

First Lamka Bamboo fair inaugurated by MP Thangso Baite at YMA Hall, Hmui Veng, Lamka



Cleanliness drive for Manipur International Textile Expo at Manipur Trade and Expo Centre, Lamoi khongnangkong



Minister Shyamkumar distributes winter seeds to farmers under MIDH at Khonghampat training hall



GLIMPSES

CURRENCY
Dollar / Rupee: ₹ 73.15
Euro / Rupee: ₹ 83.38
Pound / Rupee: ₹ 94.44

GOLD: 3,222 (1g/24K)
3,012 (1g/22K)

SPORTS

POLO
MPSC (B) thrashed ESC Nongmeibung by 10-3 goals in Hazari Polo

FOOTBALL
NLC beat RYC by 5-3 in 8th Mazarun Bibi Memorial Football Tournament

WEATHER

MAX : 27°C
MIN : 14°C
Rainfall : 0 mm
Wind : 9 km/h
Forecast: Mostly sunny; pleasant

IW Revenue dept. paralysed due to lack of computer operator

IMPHAL | Oct 24
The issuance of new patas and all mutation related activities in the Tehsils under the Lamphel Sub-Divisional Office of Imphal West district have been paralysed for the past one month.

This was stated by a citizen who went to have his land muted in his spouse's name.

According to the complainant, the officials told him that as a part of the modernisation move, all land records had been computerised and as such a computer operator was appointed to handle the downloading and printing process. However, the person was posted out a month back and no replacement has been sent till now, as a result, no fresh patas have been issued and no new names can be entered into the old ones. It is alleged that repeated pleas by the lower staff on the superiors have fallen on deaf ears.

"Do not count your chickens before they are hatched."
-Aesop

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Biren loses 3rd best CM rank Were the celebrations premature?



By Babie Shirin

IMPHAL | Oct 24

Celebrations for the State chief minister, N Biren Singh on being conferred the 3rd best CM in the country has been a bit premature. The popularity level of Biren Singh has gone down in the graph as the India Today popularity assessment programme continue across the country with chief ministers of more states being added in.

Governor, Najma Heptulla on October 15 had felicitated Biren Singh at the Raj Bhawan on being conferred the 3rd best CM. However, the assessment was an incomplete one as the India Today programme stretches for a series of episodes, some which are still yet to be telecasted. The channel had only assessed 23 states out of

29 when the announcement was made was on the sixth edition of the programme.

The seventh edition of the programme which was telecasted on 21 October had a new review with the CMs of the states of Punjab and Delhi being added in. Delhi chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal took the fourth spot amongst the most popular CMs in the country as per the poll results.

The India Today channel's programme named "Political Stock Exchange" with Rahul Kanwal and Rajdeep Sardesai as co-hosts tracks the mood of voters in various states. The programme is an initiative of India Today TV in collaboration with Axis My India, the latter being one of the premier data collection agency which collects interviews from the public in the form

of telephonic conversations.

At around the 18th minute of India's today telecast of the sixth edition, "Tracking Political Mood of West Bengal and Assam," the host Rahul compares the popularity of chief ministers of 23 states.

He pointed out that, "In a comparison on the relative popularity of CMs, Vijay Rupani of Gujarat with 48 percent got the 5th place, Arunachal CM, Pema Kahandu ranked 4 at 51 percent, Biren Singh ranked number 3 with 52 percent, he is a footballer and showed us some dribbling moves when we are at the East conclave," show host Rahul said adding that

"Mamta Banerjee is the second most popular CM nationally at 53 percent, Naveen Patnaik of Odisha with 59 percent got the top position of respondents

who want him back in power."

It may be mentioned that when the sixth episode of the programme was covered, only 23 states had been covered out of 29 states and the remaining six states were still waiting for assessment.

In the 7th episode of the programme of the India Today Political Stock Exchange on October 21 titled "Tracking Political Mood of Delhi and Punjab" hosted by Rahul Kanwal, another new comparison of CMs was done with Delhi and Punjab being added in.

The most popular CM as per the survey figure is Odisha's Naveen Patnaik at 59 percent, Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee at the second spot at 53 percent, Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani at 3rd with 48 percent and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal at 4th spot at 47 percent. Out of the four CMs, three are BJP CMs. Out of the 25 states covered, CM Biren no longer figures in the top three positions and there are more states to go.

IFP called up India Today journalist and co-host of the show Rajdeep Sardesai and inquired about the poll and whether Biren Singh being 3rd best CM is validated. He said that the polls were only for the 23 states and that the popularity graph of CMs is undergoing changes as the series is progressing with the CMs of more states being added in.

CM flags off second phase of MST bus service, introduces seven new routes at ISBT

By A Staff Reporter

IMPHAL | Oct 23

Chief minister N. Biren flagged off the second phase of Manipur State Transport (MST) passenger bus service after 16 months of re-introduction of the public transport to connect the important hill towns in the state.

BJP led coalition government introduced seven new routes at Inter-State Bus Terminus (ISBT), Khuman Lampak in Imphal East district today. The new bus route service will connect the state capital with the remote hill towns such as

Jessami, Khoupum, Kamjong, Tamenglong, Tamei and Airport Express (ISBT to Imphal Airport) from Monday to Saturday. The Airport Express will be available from airport at 10 am, 12:15 am, 2 pm and 4 pm and from ISBT at 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm.

Speaking at the flagged off ceremony, the CM announced that the state authority is planning to introduce helicopter service to Tamenglong and Moreh town from October 29. He also said that the existing helicopter services from Imphal to Jiribam will have no holiday on November 7, 9 and 10 in view of the passengers who

will attend Ningol Chakkouba.

He said that public transport service under the aegis of MST was revived with an intention to solve the inconvenience in travelling faced by the people residing in far-flung. The first phase of inter-district MST bus service was launched for six routes on June 24 last year, however, passenger service to Pherzawl was discontinued due to unsuitability of the bus with the road condition of the district, he added. He continued that the bus service on this route would be resumed soon and a high floor bus would be on service.

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JAC against construction of Mapithel Dam calls 48 hours bandh

By A Staff Reporter

IMPHAL | Oct 24

The JAC Against the Force Construction of Mapithel Dam (AFCMD) and Mapithel Dam Affected Headmen Chief Elders Organisation (MDAHCEO) have called a 48 hours bandh along the Imphal-Ukhrul road and the road to Mapithel Dam from the midnight of November 4 as a protest against the state government's apathy on the demands of JAC.

The decision of imposing bandh along these roads was taken during a meeting today

held at Shangkai village which was attended by village chiefs, village chairmen and organisations formed against the construction of Mapithel Dam.

During the meeting, they expressed their condemnations against the government for the failure to materialise various assurances including economic packages, rehabilitation and resettlement of villagers whose villages have been submerged by the dam.

The JAC convenor, L.M. Thanmi asserted that in August, chief minister, N. Biren had given his assurance to sign a memorandum of un-

derstanding (MoU) between the state government and the JAC but no further development has been made till date.

"This indicates total negligence of the state government to the villagers who have been suffering due to the construction of Mapithel Dam," he added.

Asserting about the reason why the JAC has strongly opposed the proposed commission of Mapithel Dam by the concerned department and state government, he said that the JAC has no option other than taking up agitations against the government.

Different communities unite to observe Mera Houchongba at Sana Konung

By A Staff Reporter

IMPHAL | Oct 24

Different communities of the state gathered together today to celebrate the age-old common customary and traditional festival of all the ethnic community 'Mera Houchongba' at Kangla.

The festival began in the morning at Sana Konung, where titular king, Leishemba Sanajaoba and cultural troupe along with the public took out a procession towards Kangla and ritual ceremonies 'Men Tongba and Yenkhong Tongba' were performed. After the ritual ceremony they marched back to Sana Konung.

While Speaking as chief guest of the festival at Kangla, chief minister, N. Biren Singh said that one must not forget the forefathers and they must be respected.

"I am happy to see different communities from the hills and valleys coming together as one today," said Biren.

He further said that the joined celebration has started after the government took the initiative to celebrate the festival as one and started to have dialogues with different groups. Earlier, an ad hoc



committee was constituted to organise the festival but from this year the chief minister and the titular king will be the permanent organisers, he added.

He also said that the titular King exists till today because Manipur was once a kingdom, if there was no kingdom before to safeguard the land, the leaders and politicians of today might not exist.

While clarifying the matter of church eviction inside RIMS in which the Christian community conducted a mass rally today in Imphal, the CM said that the present government is

not against any religion and culture but follows secularism.

Speaking to media persons, the titular King said that Mera Houchongba is the only festival in the world where every community can jointly participate leaving aside the difference in culture and religion. He further said that the festival will be able to unite the different communities of the state.

While praising the present government for the works taken up to organise the festival, he said that the festival was organised before

without proper management but with the initiative of the government, all the hardships has gone.

"If the government continues to give funding and support in organising the festival in the future, the festival itself will be able to show the unity of the state to the rest of the world," said Leishemba.

Speaking to IFP, member of Manipur State Women Commission, Ranjita Golmei said that there were conflicts between the hills and the valleys in the past but since Mera Houchongba has been celebrated jointly, the better relationship between the hills and the valley is visible.

Adding that the festival is being celebrated in different places by different organisations, she also appealed all the people and organisations to jointly celebrate the festival at Sana Konung.

Memcha from Keishampat who came to join the festival said that the festival will make the relationship between hills and valley healthier.

The festival at Sana Konung was taken part by council of ministers, 30 village chiefs and 15 cultural troupes from different districts along with people from different parts of the state.

Khelen Thokchom trust to launch fellowship programme for journalists



IMPHAL | Oct 24

The Khelen Thokchom Trust is organising the first 'Remembering Khelen Thokchom' observation with the formal launching of 'Khelen Thokchom Trust Media Fellowship Programme, 2018' on the birth anniversary of the late journalist

on October 27.

The fellowship programme will fully fund reporting assignments for journalist(s) who can demonstrate the potential for insightful reporting on issues that are of concern for the state, said a release. The amount of the fellowship and related terms and conditions will be announced in the upcoming event, it said.

The upcoming 'Remembering Khelen Thokchom' observation would be the 58th birth anniversary of Khelen Thokchom who passed away on April 1, 2018, the release informed.

The release further informed that "The Khelen Thokchom Trust is constituted in loving memory of our departed brother Khelen, a renowned journalist, to promote excellence in journalism etc," while adding that "It would be our pleasure to welcome those who were close to our departed brother on this special occasion."

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