

# Manipur prepares ahead of Covid vaccine arrival

## Over 40,000 frontline workers identified for first shot : CM

IMPHAL, Dec 15 (DIPR)

The State Government has identified 41,000 medical professionals and others, who would get the first Covid vaccine shots.

Necessary arrangements have been made to promptly start vaccination as soon as the vaccine arrives, said Chief Minister N Biren Singh today.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of a two day Distribution Camp of Aids and Assistive Devices to Persons with Disabilities under ADIP Scheme at City Convention Centre, Imphal East today.

The Chief Minister also said that 100 doctors are engaged at present on a daily wage basis to meet the healthcare needs due to COVID-19 pandemic. Necessary procedures have also begun to recruit 300 regular doctors through MPSC, he said.

At the event, N Biren Singh also informed that the State Government is considering providing interest-free loans to differently abled persons to help them start suitable occupations and live a dignified life.

He observed that “noth-



ing is greater than extending help to each other and living a life of peaceful coexistence.” That is why the State Government is concentrating on “service to humanity”.

Stating that CMHT and CMST were introduced to help needy people and differently abled persons, the Chief Minister said that although the State's current financial position is not that sound, the State Government is spending around Rs 10 crore every year in implementing these schemes.

The Chief Minister also said that the Government is gathering information about needy people and differently abled persons through Go to Village and Go to Hill missions. He asked the District

Social Welfare Officers to identify the persons who can be benefited under different Government schemes.

Regarding drug menace, the Chief Minister expressed concern that many youths are addicted to drugs and other intoxicants. As such, the Government is planning to initiate a mission to permanently reform the addicts in a “professional manner”, he added. For this, the State Social Welfare Department would organize a seminar where the root cause of the menace and its solution would be deliberated thoroughly, the Chief Minister said.

Speaking at the occasion as the functional president, Social Welfare Minister

Okram Henry sought people's support and cooperation in letting the benefits of the different schemes reach the needy people. The Government is round the clock ready to extend necessary assistance to the people, he added.

Commissioner (Social Welfare) H Gyan Prakash and Director of SVNIRTAR Dr Saki Prasad Das were also seated on the dais as dignitaries.

They distributed different aids and assistive devices like tricycle, wheel chair, crutches axilla, walking stick, rollator, smart phone, daisy player, hearing aid, etc to differently abled persons. Rs 28,36,888 worth of aids and assistive devices will be distributed during the two day programme which will end tomorrow.

Three National Bal Shree Award winners (for the years 2015 and 2016), Avita Waikhom, Maibam Preety and S Santosh were also feted at the function.

The programme was organized by the Department of Social Welfare in association with Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack (Odisha).

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# Interest-free loans for differently abled persons likely: Biren

DIPR  
Imphal:

**C**hief Minister N. Biren Singh on Tuesday said that the State Government is considering providing interest-free loans to differently abled persons to help them start suitable occupations and live a dignified life. He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of the two days Distribution Camp of Aids and Assistive Devices to Persons with Disabilities under ADIP Scheme at City Convention Centre, Imphal East.

The programme was organized by the Department of Social Welfare in association with Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Cuttack (Odisha).

Biren Singh observed that nothing is greater than extending help to each other and live a life of peaceful co-existence. That is why, the State Government is concentrating on service to humanity, he added. Stating that CMIIT and CMST were introduced to help needy people and differently abled persons, the Chief Minister said that although State's current financial po-

sition is not that sound, the State Government is spending around Rs. 10 crore every year in implementing these schemes.

The Chief Minister also said that the Government is gathering information about needy people and differently abled persons through Go to Village and Go to Hill missions. He asked the District Social Welfare Officers to indentify the persons who can be benefitted under different Government schemes.

Regarding drug menace, the Chief Minister expressed concern that many youths are addicted to drugs and other intoxicants. As such, the Government is planning to initiate a mission to permanently reform the addicts in a professional manner, he added. For this, the State Social Welfare Department would organize a seminar where the root cause of the menace and its solution would be deliberated thoroughly, the Chief Minister said.

He said that the State Government has identified 41,000 medical professionals and other individuals, who would be the first beneficiaries of COVID-19 vaccine.

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