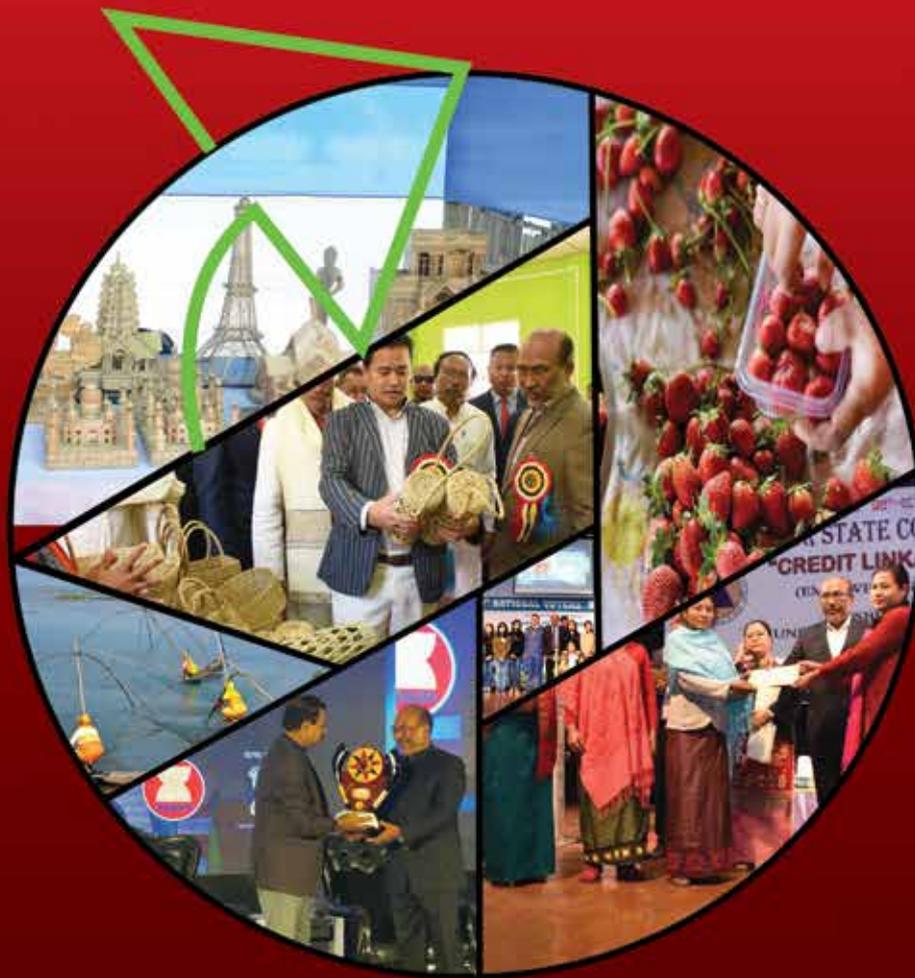


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MANIPUR TODAY



BUDGET 2019-20
AT A GLANCE

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Vladimir Lenin once said “politics is the most concentrated expression of economics.” Every government contemplates to formulate a sound, robust and sustainable economic policy in order to achieve growth, affluence, prosperity and progress.

The budget for the financial year 2019-20 presented by Shri Y. Joykumar Singh, Finance Minister before the 7th session of 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly is a testimony of 23 month old government led by Chief Minister of Manipur Shri N. Biren Singh as the new budget has provided more sectoral allocation to core areas like education, health and sanitation, urban development, rural development, water resources, agriculture, MOBC, forest and wildlife, etc. In a resource crunch state, a pragmatic annual financial statement is a vivid illustration of political wisdom, vision and commitment of the State Government.

Now the State’s annual budget is being discussed and dissected by several economists and experts in local media for creating awareness amongst the masses and providing feedback to the government. Generally, the public is unaware and unperturbed by an annual estimate of income and expenditure presented by the State Government. Our masses need to be financially fluent so as to act, understand and actively participate in the deliberations and reviews. Truly speaking, a budget should reflect the values and priorities of our nation and its people. A state’s annual budget is rather synonymous with the financial priorities of a household.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heisnam Balkrisna Singh'.

(Heisnam Balkrisna Singh)



FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

7TH SESSION OF 11TH MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON 20TH FEB. 2019

Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

I welcome you all to the seventh session of the 11th Manipur Legislative Assembly and the very first session for the year, 2019.

2. The New Year brings with it, renewed hopes and aspirations for the people. I wish the coming of the vasant ritu, ushers in the spring of renewed commitment, resolve and determination towards fulfilling collectively the shared visions for a better and prosperous Manipur.

3. Hon'ble Members, the vibrant diversity and proud traditions of our state have always inspired us all, to continuously work for inclusive development and common welfare of the people of the

State. My Government strongly believes in this principle in letter and spirit and doing our best to bring communal harmony with inclusive development. My Government bridged the emotional and developmental gaps between hill and valley areas without any discrimination and with the active participation of various communities of the state. For any government to function in a meaningful way for the welfare of the people, it is fundamental to understand the grass root level problems faced by the people. Towards achieving this, my Government has launched "Go to Village" programme in a mission mode under which every census village in the State has been covered successfully reaching out to the people. This programme ensured efficient delivery of services at

the doorstep and also to map the essential infrastructure gaps at village level.

4. One of the key commitments of my government is to provide a responsive and responsible administration. My Government has taken serious note of the delay in the implementation of various important and mega projects in the State which has resulted in cost escalation and time overrun. In order to facilitate smooth implementation and to remove administrative bottlenecks, a "State Level Empowered Committee" was constituted to review and facilitate timely approvals, clearances, implementation and completion of mega projects and flagship programmes within a stipulated time frame. My Government has

also established an “Investment Facilitation Centre” to enable single window project clearance process for promoting investment in the state.

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE DELIVERY

5. My Government is committed to protect the human rights and to prevent any excesses by the security forces. The State Human Rights Commission which was non-functional for nearly 9 (nine) long years has been re-established and made functional. In order to facilitate resolution of disputes in an amicable way, the Alternate Dispute Resolution Centre is made fully functional. My government has strengthened the office of public prosecutor by recruiting 7 (seven) more Assistant Public Prosecutors to ensure timely disposal of pending cases.

6. Hon’ble Members, my Government strongly believes that participation of the people is equally important in maintaining law and order. Towards achieving this objective, my Government has started “Community Policing” at the level of all police stations, which has yielded substantial results. Manipur Police, in spite of a lot of infrastructure constraints and delicate security environment, has successfully kept the law and order situation under control. Though there are positive results on account of commendable efforts on Counter Insurgency, ultimate peace is possible only by negotiation with insurgent groups and their successful rehabilitation into the mainstream. My government has always kept its doors open for negotiations with any insurgent group in order to bring total normalcy in the state.

7. Securing the highways in the State has been the priority of my Government. Towards this,

the Government of India has sanctioned 2 (two) India Reserve Battalions for Manipur state, for which recruitment process has already started.

8. Women Police Stations are made functional in every district and as a result most cases of crime against women and children have been reported and registered.

FINANCE AND PLANNING

9. Hon’ble Members, my Government is committed to enhancing State’s own resources and ensuring fiscal consolidation so that public investments and growth are not undermined. During the period, fiscal deficit to Gross State Domestic Product ratio reduced by 1.13 percentage points, giving fiscal headroom to raise additional resources for accelerating the development momentum in the State. The State’s Own Revenue collection has registered a growth of 28% in 2017-18 over 2016-17. Implementation of Goods and Services Tax has improved tax collection with increased compliance by taxpayers.

10. My Government’s initiative in bringing about transparency and fairness in public procurement has widely been recognized. I am happy to inform this August House that recently Manipur was awarded by the Government of India as the best performing State in e-procurement implementation in the North-East.

11. Under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources, we secured an assistance of Rs 79.15 crore this year for 8 new projects and 10 ongoing projects. The allocation of funds under North-East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme is increased to Rs 194.95 crores. My Government is successful in getting approval

for a new scheme called “Hill Area Development Programme” this year, with an outlay of Rs. 90 crore from Ministry of DoNER, for infrastructure development of Tamenglong and Noney Districts. With the support of Ministry of DoNER, 4 projects costing Rs. 69.92 crore under Social and Infrastructure Development Fund have been taken up in the remote hill areas for infrastructure development in Communication and Water Supply sectors. In addition, Ministry of DoNER has earmarked Rs 26.86 crore this year as Central Assistance for rebuilding totally washed away or damaged infrastructure during floods that occurred in the year, 2017.

12. Under Border Area Development Programme, 224 works have been approved for the year 2018-19. For comprehensive development of border areas, six model villages with one model village in each district is being taken up.

TRIBAL AFFAIRS, MINORITIES AND SC/OBC WELFARE

13. Hon’ble members, for growth and development to be sustainable, it must be inclusive.

14. My Government is extending assistance to 2,708 ST families under various development schemes. 2,574 ST families are being provided CGI sheets. Altogether 77,000 ST students are being granted Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship. As committed, my Government has constructed and inaugurated the Women’s Markets (Ima markets) at Ukhrul, Chandel, Tamenglong, Churachandpur, Senapati, Kangpokpi and Jiribam. Transit accommodation for doctors, teachers, etc. are being constructed at 17 locations in the hill districts against a target of 19. Construction of Barrack

type quarters for primary teachers of the six Autonomous District Councils and one Eklavya Model Residential School at Mantripantha in Chandel district is also being taken up.

15. To provide medical facilities to tribal people in the interior hill areas, my Government has established three Health Centres at Thingpuikol in Churachandpur district, Chamu in Ukhrul district and Impa in Tamenglong district.

16. In order to enable focused attention, my government has established fully functional separate departments by bi-furcating the erstwhile Department for Minorities and Other Backward Classes into Department of Minority Affairs and Department for Welfare of OBC & SC. My government is committed to provide scholarship to a target of 47,000 students belonging to these communities during 2018-19. Similarly, 7,000 minority students will be provided Remedial Coaching. Skill trainings will be provided to 1,000 beneficiaries in Bamboo Craft and Silk Yarn Reeling. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Yojana, about Rs. 100 crores have been approved by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for various projects, such as construction of Sadbhavna Mandap, upgradation of School Buildings, Toilets, Hostels, etc. during the year 2018-19.

FOOD SECURITY

17. Hon'ble Members, under the National Food Security Act, 23,39,435 beneficiaries belonging to AAY and Priority households have been registered. Online allocation has been achieved for all districts and new genuine beneficiaries are being identified. Food Corporation of India Godown at Sawombung with a capacity of 10,000 MT

was recently inaugurated. Construction of additional FCI godowns in Thoubal, Bishnupur, Tamenglong and Churachandpur has already started and on completion the storage capacity of FCI in Manipur would be increased to 56,690 MT.

EDUCATION

18. My Government is committed to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education in the State. To streamline the functioning of schools and optimize use of resources, a major exercise to restructure and rationalize government schools by way of amalgamation has been taken up.

19. In order to ensure that there is no out of school children in the state, my Government has launched a new scheme: "Lairik Tamhallasi" - No Child Left Behind. Under this scheme, out-of-school children in the age group of 15-18 years are identified and admitted in formal schools.

20. My Government has further launched 'School Fagathansi', an initiative under 'Go to Village' Mission in order to garner the lost public trust in government schools. Under this mission, comprehensive quality development of an identified government school in each Assembly Constituency, which will include introduction of pre-nursery classes, ensuring teacher availability on sustainable basis, filling up of infrastructure gaps, introduction of smart classes, etc. will be taken up with provision of funds for the same.

21. To improve the quality of education, 25,000 untrained elementary teachers and another 790 elementary teachers are sent for diploma and short-term courses. A component of Regional History of Manipur was introduced in the syllabus of

history subject for Class-XII.

22. Under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, 182 Junior High Schools have been upgraded to High Schools. Vocational classes for Class-IX were made functional in 42 schools in 8 different trades.

23. To protect and promote the Manipuri and Tribal languages, my Government has taken up various activities. Transliteration of all available Manipuri Textbooks from Class I to graduation from Bengali script into Meetei Mayek has been done. Standardization of Manipuri terminologies for 16 subjects has been completed.

24. My Government is committed to improve technical education in the State. Towards this objective, the Manipur International University Bill, 2018 was passed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly. The Dhanamanjuri University also started functioning from the academic session 2018-19 with 13 new post graduate programmes. Foundation stone was laid for setting up a Government Engineering College at Heirok, under Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan.

POWER SECTOR

25. Hon'ble Members, Manipur has been able to achieve its long cherished dream of adopting 400 kV System with the successful charging of the Silchar-Imphal 400 kV D/C transmission line on 25th December 2018. It will ensure enough Available Transmission Capacity to cater to the power requirement of the State for the next 15 years. During the last 22 months, seven 132/33 kV sub-stations and ten 33/11 kV sub-stations have been commissioned and operationalized. At present 21 new 33/11 kV sub-stations and 2 new 132/33 kV sub-stations

under various funding agencies are also being implemented. About 2,000 km wide network of Fiber Optics cable are being laid across the State to gather real time information from the Sub-Stations for real time power supply management.

26. My Government has been giving renewed thrust on the generation sector. Re-assessment of the small hydropower power potential of the state with the latest available technologies has been completed recently. Altogether, 32 numbers of projects having total capacity of more than 300 Mega Watt have been identified. My Government is also trying to develop two medium scale hydro power projects, namely (i) 66 MW Loktak Downstream Hydro Electric Project and (ii) 75 MW Nungleiband Hydro Electric Project by availing external funding.

27. As on January, 2019, all the 2,582 census villages in Manipur have been electrified. Altogether, 98 un-electrified villages were electrified through solar lighting systems. Electricity connection was provided to one lakh and two thousand un-electrified households under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana. Three lakh and forty two thousand prepaid meters were installed and efforts are being made to replace all the naked All Aluminum Cable with Aerial Bunched Cable, to reduce theft. These efforts have translated to reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial loss from 44.20% in 2015-16 to about 22.43% in the current year.

AGRICULTURE, ALLIED ACTIVITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

28. Hon'ble Members, the State has prepared strategies for

doubling the farmers' income by 2022. Benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been extended to all the sub-divisions of the State benefitting 9,465 farmers.

29. Under the Mission Organic Value Chain Development, an area of 2,000 Hectare was brought under Organic Cultivation of Black Scented Rice (Chak-Hao).

30. Under this mission, more than 12,000 farmers across Manipur have been registered for organic certification. Several MoAs and MoUs have been signed with buyers in the last one year to promote Organic commodities under the "Organic Manipur" brand. Three Primary Processing Units for Ginger and Turmeric, developed by Central Agricultural University, Imphal, have been set up in Pherzwal District. One Integrated processing unit has also been approved and sanctioned through North East Development Finance Corporation Limited, which will undertake processing of all organic products. During 2018-19, one cold storage of 1000 MT capacity has been set up and inaugurated under Mission for Integrated Development in Horticulture. I am happy to share that, "India Jaivik Award 2018" was awarded to Department of Horticulture & Soil Conservation as the best performing agency for North and North Eastern States by International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture.

31. My Government is committed to sustainable development of natural resources in the State. During the year, plantation of over 9,731 Hectare of Forest areas was taken up to increase forest cover. Around 30.00 lakh seedlings were distributed to public during 69th Vanamahotsava Festival, 2018. To promote clean and healthy

environment, assistance was given to 4,000 eco-club schools and 100 eco-club colleges established in the State under the National Green Corps Programme.

PISCICULTURE, VETERINARY & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

32. Hon'ble Members, we are aware that we are importing half of our requirement of fish for daily consumption. In order to bring self-sufficiency, my Government is making efforts to augment fish production by providing quality affordable fish feed. A fish feed mill with a production capacity of 170 Kg per hour is being established at Lamphel. Fishery loans were disbursed to fish farmers. Loktak Livelihood Mission has been launched for attainment of self-sufficiency in fish production by 2020. The Mission also seeks to convert the phumdis in the Loktak Lake into organic fertilizer; and thus doubles up as an income generator and cleansing mechanism for the lake.

33. With an objective for doubling farmer's income, 2,700 poultry farmers, 900 Piggery farmers and 450 Goatery farmers will be assisted under National Livestock Mission during this year. Central Poultry Farm at Khumbong has been rejuvenated with the induction of 2000 Low Input Technology Birds and one incubator with capacity to produce 30,000 chicks per month under Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana. Concrete wall fencing is being constructed around the 'Pony Sanctuary' at the foothills of Marjing with an endeavor to protect the Manipuri pony and preserve the associated culture.

WATER RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

34. Hon'ble Members, Water management is key to

economic stability of the State. The works at Dolaithabi Barrage project has been completed and commissioned. My Government is committed to early completion of Thoubal Multipurpose Project, which is targeted for completion in all respect by end of this year. Dredging and re-sectioning works of the major rivers in and around the Imphal city have appreciably increased the carrying capacity of the rivers thus reducing the menace of flood devastation to a great extent.

35. Development of Lamphelpat water body, Waithoupat, Irong Nallah upper and Lower has already been started to preserve and protect critical wetlands in the state.

36. Irrigation potential of 12,904 Ha is being targeted for creation under 102 minor irrigation schemes in 2018-19. Rain water harvesting schemes taken up in Tamenglong, Kangpokpi, Chandel, Kamjong and Churachandpur districts are targeted for completion by March 2019. To conserve water for irrigation, lining of nine reservoirs with Geotextile material has been taken up.

WATER SUPPLY

37. Hon'ble Members, for improving the water supply system in Imphal area, "Integrated Water Supply for Imphal Planning Area" is being taken up. Phase-I of the project is completed. Phase-II costing Rs. 175.81 Crore under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation for replacement of pipe network under Imphal Municipal area is targeted for completion by March 2020. Construction of Water Treatment Plant (45mld) at Chingkhaching with raw water from Thoubal Dam is ongoing and we have achieved substantial progress.

38. In order to attain the target of Water for All by 2022, my Government has submitted three proposals for Externally Aided Funding by New Development Bank amounting to a total of Rs. 2640 crore consisting of Greater Imphal Planning Area Phase III of Rs 990 crore, Water Supply in 28 other towns worth Rs 330 crore and Water Supply in Rural areas of Manipur worth Rs 1310 crore. These projects have been recommended by the Government of India to New Development Bank and are in the process of consideration by NDB.

39. The Imphal Sewerage, Phase-I is now completed. Trial runs are underway and will be commissioned by December, 2019. The state has been declared "Open Defecation Free" status a year ahead on 2nd Oct. 2018.

HEALTHCARE

40. Hon'ble Members, good health and wellness of the people is a priority of my Government. Health protection by providing "cashless" medical cover to AAY families, disabled and widows for up to Rs. 2 lakh per family per year continue to be provided under the "Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang" Scheme. Newspaper hawkers and journalists have also been included as eligible beneficiaries under CMHT. My Government is also implementing Ayushman Bharat under which beneficiaries identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census will be provided medical cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per family per year.

41. To cater to the medical emergencies in the hill areas, ten (10) advance life support ambulances are deployed. 244 doctors have been recruited through MPSC and 65% of them have been posted to hill districts to cover the chronic shortages of doctors in hill areas. To address

the shortage of specialist in the State Health service, the retirement age of specialist doctors was increased to 65 years.

42. Generic medicines are made available in 26 health institutions. 53 diagnostic tests have been made free at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences and Regional Institute of Medical Sciences hospitals. Free dialysis for BPL families is also available at JNIMS. To further expand Diagnostic facilities at the level of Primary Health Centres, 85 motorcycles based mobile laboratory systems are being procured to cover remote and inaccessible villages. My Government is trying to introduce air ambulance service in the state, to establish a 100 bedded Cancer Hospital at JNIMS and a 60 bedded State Mental Hospital in Imphal West district. T.B Hospital at Keirao Wangkhem, Imphal East was inaugurated last year. Under Mission Indradhanush, 96% of children between 0 to 2 years were immunized during this year.

CONNECTIVITY

43. Hon'ble Members, for inclusive socio-economic development and sustainable growth, physical connectivity is vital. Helicopter service was launched on 19th September 2018 in Manipur under the MHA subsidy scheme connecting Imphal to Moreh, Tamenglong and Jiribam.

44. After reviving the Manipur State Transport, its services were further expanded so as to cover six more districts with the induction of additional eight buses. "Loktak Inland Water Transport Project- II" has been approved by the Ministry of Shipping and construction has already started. Project profile for "Barak Inland Water Transport

Project” for development of 65 km Barak Extension stretch has been submitted.

45. Considering the limited resources of the state, my Government is actively pursuing externally aided projects with funding from multilateral banks like ADB, World Bank, JICA, etc. for development of road infrastructure. At the moment two road projects (i) Tupul to Kasom Khullen via Bishnupur at a cost of Rs. 475 crore under North-East State Roads Investment Programme and (ii) Imphal Kangchup Tamenglong Road at a cost of Rs. 1,411 crore under South Asia Sub-regional Economic Co-operation road connectivity investment program with assistance from ADB are under implementation.

46. My government has also proposed to the Union Government for conversion of seven important state roads as National Highways. Important junctions in the Imphal City are being remodeled and foot over bridges is being constructed to minimise conflict of vehicles and pedestrian as immediate interim solution at a cost of Rs. 18.48 crore. Proposals for construction of Imphal ring road and elevated highways within the Imphal city at a projected cost of Rs. 1148.00 crore and Rs. 2350.00 crore under Externally Aided Projects to provide a permanent and sustainable solution have been agreed in principle by the Union Government. Proposal for reconstruction and improvement of important state roads at a cost of Rs. 2810.00 crore with assistance from ADB have also been proposed. 184.92 Km of National Highway under the state PWD are being improved at the cost of Rs. 894.74 crore and improvement of 37 Nos. of state roads under Central Road Fund at the cost of Rs. 260 crore

is also being taken up.

47. Under NEC, due importance has also been accorded to all round development and reducing regional imbalance between hill and valley. A number of important projects have been taken up which include Tamenglong - Tamei road, Kangpokp-Tamei road, Improvement of Bishnupur - Nungba road, Improvement of NH-202 to Chadong, Improvement of road from Mualdok to Khollen diversion road, Construction of Inter-State Truck Terminus at Imphal (Sekmai). One road work in Ukhrul under NEC funding is targeted for completion by 2019-20. Three roads have been approved, namely, i) Jalengbung to Khezokheno (Nagaland) via Sanakeithel road of 20 km connecting Ukhrul and Senapati District, ii) Henglep Thinkew Tipaimukh Road of 15.00 km length in Churachandpur District and iii) Kamjong to Kangkan Thana of 40 km length leading to international border Myanmar.

48. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 419 km of roads have been constructed as on 31st January 2019 connecting 28 eligible habitations. So far, 6,668 km of road has been constructed providing rural connectivity to 522 habitations. During 2018-19, Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India had sanctioned 109 roads and 27 bridges at a cost of Rs. 971.52 crore as Batch-I.

URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

49. My government is committed to reduce the functional bottlenecks in delivering various services. We have established “Citizen Facilitation Centre” at Imphal to provide various documents and services. My Government is going to provide “Visa application

centre” in the proposed Citizen Facilitation Centre, whereby people can submit their visa applications online from Imphal itself. This Citizen Facilitation Centre is completed and will be inaugurated in next few days.

50. The existing Solid Waste Treatment Plant was upgraded to “Waste to Energy Plant”. The plant will start producing electricity by end of this month. Under NLCPR, total cost of Rs. 13.52 crore was sanctioned for Cluster B Solid Waste

MANAGEMENT PROJECT

51. Under “Smart City Project” the designs for improvement of Thangal Bazar, Paona Bazar and development of cycle track along Imphal river from Sanjenthong to Minuthong is completed.

52. All 27 Urban Local Bodies were declared as ODF. Kakching Municipal Council was awarded as Cleanliest Town in North East India.

53. “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana” scheme is being implemented in the urban areas to provide housing for all. About 26,348 houses are approved and required funds are released.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

54. Construction of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) is in good progress. An additional target of 31,000 houses under the scheme has been allotted to the State.

55. “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Scheme” has benefitted 5.60 lakh families till January 2019 and during the current financial year 51.20 lakh person mandays were generated to provide employment to rural poor.

SOCIAL WELFARE

56. Hon'ble Members, my government is committed to inclusive development and welfare of aged, disabled and the marginalized. Under the "Chief Minister-gi Shotharabasingi Tengbang" scheme, about 4,000 differently abled persons are being provided benefit in the form of care giver allowance, scholarship and free travel concession.

57. 1,15,974 beneficiaries are being provided Old Age Pensions under National Social Assistance Programme and Manipur Old Age Pension Scheme. Aim is to cover another 30,000 in the coming financial year under "Go to Village Mission".

58. To strengthen Anganwadi Centres, my Government is providing drinking water and toilet facilities in Anganwadi Centers. Smartphones are being provided under National Nutrition Mission, to all the Anganwadi Workers to ensure proper monitoring and supervision of the services being provided. I am very happy to inform that Manipur has won 3 national awards under Poshan Abhiyan: Best implementing district to Chandel, Best field functionaries for individual excellence to ASHA and Anganwadi Worker, and Best field functionaries for joint activities to Anganwadi Worker, ASHA and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM).

59. Under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, cash incentive has already been provided to 7,000 women.

60. My Government is committed to prevention of trafficking and to rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. Recently around 150 women and 30 men were rescued from trafficking. 15 more One Stop Centres in each district of the State are being established.

61. To deal with the menace of drug addiction in the state, a State Drug policy is being prepared. "Nisha Chadaba Manipur Oihansi" scheme has been launched to create awareness among the students and masses for a drug free society. Illegal drugs and plantations continue to be seized and destroyed.

LABOUR WELFARE AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

62. My government is committed to creating self-employment opportunities through skill development and training under various schemes of the government. Three ITIs were upgraded and construction of two new ITIs is taken up in Sekmai and Kangpokpi. The Government of India has approved establishment of another two new ITIs at Pherzawl and Noney District.

63. To provide care, protection and social security for buildings and other construction workers in the State, beneficiaries have been extended assistance for Education, Accident and Natural Death, Medical and Maternity Care.

64. Steps to revise and update the unemployment figures on the Live-Register of the seventeen Employment Exchanges in the State have been initiated. The total Live-Registered candidates has reduced from 8,03,123 to 3,63,475.

65. "Manipur Start - up scheme" is one of the most ambitious employment generation schemes conceived and launched by the State Government. Its objective is to create a vibrant start-up ecosystem to nurture innovation, encourage entrepreneurship and to create employment opportunities. Under Manipur

Startup Scheme - Round 1, 334 startup under different categories have benefitted through disbursement of loan and subsidy component. Selection process for Round 2 of the Scheme is now going on. A total budgetary provision of Rs.60 crore for Round 1 and Round 2 is made available for the implementation of Scheme.

TEXTILES, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES

66. Hon'ble Members, Manipur is literally the "Gateway" of India to South-East Asia. To boost border management and trade infrastructure, the Integrated Check Post at Moreh, constructed at a cost of Rs.136 crore, was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister on 4th Jan, 2019. Moreh has been notified as Immigration point for entry and exit with valid documents.

67. To promote micro and small enterprises, DPRs for setting up Common Facility Center for Spice and Food Processing at Churachandpur for Rs 666.08 lakh, Common Facility Center at Greater Imphal for Jewellery Cluster for Rs 329.08 lakh, and Common Facility Center at Churachandpur for Wood Carpentry Cluster for Rs. 438.55 lakh have been approved by the Steering Committee of Micro-Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme in the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India and final approval is awaited.

68. To promote and develop the Handloom Textiles sector, my Government has been supporting the weavers and artisans through doorstep delivery of handloom yarns at subsidised rates as well as arrangements for buy-back of the finished products, setting up of urban haat, skill upgradation of 750 weavers and artisans and distribution of 1,815 fly-shuttle looms. The

Department of Handlooms & Textiles had organised a hugely successful Manipur International Textiles Expo-2018 during 5th-15th November, 2018 at the Manipur Trade & Expo Centre, Lamboikhongnangkong. A modern Terracotta Project is also being established at Thongjao which has been traditionally renowned for its traditional pottery productions. My Government has also started Apparel & Garment production units at Lamboikhongnangkong which have started exporting textiles products outside Manipur with plans to even export abroad. One Eri Spun Mill with an outlay of Rs.21.53 crore will be established at Project Management Complex, Sangaipat.

69. Under the “Mission for Economic Empowerment of Traditional Artisans and Draftsmen” (MEETAC), entrepreneurs and artisans engaged in traditional arts and crafts of the State are being groomed and empowered with e-Marketing facilities to fill the gaps in the supply chain for marketing the traditional arts and crafts of the State.

70. I must make a special mention of my Government’s hugely successful hosting of the 3rd World Bamboo Workshop at Imphal, for the first time in Asia, wherein delegates from as many as 34 countries participated with demonstration, workshop and interactive sessions on the latest technologies, products and information on Bamboo were showcased.

TOURISM

71. Hon’ble members, Manipur offers huge potential for growth in tourism sector. With improved tourism infrastructure and security scenario in recent years, tourist inflow increased

by 13.15% in 2017-18 over that in 2016-17.

72. The Manipur Sangai Festival, 2018 was organized on a much larger scale and at multiple venues. The Cherry Blossom Festival at Mao was included as part of the festival. The age-old traditions, culture and the hospitality of Ukhrul district was showcased as part of the 2nd State level Shirui Lilly festival. Other festivals like Orange festival, Barak festival, Kut, Lui-Ngai-Ni, Mera Hou Chongba, Lemon festival, Pineapple festival, Amur Falcon festival, etc. were also supported by my Government.

73. The Marjing Polo complex at Heingang has been made more tourist friendly with inauguration of a restaurant, information-cum-tourist hall, public toilet facilities and ecodge. The development of North-East Tourist Circuit: Imphal and Khongjom under Swadesh Darshan Scheme was inaugurated and made Manipur the first state to inaugurate projects taken up under the said scheme in India.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

74. Hon’ble Members, various projects are being implemented under National e-Governance Plan toward efficient and transparent governance. 878 Common Service Centers have been established to provide Government services to the citizens. Wireless internet connectivity to 14 District Head Quarters of Manipur has been provided and the existing SWAN network strengthened. With the successful migration of the Manipur State Data Center to cloud platform, Manipur has been recognized as a forerunner in adopting cloud technology and awarded the India Express Award in Cloud Category.

75. To promote creativity and inspire young students, one Innovation Hub has been established at Manipur Science Centre, Takyelpat.

SPORTS

76. Manipur is a powerhouse of sports in the country. To strengthen sports infrastructure, works for installation of flood lighting at the main stadium and hockey stadium of the Khumanlampak Sports Complex, Imphal and construction of Artificial Football Turf at Imphal West is being taken up.

77. In the 63rd National Inter School tournament, the state team won 60 Gold, 46 Silver and 57 Bronze medals. In the recently concluded Rural Sports under “Khelo India Youth Games”, the State team participated in 9 different sports disciplines and won 32 medals.

ARTS & CULTURE

78. My government is committed to nurture, promote and preserve the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Manipur. Two newly constructed bronze statues of Maharaj Narasingh and Herachandra were unveiled. Cultural troupes from the State participated in the “5th Silk Road International Arts Festival” in China, “Surin International Cultural Exchange Programme” in Thailand.

79. Vigilant media is vital for our democracy. The government continues to provide financial assistance under Manipur State Journalists Welfare Scheme. Monthly pension is being provided to retired journalists and widows of journalists. Maintenance grant are provided annually to Manipur Press Club, All Manipur Working Journalist’s Union and Manipur Hill Journalists’ Union.

80. For better mobility to

ensure effective functioning of field officials, sixty-one new vehicles were handed over to SPs, SDOs and OCs. Syllabus for Manipur Civil Services Combined Competition Examination was modified to harmonize with the Civil Services Examination of UPSC.

CONCLUSION

81. Hon'ble Members, Manipuris blessed with tremendous natural and human resources. My government is committed to realize the full untapped potential in the State effectively and efficiently while ensuring that the process is inclusive and sustainable. Towards this objective, I look forward to the whole-hearted support and commitment of all the Hon'ble Members.

THANK YOU AND JAI HIND.

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES SEVENTH SESSION OF 11TH MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The 7th session of the Eleventh Manipur Legislative Assembly began on 20th February, 2019 with the Governor's Address. Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla in her address to the first session of 2019 highlighted achievements and developments of the State administration.

Governor said that Government strongly believes in this principle in letter and spirit and doing our best to bring communal harmony with inclusive development. To bridge the emotional and developmental gaps between hill and valley areas without any discrimination and with the active participation of various communities of the state. Towards achieving this, the Government has launched "Go to Village" programme in a mission mode under which every census village in the State has been covered successfully reaching out to the people.





FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS BUDGET ESTIMATES, 2019-20

Shri Yumnam Joykumar Singh, Deputy Chief Minister of Manipur (in charge Finance) presented budget estimates of the Government of Manipur for the year 2019-20 amounting Rs 14,636 crores in the Assembly.

Presenting the budget estimates, the Finance Minister said that the total receipt is estimated at Rs 14,636 crore. The revenue receipts is estimated at Rs 13,157 crore and capital receipts at Rs 1478 crore. Total estimates of State's own tax and non-tax receipts assumed in the Budget Estimates are Rs 1,185 crore and Rs 283 crore respectively.

Full text of the Budget

SECTION I

GOVERNANCE, ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Mr. Speaker Sir, with your kind permission, I take this opportunity to present the budget for the year 2019-20.

2. This is the third budget of Our Government. Two years ago, we had pledged to give the people of the State clean, transparent and people-centric governance. We remain committed to the principles which we had set for ourselves when we assumed power. Since then we have strived to take governance to the doorsteps of our citizens through programmes like 'Go to Village' and 'Go to Hills'. The Programme has received appreciation from our people. We have endeavoured to improve the health and welfare of our ordinary and differently-abled citizens in an unprecedented manner through various flagship schemes.

3. Sir, in a short period, our Government has taken steps to improve the economic and social infrastructure of the State. We have given additional impetus to the 'Start-up' Scheme which seeks to provide a set of

incentives to enable thousands of smart professionals to enable them to convert ideas into business. Our Government will not waver from taking additional responsibilities to fulfil the aspirations of the people. Speaker Sir, we will continue our efforts to ameliorate the living standard of our people for the overall developments of the State.

4. Before I proceed further, I wish to place before this August House some important aspects of the State of the Economy:

State of the Economy

5. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2018-19 is estimated at Rs.25869 crore, an increase of 6.87% over 2017-18. In the next financial year 2019-20, the estimated GSDP at the current prices is Rs.28666 crore which will be an increase of 10.81% over 2018-19. As our Government continues to give thrust on enhancing capital expenditure with commensurate pruning of unproductive expenditures, the double digit growth trend in GSDP is likely to continue in the ensuing years.

6. Speaker Sir, our Government continues to

face intractable challenges on fiscal consolidation front. The huge recruitment made in 2016-17 continues to impact the expenditure management especially Revenue expenditure. The Revenue expenditure during 2018-19 is estimated to grow by 31.44% over 2017-18 on account of huge surge in salary and pension payments. The recent increase in dearness allowance/ dearness relief and the impending implementation of 7th Pay Commission for the State Government employees will have additional impact on the revenue expenditure. The BE 2019-20 has factored in the arrear payment due to our employees from 01.04.2019 on account of implementation of the 7th Pay Commission in our State. The expanding Revenue expenditure is likely to have an adverse impact on our fiscal deficit during 2018-19 and 2019-20. We have made our presentation to the 15th Finance Commission in this regard and we expect that the Commission will sympathetically consider our request for a favourable dispensation to the State.

7. Our problem of shortage of resources has been further compounded by unrealistic

assumptions by the 14th Finance Commission. Firstly, the 14th Finance Commission, while calculating the gap between total expenditure and total revenue for the 5-year period of 2015-20, instead of accepting the projections submitted by the State Government, based their calculations at some normative assumptions and arrived at lower figures, part of which was covered by the share of taxes and the remaining was devolved to us as gap grant. Secondly, it assumed a nominal GDP growth rate of 13.5%, while the actual GDP growth is less than 10%. Similarly, the tax buoyancy assumed by the 14th Finance Commission is also much higher than what has been actually achieved during the first three years.

8. As a result, there has been a huge gap left in the devolution of central taxes. During 2015-16, against the assessed devolution of Rs.3579 cr, the State received only Rs.3142 cr, leaving a gap of Rs.437 cr. Similarly, the gaps during 2016-17 and 2017-18 were respectively Rs.374 cr and Rs.620 cr. The cumulative gap during the first 3 years has thus been Rs.1431 cr. During the year 2018-19, as per the RE figures of the Central Government, total devolution of central taxes to Manipur will be around Rs. 4547 cr against the assessment of Rs.5522 crore by the 14th Finance Commission. This will leave a huge gap of about Rs. 975 crore during this year, taking the total gap between the assessment by the 14th Finance Commission and the actual devolution of central taxes during the period 2015-19 to a staggering level of Rs. 2406 crore. This shortfall has been accumulating and, therefore, we have a huge budgetary deficit of Rs.2284 Cr in RE 2018-19. Taking into account the opening balance of Rs.34 crore, the closing

balance for 2018-19 is estimated at (-) Rs. 2250 crore. Speaker sir, a question naturally arises how to meet the shortfall. I would like to take this opportunity to inform this August House that our Government has been trying to get additional resources from the Government of India in the current fiscal year. As a result, we expect to raise additional borrowings of Rs.282.37 crore over and above the net borrowing ceiling of Rs.809 crore during the current financial year. Hon'ble Chief Minister has also taken up the matter with the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Finance Minister to meet the shortfall in devolution of central taxes.

9. During 2019-20, the 14th Finance Commission had projected an amount of Rs. 6396 cr as devolution of central taxes. Against this, the budget of Government of India shows a devolution of Rs.5211 cr only, a deficit of Rs 1185 cr. We are thus left with a cumulative shortfall of Rs.3591 cr during the period 2015-20, so far as devolution of central taxes is concerned.

10. The problem has been further compounded due to discontinuation of Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Central Assistance (SCA) and Special Plan Assistance (SPA) by the 14th Finance Commission, as the State is left with no way of meeting the shortfall in the devolution of taxes, except through its own resources and One-Time Special Central Assistance which too is tied with projects.

11. Sir, it is a well-known fact that the revenue base of our State is very small. More than 90% of our total revenue expenditure comprises of transfers from the Government of India. In order to raise additional resources, the State Government has taken a

decision to introduce Manipur State Lotteries. We expect to get about Rs 100 cr as additional resources through the State lotteries. Despite this effort for additional resource mobilisation, the cumulative impact has been strongly felt this fiscal and will also be felt the next fiscal year.

12. Apart from the resource constraint, rapidly expanding revenue expenditure on account of payment of salary and pension and enhanced debt servicing & interest payment does not bode well for the financial health of the State. The consequences of such an unsustainable fiscal situation are deleterious for our capital expenditure. Increasing revenue expenditure 'crowds out' our limited resource which could have been otherwise utilised for creation of our much needed critical infrastructure.

13. Sir, in order not to adversely impact the critical social and economic infrastructure, I am compelled to present a budgetary deficit of Rs.1405cr for 2019-20. Taking into account the estimated opening balance of (-) Rs.2250 crore for 2019-20, the closing balance for the ensuing year is estimated at (-) Rs.3655 crore. Our efforts during the remaining period of 2018-19 and in the financial year 2019-20 would be directed towards exploring all available avenues of additional revenue and for enhancing our capital expenditure.

SECTION II

INVESTMENT, EXPENDITURE AND POLICY INITIATIVES

EDUCATION

14. Speaker Sir, it has been rightly said that investment in education pays the highest dividend. It is the firm belief of this Government that investment in education will surely assist to

bridge the intra- and inter-State divide presently existing in our society and the nation. The total budgetary outlay for Education Sector has been enhanced from Rs.1524 crore in RE 2018-19 to Rs.1748 crore in BE 2019-20. Under the 'Go To School' Mission (School Phagathansi Programme) of this Government, a total amount of Rs.25 crore has been allocated under school education in BE 2019-20.

15. For many years, students of Government Schools have lagged behind their private school-educated counterparts in academic performance due to various reasons. One of the elements for promoting healthy education ecosystem is the need to incentivise the students for their hard work and dedication. With this in mind, our Government has earmarked a total amount of Rs.50 lakh during 2019-20 as incentive to Government School Students who excel in HSLCE and HSLC examinations. Our Government has earmarked additional budgetary provision of Rs.6crore for Dhanamanjuri University for FY 2019-20 for meeting its operation expenses.

HEALTH

16. Speaker Sir, our commitment to promote 'Health for All' especially amongst the poor and weaker sections remain steadfast. Keeping in view the priority in Health sector, the budgetary outlay for Health been kept at Rs. 774cr in RE 2018-19. In the current financial year i.e. 2018-19, an outlay of Rs.70 lakh has been earmarked for Food Testing Laboratory at Moreh. Also, an amount of Rs.7.25 crore for setting up of Mobile Laboratory at PHCs level has been made in the current year i.e. RE 2018-19. Process is afoot to complete the project at the earliest.

17. The flagship Health

Programme of our Government, Chief Ministergi Hakshelgi Tengbang (CMHT), has been allocated Rs.20 crore in the ensuing year i.e. FY 2019-20 so that the poorer sections of the society continue to have access to basic healthcare facilities.

WATER RESOURCES

18. Speaker Sir, agriculture is the mainstay of the State's economy providing employment to 52.80% of the total workforce. Over 60% of the area under cereal crops is not under irrigation. The total budgetary allocation for Water Resources Department has been kept atRs.438 crore in BE 2019-20. There is enhanced allocation under AIBP component for Major and Medium Irrigation from Rs.125 crore in RE 2018-19 to Rs.169 crore in BE 2019-20 for completion of Dolaithabi Barrage Project and Thoubal Multipurpose Project.

19. Speaker Sir, long pending Dolaithabi project has been inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister last month. We are taking concrete steps to complete the Thoubal project during the coming year. This year, allocation for the Thoubal project was enhanced from Rs.69 cr to Rs.242 cr by borrowing from NABARD. Next year, we propose to arrange the balance amount through another round of borrowing from NABARD and therefore, an outlay of Rs.140cr is proposed for this project.

20. Sir, Manipur continues to be ravaged by recurring floods. This has caused twin damage to both lives and properties. There is an urgent need to tackle this menace holistically. In order to mitigate this 'annual sorrow'. Our Government has enhanced allocation under AIBP component from Rs.35 crore in RE 2018-19 to Rs.221 crore in BE 2019-20. This is on account of higher

allocation under AIBP by MoWR. The enhanced allocation would be utilized to tackle anti erosion, flood management and drainage in Loktak sub-basin.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

21. Speaker Sir, Imphal area is under immense pressure due to rapid urbanization and continuously expanding population. There is a need for a multi-pronged strategy to tackle urban infrastructure, urban poverty, urban planning and employment generation. Accordingly, an amount of Rs.614 crore has been provided for in BE 2019-20. There is an enhancement in budgetary outlay for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and National Urban Livelihood Mission. For development of civic amenities in Imphal areas, Rs.8 crore has been earmarked in BE 2019-20.

SCHEDULED TRIBES, SCHEDULES CASTE, BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES

22. Sir, in the 21st century, economic development and empowerment is the fulcrum of social justice movement. It is the commitment of this Government to maintain an upward trajectory in budgetary allocation on year to year basis for STs, SCs, OBCs and Minorities so that social disadvantages of these sections are at least partially compensated by economic justice to the best extend possible. Accordingly, the total budgetary allocation for these sections has been kept at Rs.788crore in BE 2019-20.

AGRICULTURE & ALLIED ACTIVITIES

23. Speaker Sir, as I mentioned earlier, Agriculture is the largest employment provider in our State. Our Government is aware of the hurdles existing in our agrarian economy. I have,

therefore, proposed a budgetary allocation for the agriculture sector at Rs.316 crore in BE 2019-20, comprising of different schemes, namely, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Oilseed and Oil Palm Mission, National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology & Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). A total amount of Rs.6.28 crore has been set aside for creating buffer stock of urea fertilizers for BE 2019-20.

FOREST AND WILDLIFE

24. Sir, protection of forest cover and wildlife is necessary for the rich biodiversity of the State. Taking this into consideration, the budgetary outlay for forest and wildlife has been enhanced from Rs.192 crore in RE 2018-19 to Rs.232 crore in BE 2019-20. The increase is on account of higher allocation under National Bamboo Mission (NBM) and Green India Mission (GIM) in BE 2019-20. Sir, I would like to place before this August House that an amount of Rs.20 crore has been allocated under EAP during 2018-19 for watershed management of Singda Dam, Thoubal River and Imphal River and the same is to be implemented in fiscal year 2019-20.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

25. About 70% of our population lives in rural areas. Despite constraints, the budgetary allocation for the Sector has been enhanced from Rs.1820 crore in RE 2018-19 to Rs.1870 crore in BE 2019-20. The increase is mainly on account of enhanced allocation for NRLM from Rs.9 crore in RE 2018-19 to Rs.30 crore in BE 2019-20. Similarly, allocations for PMKSY, MGNREGA and PMGSY have been enhanced in BE 2019-20.

REVISED ESTIMATE 2018-19 & BUDGET ESTIMATE 2019-20

A). REVISED ESTIMATES 2018-19

26. The Budget Estimate for 2018-19 had placed the total gross expenditure at Rs.13731 crore. This has been revised to Rs.16769 crore showing an increase of 22% over BE 2018-19. Out of the Revised Estimates for 2018-19, an amount of Rs.2035 crore is charged expenditure under the Consolidated Fund of the State and the remaining amount of Rs.14734 crore is voted expenditure.

27. Revenue receipts and capital receipts were estimated at Rs.12648 crore and Rs.1143 crore respectively in Budget estimates 2018-19. This has now been revised to Rs.12198 crore and Rs.2168 crore respectively in RE 2018-19. The Capital outlay increased significantly from the BE 2018-19 of Rs.2253 crore to Rs.3088 crore in RE 2018-19, registering a growth of 37%, while revenue expenditure increased from Rs.11009 crore in BE 2018-19 to Rs.12190 crore in RE 2018-19 showing an increase of 10%. The increase in capital outlay will help in asset creation and capital formation, which will help in accelerating the growth process.

28. Taking into account the receipts and expenditure, the current year i.e. RE 2018-19 is expected to close with a revenue surplus of Rs.8 crore. The fiscal deficit for RE 2018-19 is projected at Rs.3079 crore.

B). BUDGET ESTIMATE 2019-20

29. Sir, let me turn to the Budget Estimates for the year 2019-20. The total Receipt is estimated at Rs. 14636 crore. The revenue receipts are estimated at Rs.13157 crore and capital receipts at

Rs.1478 crore. Total estimates of State's own tax and non-tax receipts assumed in the Budget Estimates are Rs.1185 crore and Rs.283 crore respectively. We are not proposing any change in the existing tax rates. Receipt from the State's share in Central Taxes & Duties in BE 2019-20 is expected to increase by 15 percent over 2018-19 (RE) and have been estimated at Rs.5211 crore in the budget estimates.

30. Regarding Expenditure Estimates for year 2019-20, I am proposing a total gross expenditure of Rs.16117 crore out of the Consolidated Fund of the State. Out of the total expenditure, an amount of Rs.1687 crore is charged expenditure and the remaining amount of Rs.14430 crore is voted expenditure. Total Revenue Expenditure is estimated at Rs.12856 crore. Capital expenditure is estimated at Rs.3260 crore.

31. Sir, at the end, let me sum up by highlighting the likely fiscal position during the coming fiscal year i.e. BE 2019-20. Revenue account is estimated to be in a surplus of Rs.377 crore. Fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs.1889 crore.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

32. Speaker Sir, no Budget can be the panacea for all the disadvantages which a society faces. However, it is our earnest hope that this Budget shall bring at least some incremental positive changes to the lives of our people. This Budget is not just an economic intent but is a vehicle to express the seriousness of this Government towards the holistic development of the State.

33. With this, I commend the Budget for 2019-20 to this August House.



17TH LOK SABHA ELECTION

FIRST-TIME VOTERS OF MANIPUR

Sagolsem Snehrabha
District Information Officer

Over 20 thousand Manipuri youths will be casting their votes for the first time in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election

RK. Poireinganba Meetei, 18, a first-year student of BA from Chanambam Ibomcha College will cast his first vote in the upcoming 17th Lok Sabha 2019. “My first vote will go to the candidate who will raise their voices for the betterment of Manipur”, he said.

He is among the over 20 thousand Manipuri youths who will be casting their votes for the first time in the upcoming Lok Sabha Election where the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) seeks a second term.

A total of 19,30,912 photo electoral rolls have been registered for 60 assembly constituencies in Manipur, out of which 9,39,926 are male, 9,90,960 are female and 26 are third gender voters. Of the 19.3 lakh electorate in the State, electors in the age group 18-19 years is 20,395 for 60 assembly constituencies in the State.

Like most first-time voters, Poireinganba doesn't come with a political baggage. “I don't support any political party. I will vote for a Member of Parliament who will work for the community first. Who will represent the interest of Manipur and voice our concerns and hopes in the lower house of the Parliament”, he said.

The State sends only two Members of Parliament (MPs) to the Lok Sabha from two constituencies—Outer and Inner Manipur. The Indian National Congress had bagged both the seats in Manipur in 2014 Lok Sabha polls. Thokchom Meinya is the sitting MP for Inner Manipur while Thangso Baite is the sitting MP for Outer Manipur.

The Lok Sabha or Lower House of the Indian Parliament has 545 seats is made up by the election of up to 543 elected members, and two nominated members of the Anglo-Indian Community by the President of India.

ELECTORAL PROFILE OF MANIPUR

Total Population: 34,69,871
 Total electors: 19,30,912
 Total male electors: 9,39,926
 Total female electors: 9,90,960
 Total transgender electors: 26
 Total no of Assembly Constituencies: 60
 Total no of Polling Station locations: 2,282
 Total Polling Stations: 2,861

Electoral Profile: No of electors in the age group 18-19 in Manipur

Total electors: 20,395
 Total male electors: 10,599
 Total female electors: 9,785
 Total transgender electors: 11



RK Poireinganba Meetei



NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY HELD WITH THE THEME 'NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND'

The 9th National Voters' Day 2019 was observed under the theme 'No Voter To Be Left Behind' at the City Convention Center, Palace Compound, Imphal East organised by the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur on 25 January 2019.

Speaking as the chief guest of the function, Dr. J Suresh Babu, Chief Secretary talked about the importance of sustaining the democracy of the country. Stating that electoral roll is the basic foundation of the election, he said that the preparation of the electoral roll in a fair manner thus becomes important.

Urging the voters to check their names in the voters' list as the

fate of the entire nation depends on the elections, he said that voters' participation is necessary in order to elect a good leader. He further said that voting percentage is also very critical and Manipur is lucky to be one of the highest polling states of the country. As part of the function, Dr. J Suresh Babu administered the National Voters' Day pledge to the attendees.

Shri LM Khaute, DGP in his speech assured that State Police Department in collaboration with the Central Forces will take up requisite and elaborate steps for the security arrangements for the successful conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha Election - 2019. It is important to ensure

that all voters turn up to cast their votes to safeguard the democracy of the country, he added.

Shri PK Singh, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Manipur appealed to the voters to come forward for registration, correction, change of names and address in the electoral roll saying that the revision process will continue till the day of the nomination. He informed that in the upcoming election Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) will be used in all the polling stations in the entire country.

He said that the Voters Verification and Information Programme (VVIP) will be launched from New Delhi on 25

January 2019. Stating that toll-free voter helpline number 1950 is launched in the State, he said that Manipur has been positioned in the second place in the entire country in the implementation of the voter helpline number. After the massive success of the SVEEP campaign, he said that the Election Commission of India (ECI) handed over the charge for the national multimedia campaign of the Lok Sabha Elections - 2019 to the CEO Manipur.

Smt Th. Chitra Devi, DC Imphal East, and Shri Harmeet Singh Pahuja, DC Ukhrul were felicitated for the Best District Election Officer for 2018-2019 meanwhile Shri Shyam Lal Poonia, DC Churachandpur was felicitated for the Best District Election Officer 2018-2019 for the first level arrangement and execution of checking of EVMs and VVPATs and also for the best initiatives taken during Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

Felicitations for the Best Electoral Registration Officer were held for Shri Suleiman Daulat Khan, ERO Patsoi & Konthoujam; Shri L. Radhakanta Singh, ERO Heirok, Wanjing & Tentha; Shri Kh. Lalmani Singh, ERO Karong (ST) & Mao (ST); Smt Sonia Elangbam, ERO Keirao Bitra & Andro and Shri Joel G Haokip, ERO Kangpokpi.

Shri Hanjabam Bobby Sharma, AERO Karong (ST); Shri Samson Huidrom, AERO Yaikul, and Wangkhei and Shri T Joseph Lhungdim, AERO Henglep (ST) were felicitated for the Best Assistant Registration Officer. Md Ejaz Hassan, EO Ukhrul; D. Meidimbui, EO Tamenglong, and L. M. Len Singsit, EO, Thoubal were felicitated for the Best Election Officer for innovativeness, punctuality, and recognition for their contribution to the election-related activities. 60 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were also felicitated on the occasion.

As part of the observance, 10 newly enrolled voters were presented Electoral Photo ID Card (EPIC), felicitation was held for State Icons for the SVEEP campaign, prizes were distributed to the winners of the State level lucky draw received Honda Activa, Samsung LED TV and Samsung refrigerator and winners from each 60 constituencies received MI A6 mobile phone. Shri Aheibam Prahlad, CEO and Creative Director, Fluorescence Communications Private Limited, New Delhi was also felicitated for multimedia designing of the SVEEP campaign. A photo exhibition was also held.

Shri MH Khan, Additional Chief Secretary; Major General KP Singh, IGAR South, Assam Rifles; Shri Mahendra, DIG, Imphal Range CRPF, Ramananda Singh, Joint CEO, officials and staffs of the Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur, school students, among others attended the function.





2ND ASEAN – INDIA YOUTH SUMMIT

CM N. BIREN SINGH URGES INVESTORS TO INVEST IN MANIPUR

Manipur Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh urged the domestic and foreign investors to come and invest in the North Eastern State and assured that the State will make all possible efforts for safe and productive investments in the State. This was stated by him at the 2nd ASEAN -India Youth Summit held in Guwahati, Assam on 3rd February 2019.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister said that Manipur shares strong cultural affinities with Myanmar and other ASEAN countries. Such characteristics present huge potential for partnership in cultural tourism. Investments in infrastructure, skill development, and film production have great potential while simultaneously promoting traditional and cultural art forms, and generating employment for the youth, he added.

Chief Minister mentioned that

the Government of Manipur believes in engaging actively to collectively create synergies and build mutually supportive relationships transforming the lives of the people in the regions and reshaping the geopolitical and economic landscape in the “Asian century”. He further stated that the synergies created by the “India-Myanmar-Thailand” Trilateral Highway and “Kaladan Multi-Modal transport” projects would also transform the region.

Stating that Manipur is in the path of development and the law and order conditions have improved tremendously, Chief Minister highlighted that Helicopter services are now operational and Air Ambulance services are being introduced in the State. There is a need to work towards establishing air links directly from Manipur and the North East region to ASEAN countries, he

added. “We are even looking at international helicopter service connecting important regions such as Saigang and Mandalay in Myanmar with Moreh and Imphal in Manipur”, he added.

Chief Minister elaborated that the renaming of India’s “Look East Policy” as “Act East Policy” is reflective of the Nation’s commitment to deepening its ties with the ASEAN region. Considering the importance of this policy, he mentioned that the State Government has constituted a State Level Committee to aid and advice in the effective operationalization of “Act East Policy” in Manipur.

The 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit was organised by India Foundation in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India under the theme “Connectivity is the pathway to shared prosperity”.



CM DISTRIBUTES LOANS AMOUNTING RS. 4.15 CRORE

Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh distributed a total loan amount of Rs. 4.15 crore. to 2965 persons in the form of SHG Credit Linkage, Piggery, Dairy, Duckery and Poultry loans under NABARD’s Area Based Schemes as well as loans to individuals who have applied for assistance on “MeeyamgiNumit” (People’s Day) on 28th January 2019 at Palace Compound in Imphal East District.

Speaking as the Chief Guest at the 2nd Credit Linkage Programme organised by Manipur State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) Ltd, the Chief Minister said the programme was organised with an aim to improve the financial condition of the people. He said people would repay loans on their own if they are not given trouble at the time of getting it. “The present State Government is trying to find out common people’s woes and find out ways

to solve all these problems”, he said.

He said that people are now able to receive treatment free of cost under Chief Ministergi Hakshel-gi Tengbang (CMHT) and Ayushman Bharat schemes. “With the initiation of ‘Go to Village’ mission, the Government has been able to deliver benefits of various schemes at people’s doorsteps apart from collecting feedbacks regarding governance directly from them” he added.

Stating that nowadays, people generally spend a major chunk of their earnings in children’s education thereby giving a huge financial blow to every family, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the State Government would be able to provide good education to students in Government schools under the recently launched ‘School Fagathansi’ mission.

Speaking as the functional president, Co-operation Minister Smt. Nemcha Kipgen said that MSCB Ltd., which has 11 branches in the State, has been playing a pivotal role in uplifting the economy of the State by providing loans/credit facilities to numerous educated unemployed youths and poverty-stricken skilled people. Stating that MSCB Ltd. is no less than a nationalised bank in every field, the Minister asked the bank authority to properly verify and conduct field visits in order to select the right persons for loans. She also stressed the importance of the co-operative sector in enhancing the economy of the State.

Manipur Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Chairman Shri S. Rajen also attended the function as the guest of honour.



MANIPUR OBSERVES MARTYRS' DAY

The Manipur State Government observed Martyrs' Day, which commemorates the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at Gandhi Memorial Hall in Imphal West District on 30th January 2019. Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla and Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh graced the observance as the chief guest and president respectively.

A siren was sounded from 10.59 am till 11 am as a signal for the observance of two minutes silence and another siren from 11.02 am to 11.03 am as a closing

signal. People stood up wherever they were as soon as they heard the first siren to observe two minutes silence to mark respect to the Father of the Nation and all the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives in the Indian freedom struggle.

Ministers, MLAs, high ranking civil and police officers and people from different walks of life attended the observance. Earlier, the Governor and the Chief Minister led the gathering in offering floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking to media persons on the sideline of the observance, Dr. Heptulla said that Martyrs' Day is the day when people devote to Mahatma Gandhi's message of service and sacrifice towards the nation. Stating that Mahatma Gandhi sacrificed his life for the unity and integrity of the nation, the Governor said that people should rededicate themselves towards the service of the nation while observing the day.

Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse on 30th January 1948.



WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2019 OBSERVED AT SENDRA

Wetlands are vital for human survival: Minister Shyamkumar

The World Wetlands Day 2019 was observed at the state-level on the theme ‘Wetlands and Climate Change’ at Sendra, Bishnupur district jointly organised by the Loktak Development Authority (LDA) and Loktak Lake Tourism Development Co-operative Society Limited on 2nd February 2019.

World Wetlands Day is observed on 2nd February every year to mark the date of adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971. The Convention is the only multilateral environmental agreement to date for conservation and wise usage of wetlands. The World Wetland Day is being organized to

raise awareness on the values wetlands have for nature and society.

Forest and Environment Minister Shri Thounaojam Shyamkumar as the Chief Guest and Shri K. Robindro Singh, Deputy Speaker, Dr Radheshyam Yumnam, Chairman MANITON/MANIDCO, Shri Suhel Akhtar, Additional Chief Secretary (Forest and Environment), Shri L. Bhagaton Singh, Project Director, LDA, students and teachers of various schools of the area, among others attended the function.

Minister Shri Thounaojam Shyamkumar said that the conservation of the environment is vital for the survival of human beings. He said water

is necessary for sustaining life and wetlands are the life support systems that ensure the functioning of the water cycle. Wetlands have special attributes as cultural heritage of humanity and have deep connections with our beliefs and practices. They are indeed an important part of our natural wealth and assets, he added.

LOKTAK LAKE

Taking an example of the environmental degradation, he said the pollution of the Loktak Lake, known as the mirror of the Manipur, is not a sign of development. Speaking on the importance of the Loktak Lake which is the largest freshwater lake in North East India, he

said the lake including other wetlands moderates the climate of the State. He said that active public participation is necessary to save the Loktak Lake. The lake was designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on 23 March 1990.

Speaking on the decrease in the production/cultivation of the 'yongchak' (*parkiaspeciosa*) in the State, he opined that the decreasing number of population of the bats could be a reason behind the less production of the popular 'yongchak'. He said the rampant hunting of birds in the State has a direct impact in the environment. He said that the existence of wildlife is also equally important that is why hunting of animals and birds should be stopped. He said in the present world, a nation is known as a developed one if it conserves and protects the environment and the wildlife.

IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS

Shri K. Jugeshwor Singh, Principal, Kumbi College, and Dr. S. Shyamjai Singh, Scientific Officer, LDA spoke in length about the observation of the day, the importance of the wetlands,



scope of wetlands tourism and link between the wetlands and the environment.

Stating that the forest is the lungs of the earth and the wetlands are the kidneys, Dr. Shyamjai said that wetlands occupy 6% of the total earth's land surface and 12% of it acts as a carbon sink. He said that wetlands are vital for our water and food security and it helps stabilize water supplies, cleanse polluted waters, protect shorelines and recharge groundwater aquifers.

He said that wetlands play an important role in reducing the impact of extreme weather

events such as floods, droughts, and cyclones and it acts as a natural sponge, absorbing and storing excess rainfall and reducing flooding. During the dry season, they release the water stored, delaying the onset of droughts and reducing water shortages, he added.

SPOT PAINTING

As part of the function a spot painting competition was held among 109 students of various schools at the Loktak Inland Transport complex. The winners were given certificates along with a cash reward.





Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla inspected the guard of honour accorded by a contingent of 5th IRB commanded by Smt. Bidyapati Thingbaijam, DSP 9th IRB (Mahila)

IN PICTURES

MANIPUR CELEBRATES INDIA'S 70TH REPUBLIC DAY

The 70th Republic Day was celebrated in Manipur at the historic Kangla Fort on 26th January 2019. Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla as the chief guest along with Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Y. Joykumar Singh among several other leaders attended the celebration.



The Governor took the salute from 73 marching contingents including nine band contingents and various school contingents led by Parade Commander Shri Thaimei Gaipuiril Kabui, Assistant Director, MPTC.



The 70th Republic Day celebration concluded with “Folk Dance Competition and Beating the Retreat ceremony” held at 1st Bn. Manipur Rifles parade ground on 27th January 2019.



At Kangla, the State also displayed its rich cultural heritage. Twenty cultural troupes from various communities and organisations across Manipur showcased cultural performances.

At Kangla, the celebration began with the Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla unfurling the Tricolour flag.





Republic Day Celebration in Ukhrul. Republic Day was also celebrated in all the District Headquarters of the State.





Khogen Akoijam at his Strawberry Farm at Yairipok
Photo: Oken Sanasam

THE STRAWBERRY MAN

First generation entrepreneur Khogen Akoijam tastes success by producing organic Strawberries in Manipur

Sagolsem Snehrabha, DIO
Seema Sanjenbam, PRO

Why not produce strawberries in bulk in Manipur”, thought Khogen Akoijam in 2014. Five years later, the first generation entrepreneur successfully established Queen’s Fresh Strawberry, an Agri Startup that produce and sell fresh strawberries in the State, by riding on the organic movement wave in the North Eastern State.

The Yairipok, Thoubal District based Agri Startup supported by the Manipur Government’s Startup policy, is also providing livelihood to farmers in the State.

Khogen grows four varieties of Strawberries— Sweet Charlie, Eliana, Winter Dawn and E1-13#33 in his two acres family farms. Ripened strawberries, ready for the picking, are

clustered on the elevated soil covered by plastic mulch in early-February. The berries are dispatched to hotels and also retailed across outlets in the State Capital Imphal.

EARLY DAYS

Khogen Akoijam, 38, fell in love with strawberries while working in the hospitality sector. After completing his

He returned to his home state in 2010 and joined 'The Classic Hotel' in capital Imphal, as its Assistant Banquet Manager. However, he worked there for only six months. Later he did various odd jobs which included selling cosmetics to driving a DI Truck. In 2014, he came across a person selling saplings of strawberries at Khoyathong, Imphal West.

"I bought two saplings and that spiked my interest in growing the fruit. It's very difficult to find fresh Strawberries in the State as people here only grow it in their gardens as a novelty but have not ventured to produce it for the market. So I suddenly have this idea to commercially cultivate strawberries in bulk", he added.

Later he bought 1,500 saplings of strawberries and started growing it organically on his one-acre farm near his homestead as an experiment.

Being a first generation entrepreneur, it has been far from easy. "I didn't have a mentor. The only guide I can claim is Oja (Teacher) Google (he laughs), I learned about strawberry cultivation from the internet. Everything I learned was by trial and error", he said.

INVESTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT FOR CULTIVATION OF STRAWBERRIES

The initial investment is quite

high as strawberry needs a specific environment. The third child among eight siblings started by investing Rs. 4.5 lakhs from his own savings and contributions from family. In 2018, Khogen started growing Strawberry at another family farm with the help of a Manipur Government Startup policy which provided him a loan amounting to Rs. 60 lakhs with 18% as a subsidy. Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh with the objective to nurture start-up entrepreneurship in the State launched StartUp Manipur on 15th March 2018.

"80% of the startup money has been utilized and invested as a one-time investment for preparing the land for cultivation and procuring saplings from outside. I decide to import superior varieties like Winter Dawn, Sweet Charlie among others as the earlier variety I used was not giving me the yields I desired," he said.

Khogen now sells around 100 kg of his organically grown strawberry from his two farms daily. If conditions are suitable he can produce 10% more. "Strawberries needs sandy soil, eight hours of Sunlight and temperature of 12-14 degree Celsius during flowering is essential so it is most suitable during winter," he said.

The saplings which are planted in the month of September bear fruits after three months and can

post-graduation in the service sector from Indian Institute of Future Management Trends (ITFT), Chandigarh, sponsored by the Planning Department of Manipur. He joined 'The Golden Palms Hotels & Spa', Bangalore in 2003. "There I tasted fresh strawberries for the first time in my life. I was attracted to this exotic fruit and wanted to have a taste. The hotel chef told me that it's a very expensive fruit and told me to eat it somewhere where I couldn't be seen by the cost controller. I hid in the cold storage in -4 degrees C and ate the berries. I was blown away by the flavor and fragrance", he said.





be harvested from December to April. Though initial investment is high it can be sustainable as he will be able to generate profit after the third year.

FARM TO MARKET

Queen's Fresh Strawberry with its flavor, freshness and organic tag helped him in securing customers. "Strawberries are a perishable commodity as its shelf life is short. So the imported strawberries are not in its best state when it reaches Manipur. Queen's Fresh Strawberry solves that problem. Since we are locally grown we have the advantage of harvesting in its best state which makes our fruits more flavourful and fresh vis a vis imported ones", he said.

As his business grew he tied up with hotels and retail outlets. He also had talks with Meira Foods, a local food processing company, to sell processed strawberries. A combination of business savvy and experiences have aided him in going through

the ups and downs of being an entrepreneur. "The contacts and experiences in service and beauty sector came handy," he said.

He plans to set up a processing unit to make puree of strawberries which is in high demand in the hotel industry. Later he plans to expand into the cosmetics sector making organic beauty products derived from the berries.

CHALLENGES

Venturing into unknown territory without any safety net was the most challenging thing for this first generation entrepreneur. However, his entrepreneurial spirit pushed him to meet the challenge head-on. He consulted Scientists, attended agricultural fairs and took part in startup competitions.

"During Dynamic Manipur Entrepreneurship competition,



while dressed up in suits, I carried packets of my organically grown strawberries in two poly bags and went around the Khwairamband Market (the women only market in the heart of capital Imphal) and sold it to the people. It was during this competition that I named my venture Queen's Fresh Strawberry after the name of my wife's cosmetic boutique," he said.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Though strawberry remained his first love, he plans to introduce multiple crops like -lettuce, capsicum (bell peppers), beetroot, mushrooms and dairy farming for sustainable farming. Instead of importing saplings he also plans to take up tissue culture and create a nursery which will save money that will go toward outside firms of sapling sellers.

"Farmers need to be progressive and accept technological innovation to make farming sustainable. As a farmer, we need to move beyond traditional



farming and adopt modern means to achieve success. In Manipur, most of the farms lay vacant after one harvest. I plan to utilize these farms to its maximum potential so that we are self-sustainable and don't need to import food from outside," he said.

The pioneer in strawberry cultivation in the State who now employs eight daily wage workers to help in his two farms said Manipur can be one of the top producers of the fruit by 2030.

To accomplish that, Khogen who has often been referred to as "The Strawberry Man" by the media is now keenly exploring options such as cultivating the fruits in vertical racks, Hydroponics method of growing plants in water, in consultations with Scientists from Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute of Agriculture Science and encouraging other farmers to take up strawberry cultivation.



CM INAUGURATES SCHOOL, LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF MARKET IN KAKCHING



Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh inaugurated the new building of Lamjao Upper Primary School and laid the foundation stone of a new Ima Market at Lamkhai Keithel (Hiyanglam-Wabagai) in Kakching District on 9th February 2019.

Speaking at a joint public function held at Lamkhai Keithel, the Chief Minister assured that the Government would put in all possible effort to complete the new market shed before Independence Day this year. Stating that construction of women's market shed at Lilong has already begun, the Chief Minister further announced that new market sheds would be constructed at Kongba, Lamlong, and Kwakeithel as well. Regarding frequent floods occurring in HiYanglam, Wabagai and adjoining areas, the Chief Minister said that dredging of Moramba Maril would begin at the earliest.

Shri N. Biren Singh stated that the 'Go to Hills' mission had bridged the gap between hill and valley people and strengthened oneness. On the other hand, the 'Go to Village' mission could enable the Government to understand people's woes, grievances, and necessities. Now 'School Fagathansi' mission has been launched with an ambitious

objective to provide free and quality education to students, he said and expressed hope that the new mission would certainly benefit thousands of students. Stating that a major chunk of people's earnings is generally spent in children's education, the Chief Minister expressed hope that people would now be able to save their hard earned money for their future.

Informing that one Government model school would be opened in all the 60 ACs of the State under the mission, Shri N. Biren Singh said that all these schools would have pre-nursery classes. For this, the Cabinet had approved engagement of 120 pre-nursery teachers, he added.

Mentioning various welfare schemes like CMHT, Ayushman Bharat, CMST and Ujjwala Yojana etc., the Chief Minister said that the Central Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had recently launched a noble scheme known as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. Under this scheme, Rs. 6,000 per year would be transferred directly in three instalments to the bank accounts of those farmers whose land holding is less than 2 hectares, he said and added that the new initiative would benefit small and marginal farmers in earning a respectable living.

Regarding providing drinking water to every household of the State, the Chief Minister said that the Government had sought an assistance of Rs. 2600 crore from the New Development Bank.

Speaking at the occasion, CAF and PD Minister Shri Karam Shyam said that Manipur is probably the only State in the world where womenfolk play a pivotal role in supplementing families' income through vending of vegetables and other wares in the market. He also said that ineligible households/individuals would be deleted from the list of beneficiary list of NFSA soon.

In his speech, Forest and Environment Minister Shri Th. Shyamkumar mentioned about various developmental changes made by the incumbent Government in around two years.

Deputy Speaker Shri K. Robindro, MANIDCO and MANITRON Chairman Dr. Radheshyam Yumnam, Kakching AC MLA Shri Y. Surchandra, Kumbi AC MLA Shri S. Bira and Chingai AC MLA Shri Khashim Vashum also spoke at the occasion. Earlier, the Chief Minister also inaugurated Emergency and Trauma Care Unit, Advanced Life Saving ambulance and auditorium of Jivan Hospital, Kakching Lamdong.

CHIEF MINISTER CREDITS PEOPLE OF MANIPUR FOR UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016



Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh congratulated the people of Manipur after the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was not tabled in the Rajya Sabha. The Upper House was adjourned sine die without the bill being tabled on 13th February 2019. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was listed in the 'Legislative Business' scheduled to be moved by Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh.

Chief Minister who was in New Delhi with 11 other political parties of the State stated that it is a collective victory for the united voices which rose against the passage of the bill in the Upper House. He gave credit for the successful opposition to the bill to the 'Meira Paibis', Students, NGOs and different political parties for their concerted democratic protests.

Expressing gratitude to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for acknowledging the sentiment and listening to the voices of the people of Manipur and the North East, the Chief Minister stated that it reaffirms Central Government's commitment for welfare and development of the entire North Eastern region.

The Chief Minister also stated that during his meeting with Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on 11th February 2019, Rajnath Singh had (unofficially) assured that the bill will not be tabled without the consensus of the people of the North East.

Stating that internet ban and curfew was imposed as a preventive measure to maintain public order the Chief Minister appealed to the people of the State to continue its focus on the developmental work in the State. He said the Government is committed to continue developmental activities in the hills and valley sought full cooperation from the people.



CM INAUGURATES NEW TRAINING CENTRE FOR MKVIB

Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh inaugurated the newly constructed training cum production centre of Manipur Khadi and Village Industries Board (MKVIB) at Lamphelpat in Imphal West District on 6th February 2019.

The intake capacity of the newly inaugurated training centre is 100 trainees per batch.

Textiles, Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Th. Biswajit said that two cement factories would be set up in the State at the earliest. “As big industries are not feasible and suitable in Manipur, the State should focus on developing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)”, he said.

The Minister also said that efforts are being made to revive Manipur Spinning Mill, Loitang

Khunou as soon as possible.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s statement ‘Khadi for Nation, Khadi for fashion,’ Shri Th. Biswajit urged every citizen of the State to buy one Khadi product each to

support the Khadi industry in the State.

In his presidential address, Oinam AC MLA and MKVIB Chairman Shri L. Radhakishore Singh said that the Board (MKVIB) was established in September 1967.





Photo: Oken Sanasam

3RD WORLD BAMBOO WORKSHOP HELD

Aimed at showcasing the potentials of bamboo for sustainable development, the 3rd World Bamboo Workshop, was jointly organised by World Bamboo Organisation (WBO) and the Government of Manipur in Imphal from 4-8 February 2019. The workshop with the theme “Breaking the Challenges of Bamboo for Better Future” saw the participation of over 200 delegates from 34 countries.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh opened the international event at City Convention Centre, Imphal East on 4th February 2019. Governor Dr. Najma Heptulla graced the closing ceremony as the chief guest at the same venue on 8th February 2019.

Konhoujam AC MLA and Working Committee Chairman

of World Bamboo Workshop, Dr. Sapam Ranjan, WBO President Michel Abadie, WBO Executive Director Susanne Lucas, WBO World Bamboo Ambassador Prof. Nirmala Chongtham, CEO of DICMA Trade (Mexico) and International Coordinator of the 3rd World Bamboo Workshop Martin Motera were among the delegates from 34 countries who attended the workshop. Three MOUs were also signed during the closing ceremony.

World Bamboo Workshop is the largest international multi-disciplinary theoretical and practical event for and about bamboo, in which people from all over the world participate including world leaders and experts in the use of bamboo. It is an annual event organised by the WBO with the objective of spreading the traditional use

and application of bamboo of a particular region of the world while making efforts to bring in all the scientific, technical and traditional knowledge available around the world under one roof.

Manipur, the “Jewel of India” as quoted by the country’s first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and also a bamboo paradise is the best place for this mega event in bamboo. It is one of the richest state of India in bamboo diversity and distribution as well as in use and application of it in daily life and is very deeply interwoven with the culture, religious ceremonies, and rituals, economy, and commerce of the people.

International Bamboo Expo Conferences, Workshops with a hands-on demonstration, Lectures, Interactive Sessions



WHAT LEADERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE 3RD WORLD BAMBOO WORKSHOP

“It is heart-warming to learn that around 34 countries from across the world have participated in the workshop. It is a proud privilege for Manipur to host such an important international event of this magnitude”.

Dr. Najma Heptulla, Governor, Manipur

“The World Bamboo Organization is praiseworthy for initiating a global movement to bring the bamboo people together for promoting the use of bamboo - bamboo for food, fuel, fibre, building materials and a renewable resource with many applications”.

Shri N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister, Manipur

“The 3rd World Bamboo Workshop 2019 at Imphal, Manipur should be a game-changer for the people of Manipur as well as the State Government in its engagement to bring about huge benefits from the State’s rich bamboo resources”.

Shri Th. Biswajit Singh, Minister Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Manipur

were the highlight of the global event.

Exhibition on various bamboo products along with demonstration of the latest technologies and practices in processing, treatment, and production of various bamboo products by world-renowned bamboo experts also formed a part of the Workshop. Over 50 Exhibition stalls showcased diverse and exquisite bamboo products ranging from structural to domestic uses apart from

displaying various bamboo textiles, food products, and local handloom and handicrafts products.

Various competitions like Bamboo Cooking, Photography, Painting, and Poster were also part of the five-day event.

This is the third workshop in the series after the first held at Mexico in 2017, second in Peru in 2018. The next edition will be held in Taiwan said WBO Executive Director Susanne Lucas.



SOME IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- 200+ delegates
- 34 participating countries
- 50+ exhibition stalls
- 3 MOUs signed



MINISTER RADHESHYAM VISITS BORDER VILLAGES OF UKHRUL DISTRICT

Education Minister Shri Thokchom Radheshyam accompanied by officials of Education Department inspected schools and other infrastructural conditions of the border villages of the State in a three-day visit to Ukhrul District and Kamjong District from 13-16 February 2019.

He said that the visit is part of the 'Go to Village' initiative launched by Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh. The visit is aimed towards reaching out to the people, reaching the unreached and to explore the nature's bounty of the state. The Ministerial team began their journey to Ukhrul from 13th February and inspected seven villages of Mapum, Zingsui, Sahamphung, Chamu, Khayang, Phungtha, and Roni. Expressing deep satisfaction over the visit, the Minister stated that

it is a great opening for the government as the trip is the first ever made by a Minister to these border villages.

The villagers heartily welcomed the Minister and informed about the hardships faced by them due to lack of proper infrastructure, poor road connectivity, inadequate health, and drinking water facility in the villages. The Minister inspected Mapum High School, Zingsui High School, Chamu High School, and Khayang Primary School. Villagers from Mapum, Sahamphung, Chamu, Khayang, Phungtha, and Roni speaking to DIPR Reporter stated that they are pleased and happy by the visit of the Education Minister as the villages have never been set foot by a Minister before.

Despite the deplorable condition of schools in the villages,

the Minister was pleased to witness the well maintained and appropriately functioning of the Khayang Primary School, Khayang Village, regarded as the last village of Manipur at Ukhrul District bordering Myanmar. The school has around 110 - 120 students and is successfully providing primary education with support and supervision from the villagers and its headman. The primary school has hostel facility where students not only from the neighboring villages but also from the neighboring country Myanmar come for studying.

Minister Radheshyam informed the villagers that to meet the requirement of teachers at Ukhrul and Kamjong Districts, teachers who were transferred and utilized from the districts have now been reverted back to the district again. He explained

that the transfer and posting of the teachers were processed before the beginning of the academic sessions. He said that the teachers newly posted at the district totals to 107 teachers and the list of names are uploaded in the official website of the Department, he added. He also sought the support and cooperation of the people in the schools' amalgamation.

Th. Radheshyam also highlighted the state government's schemes and centrally sponsored schemes to the people. The ministerial team also visited the Phungtha Tily Waterfall, Phungtha Village. He assured that the government will put its efforts for the development of the villages.





LUI-NGAI-NI 2019 CELEBRATED

MINISTER L. DIKHO INAUGURATED THE LUI- NGAI- NI 2019

The Lui- Ngai- Ni 2019 organised under the aegis of United Naga Council (UNC) with the theme “Understanding Through Culture” hosted by Naga People Organisation (NPO) was celebrated with traditional gaiety and fervour at Mini Stadium, Senapati District HQs on 15th February 2019.

Lui-Ngai-Ni is the collective seed sowing festival of the Naga tribes of Manipur celebrated every year on 15th February. The festival marks the onset of the sowing season and is celebrated every year with great zeal.

The celebration of Lui-Ngai-Ni festival meant praying to God for good plantation and blessing for a bumper and bountiful harvest. The Gods of crops are invoked during this festival to shower blessings on the seeds for a good

harvest and the general well-being of the people.

The main highlights of the celebrations are lighting of the sacred fire, feasting with meat and rice-beer, traditional log drum beating, traditional folk dances and songs, the competition of games and sports, etc. This annual festival plays a great role in promoting peace, harmony, and prosperity while upholding the rich Naga culture.

Shri. L. Dikho, Minister PHED, Printing, and Stationery said Lui-Ngai- Ni has been celebrated regularly with the display and sharing of cultures. He applauded the organizers for bringing various civil societies and organisations together. He also stated that the seed has been sown for a better harvest. As people are concerned about

the environment he appealed the people to be more responsible by planting more trees and conserving the resources.

Shri. KhashimVashum, MLA, Chingai AC and Shri. Samuel Jendai, MLA, Tamenglong AC attended the program and were the Guests of Honour of the function.

Cultural troupes of different Naga tribes performed folk songs, dances, blowing Lui- Ngai- Ni trumpet, beating drums, the lighting of fire etc. The blessing of seeds was invoked by the Chief of Saranamai village.

Many public leaders, Ex-MLAs, Ukhrul ADC Chairman, Tamenglong, ADC Chairman and Senapati ADC Chairman and its member attended the function.



REX RAJKUMAR SINGH MAKES HIS DEBUT FOR INDIA

Manipur's Rex Rajkumar Singh became the first player from the North East to make it to the Indian national cricket team. The 18-year old made his debut as part of the India U-19 team for a two four-day series against South Africa U-19 team starting on 20th February 2019.

The Manipuri left-arm fast bowler rose to fame after picking all 10 wickets in an innings in a Cooch Behar Trophy match against Arunachal Pradesh in December last year. Rex's finished with an outstanding figure of 10 for 11 runs against Arunachal Pradesh on 13th December 2018.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Manipur Cricket Association expressed happiness over the teenage cricketer's maiden India call up.

In a simple felicitation ceremony held at his office in the CM Secretariat on 15th February 2019, Shri N. Biren handed Rs. 50,000 to Rex Rajkumar Singh for success in his cricketing career. In another event at Luwangpokpa Cricket Stadium at Luwangsangbam, Manipur Cricket Association vowed to work at its level best to include Rex in the senior India cricket team.

Rex Rajkumar Singh made his List A debut for Manipur in the 2018-19 Vijay Hazare Trophy on 19 September 2018. He made his first-class debut for Manipur in the 2018-19 Ranji Trophy on 1 November 2018.

The India U-19 squad for the four-day matches against South Africa U-19: Suraj Ahuja (C & WK) (Team Rajasthan), Divyaansh Saxena (MCA), Varun Nayanar (Kerala), Avneesh Sudha (Team Uttarakhand), Yashasvi Jaiswal (MCA), Vaibhav Kandpal (DDCA), Shaurya Saran (HPCA), Hrithik Shokeen (DDCA), Manav Suthar (Team Rajasthan), Manishi (JSCA), Sabir Khan (Bihar), Anshul Kamboj (Haryana), Rajvardhan Hangargekar (MHCA), Rohit Dattatraya (VCA), Rex Singh (Manipur), Vathsal Sharma (Kerala)



HOW SENAPATI DISTRICT EXCELLED IN BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO IMPLEMENTATION

Miranda Zimik
District Programme Officer,
ICDS Cell, Senapati

The Census (2011) data showed a significant declining trend in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), calculated as number of girls for every 1000 boys between age group of 0-6 years, with an all-time low of 918 in 2011 from 976 in 1961. The decline in CSR has been unabated since 1961.

Alarmed by the sharp decline, the Government of India has introduced Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme to address the issue of decline in CSR in 100 gender critical districts and the scheme was launched on 22 January 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

GOAL OF BBBP

The Overall Goal of the BBBP

Scheme is to Celebrate the girl child and enable her education.

Objectives

The objectives of the Scheme are as under;

1. Prevent gender biased sex selective elimination
2. Ensure survival and protection of the girl child
3. Ensure education of the girl child

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BBBP IN SENAPATI DISTRICT

Formation of District and Block Task Force:

Senapati District is the first district in Manipur to implement BBBP Scheme in the state. The district started the implementation of the scheme

with effect from the year 2015-16 and since the start of the programme, the District has formed the District Task Force (DTF) and the Block Task Force (BTF) for the implementation of BBBP programme. From January-November 2018, the under mentioned activities has been undertaken;

Total DTF meeting held: 1 time
No. of participants: 14
Total BTF meeting held: 1 time
No. of participants: 24

ORIENTATION AND SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME

Training of Village Women Leaders :

In Senapati District including Kangpokpi, there are six major tribes and each tribe speaks a



different dialect which is not understood by other tribe. As such, ICDS conducted training tribe wise. The tribe covered are Maram, Mao, Poumai, Thangal, Kuki and Zeliangrong.

Total No. of programme conducted: 05 times

Total No. of participant attended: 284 participants

Training of Village Council Leaders

In Senapati District, the society follows patriarchal system and to be bring about any changes in the society, the participation and involvement of men is a must. As such, the village council leaders were given a sensitization / training on BBBP wherein the disparity between boys and girls (CSR) were highlighted and asked the participants to celebrate the birth of girl child and educate the girl child. We have covered three ICDS Project namely, Purul, Mao-Maram and Kangpokpi ICDS project and a total of 170 leaders participated in the programme,

No. of Programme held: 4 times
No. of Participants: 221

Training of grass root functionaries (Anganwadi workers)

Anganwadi Workers being the grass-root level worker, it was necessary to train them

on BetiBachaoBetiPadhao for effective implementation of the programme. As such, training programme for Anganwadi workers were conducted.

No. of Programme held: 10 times
No. of Participants: 619

OTHER ACTIVITY IDENTIFIED BY DTF/BTF

Promotion of education among school drop-out girls through IGNOU: 30 girls assisted

Promotion of vocational training among school drop-out girls: 35 girls assisted(15 tailoring & 20 computer course)

Street play on BBBP: 30 times conducted

In collaboration with Don Bosco College Maram, ICDS Cell,

Senapati conducted street play on BetiBachaoBetiPadhao in District Head quarter, Block Head quarter and major town of the district and a total of 30 times street play were performed in the last one year.

AWARENESS GENERATION & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Hoardings on BBBP put up in all the Major Towns and villages in the District.

To generate awareness on BBBP, hoardings were put up in the district head quarter, block headquarters and in all the major towns in the district. Apart from putting up hoardings, sticker campaign too was carried out by pasting in all the zonal taxi, local taxi and buses that ply in the district.

Total Hoardings put up till date:65

Media Campaign through hoardings on Local and Zonal Taxi

We also printed 20,000 (twenty thousand) leaflets and distributed to all the participants in the training programme and to the general public during street play. Moreover, advertisement in local daily newspaper "Hills Hornbill Express" is being put up on daily



basis since September 2018 with an objective to re-enforce the messages given out through hoardings, sticker campaign and different awareness programme.

Total Hoardings on all the Local and Zonal Taxi that ply in the District:600

INNOVATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Outreach activities through door to door campaign:

A massive door to door campaign on the importance of early antenatal checkup, institutional delivery and girl child education were carried out by Anganwadi workers covering all the ICDS project blocks in the district from September to November 2018 and a total of 400 villages were covered and as a result there has been increase in ANC, institutional deliveries in the district. Moreover, parents has realized the importance of girl child education and given assurance to send their girl child

to school in the coming academic year 2019.

Tree Plantation in the name of Girl Child:

To Celebrate the birth of Girl Child, a tree plantation in the name of Girl Child was carried out and a total of 87 girl child participated in the programme.

Sectoral activities of M/o HRD

Activities towards retention of Girl child in school

Provided extra tuition to girl students studying in government schools to ensure clearance in the final exam:

- Class V students: 357
- Class VIII students:324
- Class X students:307
- Total Schools covered:
 - a) Senapati:28
 - b) Kangpokpi:12

ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT

- Sensitization programme for religious leaders
- Training programme for

Senapati district has bagged award for successfully implementing Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme. Senapati district was selected for the award in Effective Community Engagement category.

The District's Deputy Commissioner Somorjit Salam received the award from Union Minister Women and Child Development Menaka Gandhi during the National Girl Child Day held at Pravasi Bharti Kendra, New Delhi on 24th January 2019.

Village Council Leaders of Saitu-Gamphazol ICDS Project

- Baseline survey on Child Sex Ration (CSR)
- Observation of International Women's Day 2019 on 8th March 2019.
- Felicitation of meritorious girl in academy, sports and social work.





MANIPUR TOURISM CONFERRED GLOBAL MICE CONGRESS AND AWARDS

Manipur Tourism has been conferred the Global MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions) Congress and Awards in Mumbai for promotion of tourism during the year 2018-19 in an award ceremony held at the Taj Lands End Hotel, Mumbai 13th February 2019.

Shri W. Ibohal Singh, Director, Tourism, Government of Manipur received the award at the event attended by global stalwarts in the tourism industry. Representatives of International Tourism Boards from across the world exchanged ideas

and business at the two event (February 12-13, 2019) in the city.

Manipur Tourism has been at the forefront in organising and promoting MICE activities through its events and business summits. Starting from 2016, Manipur Tourism has been organising events like tourism markets and business summits as part of its annual Manipur Sangai Festival.

Around 81 countries participated and were honoured in different fields of hospitality, event management, exhibition, travel, tour operator among others.





LAISHRAM BOMBAYLA

MANIPUR'S OWN MARKSWOMAN

Wangkheimayum Bhupendra Singh
Information Assistant

Manipur has certainly produced some of the finest sportsmen and women in every discipline of sports, from boxing to weightlifting to football and archery. And yes, these individuals have not only brought home laurels after laurels, winning trophies and medals, but also inspired many a youth. As small as the State is, we continue to churn out batches after batches of weightlifters, footballers, boxers, archers, cyclists, body-builders, etc.

One amongst the most inspirational athletes in the country, Laishram Bombayla Devi

has certainly carved a niche for herself in archery, having already donned the national colours in three straight Olympics Games, reaching the pre-quarterfinals twice and winning Gold at world cups. Recipient of the Arjuna Award for Archery in 2012, Bombayla was awarded the Padmashri this year.

For Bombayla, sports runs in the family, being born to Laishram Ongbi M. Jamini Devi, a State Archery coach, and Laishram Manglem Singh, a State handball coach.

Bombayla was born on 22nd February, 1985, and started

playing archery young at the age of 11. In 1997, Bombayla participated in the 42nd National School Games held at Shillong, Meghalaya, 1997 winning a team Silver. She joined the Sports Authority of India, Imphal Centre in 2001.

She was introduced to archery by her mother, who in her own words said that it was her inability to use proper equipment despite her love for the sports during her playing days that motivated her to embark on a journey to see her daughter play with proper equipment and shine in the international arena.



Laishram Bombayla Devi receiving Arjuna Award (2012) from the then President of India Pranab Mukherjee



“It was my inability to use proper equipment despite my love for the sports during my playing days that motivated me to embark on a journey to see my daughter play with proper equipment and shine in the international arena.

Laishram Ongbi
M. Jamini Devi

FORAY INTO INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Bombayla made her international debut in 2006 at the 1st Asian Archery Championship 2006 at Dhaka, where she won an individual Bronze as well as a team Gold. Since then, she has been a regular member of the national Women’s Recurve team.

At the 3rd Asian Archery Grand Pix, 2007 at Isfahan, Iran, she won Golds in both Individual and Team events. The same year, she also won Gold at the International Archery Challenge Cup, London.

She has also been a member of the national team that has won Gold medals at the world cup editions at Columbia in 2013, at Poland in 2013 and 2014.

At the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, Bombayla alongwith Dola Banerjee and Deepika Kumari won Gold defeating England in the final.

Sl. No.	International Event	Prize
1	1st Asian Archery Championship, held at Dhaka, Feb. 8 to 11, 2006	Individual Bronze Team Gold
2	4th World Cup Archery, July 31 to Aug. 5, 2007 held at Dover, London	Team Bronze
3	International Archery Challenge Cup, at London on Aug. 6, 2007	Gold
4	15th Asian Championship held at China, Sep. 16 to 20	Team Bronze
5	3rd Asian Archery Grand Prix, Oct. 20 to 26, 2007 at Iran (Isfahan)	Individual Gold Team Gold
6	1st World Cup Archery Santo Domingo, Apr. 1 to 5, 2008 (USA)	Ranking 5
7	3rd World Cup Archery Antalya, Turkey June 2 to 7, 2009	Team Bronze Ranking 5
8	5th Asian Circuit Archery Meet at Dhaka, Bangladesh, Oct 21 to 25, 2009	Individual Bronze Team Gold
9	1st Asian Grand Prix at Bangkok, Feb. 2010	Team Gold
10	South Asian Game at Bangladesh, Feb. 2010	Individual Silver Team Gold
11	Commonwealth Games Test Event at Delhi, March 5 to 12, 2010	Team Gold, 2010
12	2nd World Cup Archery at Turkey, June 2010	Individual Ranking 9
13	3rd World Cup Archery at Ogden, Aug. 3 to 8, 2010	Team Silver (Qualified World Championship)
14	XIX CWG, Delhi, 2010, Oct. 3 to 7, 2010	Recurve Team Gold
15	XVI Asian Games, Guangzhou China, Nov. 12 to 27, 2010	Team Bronze
16	2nd World Cup at Turkey, June 2 to 7, 2011	Team Bronze
17	46th World Championships at Turin, Italy July 3 to 10, 2011	Team Silver (London Olympic Qualified)
18	Asian Grand Prix at Bangkok, 2012 Individual	Bronze
19	3rd World Cup at Columbia, 2013 Team	Gold
20	4th World Cup at Poland, 2013 Team	Gold
21	Asian Championship at Taiwan, 2013 Individual	Bronze
22	3rd World Cup at Turkey, 2014	Mixed Team Silver
23	4th World Cup at Poland, 2014	Team Gold
24	1st World Cup at Shanghai, April 26 to May 1, 2016	Team Silver



Laishram Bombayla Devi with the London Olympic Mascot



Rashtriya

Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

has extended to all States and UTs of the Country

It will also include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist

(Areas of Assam and Tripura, Whole of Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Hill areas of Manipur)

The Greater the power of the Panchayats the better for the people



Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

Strengthening Governance Capabilities of PRIs* to achieve SDGs**

PM Narendra Modi launches Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan on 24th April 2018



2.55 lakh PRIs across the country to deliver Sustainable Development Goals

Extend to all States and Union Territories and also rural local institutions where PRIs do not exist



To be implemented from 01-04-2018 to 31-03-2022

Allocation of ₹ 7255.50 cr with Central share of ₹ 4500 cr and State share of ₹ 2755.50 cr



Schemes include Central Components – National Plan of Technical Assistance, Mission Mode project on e-Panchayat and Incentivization of Panchayats and State Component - Capacity building of PRIs



*Panchayati Raj Institutions **Sustainable Development Goals



Gram Panchayat Development Plan

Campaign (2nd October to 31st December, 2018)

initiated under "*Sabki Vojana Sabka Vikas*"

an intensive and structured exercise for planning at Gram Sabha through convergence between Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and concerned Line Departments of the State

