

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
RAJ BHAVAN: IMPHAL.

**PRESS RELEASE**

Imphal, the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

The Hon'ble Governor of Manipur, Dr. Najma Heptulla held a discussion today at Raj Bhavan, Imphal on "Clean Loktak Initiative" in which the Hon'ble Governor invited all the Principals/Headmasters/Headmistresses of Government Higher Secondary/High Schools of Imphal East and West Districts including resource persons from different agencies of both State and Central Governments. In the discussion, the Hon'ble Governor expressed her concern about the present condition of Loktak Lake and desired to seek the opinion/suggestions from all educationists and experts present on ways to preserve the largest fresh water lake in the North Eastern India and to save it from extinction. All the participants were appreciative of the initiative taken by the Hon'ble Governor for taking the students community on board in this venture.

Tourism is the fastest track for socio-economic development the world over. Its multiplier effect in employment generation is unmatched and its vital role in poverty alleviation and economic growth is well recognized. It is more relevant in the context of Manipur which has limited resources. Loktak lake in the State is becoming nowadays a tourism hot spot but the water is alarmingly polluted and the degree of siltation is increasing considerably. Although relentless effort has been made to clean the Phumdis from the Lake in the past, there is still much to be done. The famous Keibul Lamjao National Park is on the floating island of Loktak Lake and it has also now become a tourist centre. The Hon'ble Governor sought co-operation from the teachers and agencies in the initiative to conserve the Lake with the involvement of the students so that the rich bio-diversity balance is maintained and the Lake continues to be the traditional source of livelihood for the people apart from being a tourist attraction.

---