

## Mizoram Former MP Lalhming Liana sentenced to three years in jail for forging air tickets

Courtesy NET  
New Delhi, Dec 6,

Former Rajya Sabha MP from Mizoram, Lalhming Liana, has been sentenced to three-year imprisonment by a Delhi court for forging air tickets to claim reimbursement of travel allowance.

Special CBI Judge N K Malhotra convicted Liana for the offences of cheating, forgery and using the forged document as genuine under the provisions of Indian Penal Code and criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 11 lakh on Liana, a two-time MP.

He was granted statutory bail to enable him to file an appeal in the Delhi High Court.

Liana, who was associated with the Mizo National Front, was convicted on November 29 and the sentence was pronounced on November 30. "The convict has forged the e-tickets on his computer and the tickets are for the period 2012-13. Convict also submitted the TA (travel allowance) bills on the basis

of forged and fake tickets to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and TA bills were submitted in the year 2012-13," the judge said.

The court also said it was proved that Liana had submitted TA bills amounting to Rs 11,99,26 which also included the travel by companion and the actual fare of companion free scheme (CFS) was Rs 81,373.

It said it has been proved that the convict cheated the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for an amount of Rs 10,36,533 approximately.

CBI had named Liana in a charge sheet alleging that during his second term as Rajya Sabha MP from July 2008 to July 2014, he submitted fake TA bills for reimbursement and claimed excess money than the actual amount paid by him for travel in CFS of Air India.

The agency had alleged that

he had claimed excess of over Rs 10.3 lakh from Rajya Sabha. The court had in August 2015, framed charges against him for the offences under the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Liana had pleaded not guilty to the charges made out against him and claimed trial. CBI prosecutor Jyotsna Sharma Pandey contended that Liana, being the member of Rajya Sabha, should have maintained the highest level of integrity and honesty.

She said if liberal sentence is given to the convict, a wrong message will be conveyed in the society.

At the time of sentencing, he sought a lenient view in sentencing saying that he was a senior citizen had suffering from various ailments and has to take care of his family.

He also said he was a member of Mizo National Front, a political party in Mizoram.

## Forest team found distribution of Indian wild orange in Tamenglong



By a correspondent  
Imphal, Dec 6,

The Indian wild orange (citrus indica) which is believed to be progenitor of all citrus species in the world, endemic to northeastern states was found to be distributed in the forest of Manipur's Tamenglong district bordering Nagaland and Assam.

The recent discovery of the wild orange was made by a forest team led by Divisional forest officer Arun RS of Tamenglong district while exploring Chingkao village forest on November 30. The team comprised of the

Honorary Wildlife Warden Tamenglong, Nehemiah Panmei, RFO Tamenglong and Tousem Kh. Hitler, RO Tamei, S Khogen, Harif Parengal from Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History and Mordecia Panmei of The Corbett Foundation and member of Rainforest Club who spotted the wild orange and did possible documentation on the spot.

Informing this, Mordecia Panmei, member of Rainforest Club Tamenglong, an NGO working for wildlife and forest conservation in the western district of Manipur said that the wild orange variety was detected when the team was studying the possible tiger track in the village.

The recent finding makes Tamenglong district another locations of growing wild orange in the region after Nokrek Biosphere Reserve (Meghalaya), he felt.

However Mordecia who is also presently working for The

Corbett Foundation, lamented lack of proper documentation of biodiversity of Tamenglong forest which is said to be a living laboratory of the scientific community.

Meanwhile Divisional forest officer Arun RS when contacted on phone expressed the necessity for conservation activity of the rare orange species.

He said the discovery of this species on the western side of Barak river, a new location after it was reported from other side, shows that this wild orange grows across Tamenglong forest range.

The germplasm of such wild species could be used for genetic resources for further breeding in case the existing orange varieties die because of disease etc, he added.

Before the recent discovery of this orange smelled fruit having sour taste at Chingkao village, a team of field biologists and researchers of Manipur-based Centre for Conservation of

Nature & Cultivation of Science (CCNCS) had reported the same wild orange variety from Dailong village in May 2016. Both Chingkao and Dailong were located above 1000 metres above sea level.

This small sized wild orange was first reported in the country by a Japanese taxonomist Chozaburo Tanaka from Nokrek Biosphere Reserve in 1934, according to CCNCS functionaries. The species was reportedly used for medicinal purposes by Garo people.

Similarly the village elders in Tamenglong district also used this species locally known as *Buriantghai* for medicinal and spiritual purposes since olden days, sources from Tamenglong said.

Being the largest producer of oranges among all the districts, Tamenglong has been hosting state level orange festival every year in December since 2001.

## "Ethnic tribal communities who are honest are prone to be exploited by outsiders" - Manjit

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 6,

President of All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) Manjit Sarangthem expressed apprehension about the protection of our ethnic identities of the NE people. Manjit said this while participating the "Zofest" – the festival of Zo people for reconciliation of Zo people who have scattered at different part of the country. Other team of AMSU were also attended along with Manjit.

The first Zofest was held at New Lamka, Churachandpur, Manipur in 2002 this time the festival was held at Reiek of Mamit District in Mizoram. "We all know that North East is undergoing into a vast transformation but we don't know what kind of transformation it is", Manjit Sarangthem said while speaking on the occasion. He further expressed unhappiness on the present standard of education, the present crops of political leaders or present activities of traders businessman.

"The army, the police and the central authorities who are ought to exploit the vast



resources of the North Eastern region, either in water, forest, oil, natural gases, minerals and keeping the North Eastern divided, the mantra is development and look for the East and act for the east, the present age is the age of connectivity" Manjit said and asked - Connectivity for which purpose?

Expressing apprehension about the preservation of our identities, Manjit said that ethnic tribal communities who are honest are prone to be exploited by outsiders.

"We as North Eastern are proud of our identities and our rich cultural differences from those of Mainland. We are termed Chinkis. Our sister looked upon as object of desire, our youths who sought better education are porm to physical attacks, our food habits dislike by mainlanders. Though political leaders swear by great slogans of unity and diversity, we are being watched as

strange others. We are mongoloid in racial origin but this fact of history remains suppressed in official discourse. Ethnic identities are unavoidable in this era of economic and political stress. But we have not able to discover those values which our investors had left for us", Manjit said.

Our respect for elders of wisdom, our hospitality to others, our tolerance had been undermined by the culture of exploitation and manipulation by crafty outsiders, right from the day of the British empire today under India's new colonial policies, the North East is kept strangulated a huge military architectures is installed because of the fear of China.

Manjit further said, The North East Generation of Youths Need a new agenda of understanding the truth of our lives, we need deeper examination of the realities so called development.

## PS to MLA Joykishan rubbishes Ch. Bijoy's statement

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 6,

A statement by L. Parijat Singh, PS to the Congress MLA Khumukcham Joykishan today rubbished BJP spokesperson Ch. Bijoy's statement terming it as totally false and baseless. "If someone suspects the affidavit of the MLA, he should go to the court not to the media", Parijat said. He further mock the BJP spokesperson Ch. Bijoy for having no knowledge that it is prejudice commenting about matters which is pending in the court of law. He also added that MLA Joykishan will not go down to the level of such spokesperson who cannot even listen carefully what others' say. "Our MLA still accept debate from any BJP member not less than the rank of MLA regarding the issue which the MLA claims that the present BJP led Manipur Government is unconstitutional", Parijat said.

Meanwhile MLA Joykishan extended his appreciation to the Press Council of India for taking up Suo-Moto case in Kishorchand Wangkhemcha's arrest. He expect that justice will be delivered to the jailed journalist and his family at the earliest.

## KTT media fellowship

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 6,

With the formal launching of Khelen Thokchom Media Fellowships (KTMF) by holding a simple but historic function at Manipur Press Club on October 27, 2018, the Khelen Thokchom Trust (KTT) with the support of Manipur Cricket Association is inviting journalists who worked as a reporter/correspondents/contributor of newspapers/periodicals with 3 years of experience in print journalism to explore the issues and concerns of the game of cricket in Manipur, their prospects and other positive areas in the state, a statement by Sobhapati

Samom, Secy. KTT said.

The KTT also invites application along with Bio-data, a letter of support from the editor that the output under the fellowship will be published (mandatory for all candidates), one samples of 'published report' on sports if any should be submitted to Coordinator, KTMF C/o Pureiromba Enterprises, Konung Mamang (Palace Gate) near Pureiromba Khongnang, Imphal East District - 795 005 (Daily office timing 10am - 5pm except Sunday) before December 17, 2018. So that selected applicants can generate five news stories (700-1000 word each), based on the research carried out under the fellowship. Original clippings of these articles will have to be

submitted on the completion of the fellowship programme. They are also expected to take and submit photographs of the areas they travel in for their stories. For this the selected applicants will be provided a stipend '20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) and the duration of his/her work will be from January - March 2019.

The selection of applicants will be done by a jury of eminent media experts and their results will be announced during December end, 2018 through the personnel contacts. The last date for submitting the application would be December 17, 2018.

## Popular Front holds Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath responsible for Bulandshahr violence

IT News  
Imphal, Dec 6,

Popular Front of India General Secretary M. Mohammed Ali Jinnah in a statement issued here today held Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath responsible for Sangh Parivar violence and killing of the police officer Subodh Kumar Singh and a youth named Sumith in Bulandshahr. "What happened there is not an isolated incident, but it is the latest in the series of cow terrorist acts that has become a routine ever since Yogi Adityanath government has assumed power in the state. It is also not first time that the Hindu Yuva Vahini goons, founded by Yogi himself are in the forefront of mob lynching of humans in the name of protecting cows. He

has degraded Uttar Pradesh of the Indian Republic into an Animal Farm where Jungle Raj is the system, cows only are safe and human lives are the targets", the statement said. The statement further added that the Sangh Parivar sponsored cow terrorism has created a dangerous situation where any Muslim or Dalit can get killed by communally frenzied mobs merely on an allegation of cow trade or beef eating. In this context, the complaint raised by the relatives of the officer that Subodh Kumar Singh was killed in a conspiracy as he was probing Akhlaq lynching case cannot be dismissed away. This new phase of cow terrorist killing spree has conveyed an added message that those police officers who honesty probe lynching cases also

would not be spared. The preliminary investigations by police officials and eyewitnesses accounts of the Bulandshahr tragedy point towards a pre-planned attempt at spreading communal tension. All available evidences point to the hands of Hindutva elements themselves in hanging cow carcasses in the sugar cane field. The report of their ulterior motive to foil the Muslim congregation held in the locality has also to be proved.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah has demanded judicial enquiry by a panel of sitting judges to unearth the conspiracies involved in the incidence. He also sought the intervention of President of India to save the state from the misrule of Yogi Government.

## Debbie Stothard to interact with Guwahati scribes

By a correspondent  
Guwahati, Dec 6,

Debbie Stothard, a pro-democracy human rights defender who used to work as a journalist, community educator and trainer in Malaysia, Thailand and Australia, will interact with the member-journalists of Guwahati Press Club on Friday.

Presently the secretary general of International Federation for Human Rights ([www.fidh.org](http://www.fidh.org)) and a coordinator of Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma ([www.altsean.org](http://www.altsean.org)), Debbie will address the city based scribes through video conferencing from Yangon, the former capital of Myanmar, at 3.30 pm on 7 December 2018.

She is expected to speak about the state of journalism, ongoing democratic movement in Myanmar, the Rohingya controversy, New Delhi's probable roles in building a democratic Burma and preserving historical ruins of India's freedom movement in the southeast Asian country etc.