental activities and development initiatives in the district.

During the meeting, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) presented updates on ongoing road construction works, while various departments, including Election, Health, Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Public Works Department (PWD), Education, PMGSY, MSPDCL, Horticulture, Agriculture and Transport, briefed the chief secretary on their respective activities, progress and achievements.

Pherzawl SP T Lalboi Haokip highlighted the need for setting up an Inner Line Permit (ILP) check post at Unity Bridge as deputy commissioner Anunay Anand stressed the need for a Women PS in view of the rising cases of domestic violence and offences punishable under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the district.

Stressing the importance of administrative reforms, Rajeev Thakur directed officials to expedite implementation of the e-Office system to improve administrative efficiency, transparency and accountability.

Urging officers to remain sensitive to public concerns, the chief secretary highlighted the importance of discharging official responsibilities with empathy and addressing public grievances with due attention. He also commended Pherzawl's achievement as a poppy-free district.

The CS further emphasised the need for coordinated efforts among departments to achieve better development outcomes. He called for closer collaboration between District Forest Office (DFO), PHED and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), as well as among Manipur State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM), Forest and Horticulture departments, and ICDS and Education departments.

Following the review meeting, Rajeev Thakur interacted with representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), providing an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns concerning the district.

Chief secretary Rajeev Thakur also chaired a review meeting with DLOs and other officials at the Churachandpur DC's office, Tuibong on Monday, where departments presented updates on health, rural development, livelihood promotion, horticulture, e-governance and other sectors.

Emphasising livelihood promotion, the CS asked officials to encourage poppy farmers to shift to alternative crops and ensure that the necessary support was extended. He advised officers to work with empathy and remain attentive to issues raised by the people.

He called for departments to adopt e-Office and move towards a paperless working system. The CS also asked the officers to ensure the effective implementation of government schemes, strengthen coordination among departments and see that benefits such as NFSA rice, VB-G RAM G, pension schemes and development programmes reached displaced families and the local population.

After the review meeting, he interacted with representatives of displaced government officers, MPSC 2026 trainee officers and civil society organisations.

Earlier, CS Rajeev visited the relief centre at Mata village, Churachandpur Sub-Division, where he listened to the grievances of internally displaced persons and asked departments concerned to provide available assistance. On his way back, he inspected Khuga Dam, interacted with officials responsible for its upkeep and reviewed the dam's present condition and functioning.

BJP reduced state identity to violence: NSUI

CHRONICLE NEWS **SERVICE**



IMPHAL: National Students' Union of India (NSUI) president Vinod Jakhar on Monday accused the BJP government of turning Manipur, once known for its traditions, sports, art, culture and natural beauty, into a state identified with violence, saying the situation is deeply heartbreaking.

Addressing a press conference at Congress Bhawan flanked by NSUI Manipur office-bearers, Jakhar blamed the BJP-led government for the continuing crisis, alleging that the "double-engine" government has failed to restore peace and stability.

He said communities that had lived together in harmony are now unable to maintain their traditional relationships, while the government is aggravating the situation instead of working towards reconciliation.

Noting that the crisis had severely affected education, the economy, health care and other sectors, leaving young people particularly vulnerable, the president lamented that many students are struggling to concentrate on their studies amid continuing uncertainty and instability.

Expressing concern over the government's response, he alleged that unemployment and the prolonged crisis are pushing young people towards drugs and violence instead of enabling them to pursue education and build their careers, and added that the government is jeopardising the future of the state's youth for political gains.

Vinod Jakhar described the situation as unacceptable, arguing that students had been deprived of proper educational opportunities and young people face uncertain futures. Referring to internally displaced persons (IDPs), he said more than 60,000 people remain unable to return to their homes and are living in relief camps. They are brothers and sisters of the people of Manipur and deserve to live with dignity, he added.

Jakhar further alleged that the state government's failure extends to law and order, which has deteriorated to an unprecedented level, and the continuing instability has obstructed initiatives in tourism, education, health care and other sectors.

People of Manipur want peace, but the government has failed to deliver it. Instead, the government is suppressing dissent, restricting freedom of expression and pursuing a policy of divide and rule, he alleged.

Jakhar stressed that the state's youth have a crucial role in restoring peace and rebuilding Manipur. He urged them to come together and raise their voices against the government's failures, saying collective efforts by young people are essential to ending the prolonged crisis and restoring harmony among communities.

Pregnant woman dies, 8 hurt in accident

CHRONICLE NEWS **SERVICE**

IMPHAL: A pregnant woman brought in an ambulance for child delivery in a hospital succumbed to injuries after the ambulance had a head-on collision with a Tata DI vehicle of 24Bn BSF leaving eight, including four BSF personnel, injured.

The incident happened on Monday around 5:30 am in Thinungei area in Bishnupur district along the Tiddim road as the ambulance with the pregnant woman was heading from Moirang side towards Bishnupur. The injured woman was declared 'brought dead' by doctors at RIMS hospital.

The deceased woman has been identified as Oinam Ongbi Roshni Devi (32), wife of James of Thangalawai Khuman Leikai, Bishnupur district. James too suffered head injuries in the accident and is undergoing treatment at JNIMS Hospital.

Others injured in the accident are ambulance driver Moirangthem Khogen (46), son of Irabot Singh of Moirang Khunou Mamang Leikai, Oinam Malika (50), wife of Bishorjit of Thangalawai Khuman Leikai and Lourembam Sonia Devi (32), wife of Nongpoknganba of Moirang Hhunou Haogeampat. All of them have been admitted at different hospitals in Imphal.

Four BSF personnel injured in the accident are Aduna Sabir (24), Parida (26), Chandi Das (51), and Mokul Boro. They were provided first-aid at Bishnupur district hospital and shifted to hospitals in Imphal.

It is reported that Roshni was first rushed to the Moirang CHC for delivery in early morning but referred to Bishnupur district hospital as her condition worsened before the accident claimed her life.

Mystalife launches ASTACELL

CHRONICLE NEWS **SERVICE**



IMPHAL: Mystalife organised a health awareness programme at Manipur Press Club on Monday, during which its product ASTACELL, described as a stem-cell-based supplement, was launched in Manipur for the Northeast region.

Mystalife national promoter Munir Raj Solanki, Bahujana Sahitya Academy Manipur State president and Celin Digital chairman Dr Phanjoubam Lanajit Singh, and Mystalife North promoter Lourembam Joychandra attended the programme as presidium members.

Speaking at the event, Dr Lanajit informed that the product was being introduced as an alternative to the expensive process of stem cell preservation. He claimed that keeping ASTACELL under the tongue continuously for 90 days could address bodily deficiencies and that regular use could benefit people suffering from chronic diseases.

The awareness programme was organised to help people understand the product's potential benefits and drawbacks, he added.

Social activist, ex-MLA's son join Cong

CHRONICLE NEWS **SERVICE**

IMPHAL: Social activist Pheiroijam Nando Luwang and Wangkheimayum Richard, son of former MLA late Wangkheimayum Brajabidhu, joined the Congress party at a programme held at Congress Bhawan on Monday.

Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president and former chief minister Okram Ibobi welcomed the two by presenting them party stoles. Nando Luwang belongs to Wangoi assembly constituency, while Richard is from Lamsang AC.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader and Wangkhem MLA Keisham Meghachandra, Sugnu MLA K Ranjit, Khundrakpam MLA Th Lokeshwar, former MPCC presidents, other MLAs and party office-bearers attended the programme.

Speaking at the event, Ibobi alleged that the present government in Manipur is not a democratic government run by elected representatives but one functioning under the control of the Centre. He said Manipur is facing a difficult situation, with questions arising over the survival of democratic practices. While other states are conducting local body and panchayat elections, Manipur has yet to hold such elections, he said.

Ibobi stated that maintaining law and order is the responsibility of the state government and that postponing elections on this pretext amounts to a mockery of democracy. "There is no reason to postpone the upcoming 13th Manipur Legislative Assembly election."

Accusing the BJP of acting arbitrarily and undermining the rule of law, Ibobi expressed confidence that public support for the Congress is growing, as people recognised it as the party capable of defeating the BJP government.

According to Nando Luwang, the prevailing situation in Manipur compelled him to enter electoral politics, adding that political action has become unavoidable at this critical juncture. He accused the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of ignoring people's grievances and called for its removal, alleging that the government is corrupt.

Explaining his decision to join the Congress, Nando said he believes the party is capable of dislodging the BJP from power. He described the upcoming Assembly election as different from an ordinary electoral contest and urged the public to understand its significance.

Exiled Manipuri ruler, soldiers remembered

CHRONICLE NEWS **SERVICE**

IMPHAL: The Forum for the Protection of Heritage observed Exile Day on Monday to remember 23 Manipuri soldiers led by Maharaja Kullachandra who were exiled to Andaman & Nicobar Island post the Anglo-Manipur War, 1891 by the British for waging war.

The event was held at the Memorial Complex of Exiled Heroes located on the southern side of Bir Tikendrajit Park, here, a release of the forum said, adding that the exiled Maharaja Kullachandra and others reached Andaman & Nicobar Island on November 23, 1891. In honour of their strength, courage, dedication, the forum has been observing exile day every year on November 23, the statement said, and urged the government to declare November 23 as 'Exile Day' formally and include stories of the 23 heroes in the education curriculum.

State to train 3k drivers for Japan jobs

CHRONICLE NEWS **SERVICE**



IMPHAL: A training programme aimed at enabling Indian drivers to work in Japan was launched at the Institute of Drivers' Training and Research Centre (IDTRC) complex, Yaralpat on Monday under the Japan-India Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) project.

Described by organisers as the first initiative of its kind in India, the programme is being implemented in collaboration with Japan's Kanoike Group, the National Skill Development Corporation International (NSDC) Ltd, KIPL and IDTRC.

The inaugural awareness seminar was attended by KIPL chairman and managing director Kazuhiro Hazumi, assistant manager Kanako Ojima, NSDCI consultant Yash Taretiya, IDTR chief adviser Lakshmikumar Moirangthem and retired DGP K Bipin Kumar Singh.

IDTR member secretary Shantikumar Naorem said the initiative aims to facilitate the recruitment of 3,000 heavy and light motor vehicle drivers from Manipur for employment in Japan, for which online applications will remain open until the second week of December. Selected candidates will undergo one month of Japanese language training at Manipur University, followed by vehicle driving training at IDTRC. Travel expenses would be facilitated through educational loans from the State Bank of India under NSDCI.

A similar awareness seminar on training and employment opportunities for Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) truck drivers in Japan was held at the Kakching Municipal Council conference hall on Monday. The programme was jointly organised by NSDC, KIPL and IDTRC under the Japan-India SSW Project. KIPL assistant manager Vinay Dogra briefed young drivers on employment opportunities and requirements for working as truck drivers in Japan under the scheme. KIPL chairman and MD Kazuhiro Hasumi, assistant manager Kanako Ojima, NSDC consultant Yash Taretiya, IDTRC member secretary Shantikumar Naorem, district transport officer Yumkham Pritam, and Government ITI, Kakching principal Soibam Johnson attended the programme.

Kakching Senior Citizens' Forum president ex-MLA Nongmaithem Nimai was also present, along with officials from relevant departments and other participants.

DISTRICT ROUND-UP

Kakching holds electoral literacy contests

CORRESPONDENT

KAKCHING: A district-level essay and quiz competition for students of Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) from schools and colleges across the district was held at Representatives of Lois auditorium, Chumnang Leikai on Monday.

The competitions were organised jointly by offices of Kakching District Election Officer (DEO), and Zonal Education Officer (ZEO), under the guidance of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Manipur. The theme was "Vote for a Better Tomorrow, Be a Responsible Voter".

Eight students each participated in the essay and quiz competitions after being selected from ELCs under the four assembly constituencies of Wabagai, Kakching, Hiyanglam and Sugnu.

In the essay competition, conducted on the topic "Importance of Pure Electoral Roll, Importance of Voting", Mayanglambam Nivas Singh of Kha Manipur College, Kakching, secured first place, while Haobijam Gayathri Devi of Langmeidong Higher Secondary School finished second.

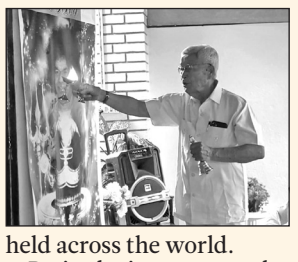
In the quiz competition, which covered electoral roll preparation, electronic voting machines (EVMs), voter-verifiable paper audit trails (VVPATs), polling and counting processes, Puyam Dhanapriya Devi of Kha Manipur College secured first place followed by Maibam Toniya Devi of Pole Star College, Hiyanglam Wabagai in second position.

Deputy inspector of schools and District ELC coordinator Khaidem Binodini announced that prizes for the four top-ranking students would be distributed on November 24 at 3:30 pm at the office of the Kakching DEO/DC.

The competition was supervised by ZEO Mayanglambam Rakhesh, Khaidem Binodini, and assistant inspector of schools Md Hibjur Rahaman.

Thoubal celebrates Sai Baba birth anniv

CORRESPONDENT



THOUBAL: The 100th birth anniversary of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was commemorated at Sai Mandir, Wangmataba, on Monday, with devotees holding prayers and devotional programmes.

The event was jointly organised by Sri Sathya Sai Baba Samithi, Thoubal, and Sai Yum, Thoubal, as part of the centenary celebrations being held across the world.

Retired wing commander AK Devendra, who played a key role in bringing the Sai Movement to Manipur, delivered a discourse on Sai Baba's teachings and spiritual values. He also shared several personal experiences relating to Sai Baba and his miracles.

Meanwhile, the main centenary celebrations are being held at SSS Hill View Stadium in Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, the birthplace of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The celebrations feature various spiritual programmes, with lakhs of devotees from across the world expected to participate.

Lalpani school condemns AI video

CORRESPONDENT

JIRI: Teachers of Lalpani High School in Jiribam district have condemned the circulation of an AI-generated video on social media, alleging it was intended to tarnish the reputation of the school, its teachers and students.

Addressing a press conference at the school on Monday, headmaster Sujit Dutta condemned the uploading of the video clip on Sunday and urged those responsible to refrain from such activities.

Senior teacher M Jeena said individuals having grievances against Sadam, a teacher at the school, should pursue the matter through legal channels rather than resort to actions that could damage the institution's reputation.

She stressed that Lalpani High School had produced many accomplished students and said its dignity, along with that of its teachers and students, should be protected.

Jeena also appealed against politicising the school and warned that strict action would be taken if such activities continue.

Kanglei PANAS questions liquor regulations

CHRONICLE NEWS **SERVICE**



IMPHAL: Kanglei People Against Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Kanglei PANAS) has questioned whether the government is properly enforcing regulations following the legalisation of liquor in Manipur, demanding that the rules and guidelines be made public amid recent deaths linked to consumption of spurious liquor.

Talking to reporters at Manipur Press Club on Monday, Kanglei PANAS president Yumnam Sundari Leima expressed grave concern over several people succumbing to spurious liquor in Chandel district.

Recalling a similar incident in 2006, she said All Manipur Anti-Drug Association (AMADA) had intervened and investigated the deaths. Since then, organisations working against intoxicants have repeatedly urged the government to review and regulate liquor consumption, but questions remain over the implementation of those appeals, she said.

Sundari questioned how liquor production, sale and consumption could be considered properly regulated if deaths continue to occur, and asked whether the government had clearly specified where and when alcoholic beverages could be consumed and whether the regulations were being enforced.

She said the government must accept responsibility for deaths linked to liquor consumption and take concrete measures to prevent further tragedies. The failure to publicise the rules had created confusion among the public, while underage youths are increasingly becoming vulnerable to substance abuse, she alleged.

The president cautioned that protecting Manipur would have little meaning if people, including youths and elderly citizens, continue to die from intoxicants. Keeping people away from addictive substances is essential to safeguarding the state and its younger generation, she emphasised, while affirming that the organisation would continue its initiatives against intoxicants and urged public representatives to take responsibility for preventing further casualties.

69 Bn CRPF installs open gym at Malom

CHRONICLE NEWS **SERVICE**



IMPHAL: 69 Battalion CRPF, Mantripukhri, under the aegis of M&N Sector CRPF organised a civic action programme on Monday at Malom, Imphal West, during which a newly installed open gym was formally inaugurated and handed over to the Youth Development Club, Malom.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by commandant SA Rojan Zimik as chief guest, in the presence of other senior officers and jawans of 69 Bn, local village elders and youths, Meira Paibi activists, and executive members of the Youth Development Club.

Speaking on the occasion, Rojan Zimik highlighted that the primary objective of installing the open gym was to promote physical fitness, encourage a healthy lifestyle, channel the energy of local youth toward constructive sports and wellness activities. He reiterated that 69 Bn CRPF remains deeply committed to strengthening bonds with the local populace and contributing to community development alongside its primary duty of maintaining peace and security in the region.

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