

# SSUM denounces detention of Student activists at Tamil Nadu and Telengana; Demands immediate release without condition

IT News  
Imphal, June 23,

Manipur based students' body - Socialist Students' Union of Manipur (SSUM), which is also a member of the All India Council of Students' Struggle (AICSS) denounced the rampant detention of students and human rights activist in Tamil Nadu and Telengana terming it as a policy to eliminate peoples' movement by the present government.

Talking to Imphal Times here in Imphal, **Bhushan Longjam**, Co-convenor of SSUM, said that five social activists - Surendra Gadling, a Nagpur based advocate who is also the general Secretary of Indian Association of People's Lawyers, Professor Shoma Sen, Head of department of English (Nagpur University), Sudhir Dhawale, Editor of Mumbai based publication Vidrohi, Rona Whalawale, Public Relation Secretary of the Committee for Release of Political Prisoners and Mahesh Raut, Anti-displacement activist, Bharat Jan Andolan and Former Fellow at Prime Minister's Rural Development (PMRD) has already irked the common people. Earlier too this regime had tried to suppress the voice of the deprived people by arresting Prof. G.N. Saibaba, whose body is 90% disabled. The arbitrary arrest of the Indian activists has been brought to the notice of the European Parliamentary Committee, and the committee has been intimating the government for the release time and again. The United Nations too has been keeping a close vigil to the recent development.

It was amidst such arbitrary detention that President of the Tamil Nadu based Students' Body - Students' Uprising



**Bhushan Longjam**,  
Co-convenor of SSUM.

Movement for Social Welfare (SUMS) Valarmathi was arrested with another villager from Salem Village located at the outskirts of Chennai identified as Ayakutampatti were arrested on Tuesday, the 19th June, 2018 for voicing against the construction of the Green Express Highway. SUMS (Tamil Nadu) is also an associate component of the AICSS. SSUM convenor **Bhushan Longjam** said, "Comrade Valarmathi along with his team has been protesting against the construction of the eight lanes 277.3 kilometer Green Express Highway which stretch from Chennai to Salem Village. In the name of development, construction of the super high way will not only devastated the environment but also will shattered the livelihood of Thousands of peasants who have

been depending their source of income in the area". "On charge of voicing against government policy the two have been detained under draconian act popularly called 'GOONDA ACT', Bhasan said.

Above this a 6 students members of the All India Council of Students' Struggle (AICSS) who represent from the Democratic Students Union (DSU) Talengana - including its state president Kanchala Badri, Executive Member-Rajnaath were put into custody for their voice against the "Privatization of Education", SSUM Co-Convenor Bhasan added while condemning the charge sheet framed against them under the Indian Penal Code.

As per the Manipur Students' Leader all the arrested students' activist have been frame charged under draconian law UAPA, Explosive Act and PSA, which is in way relevant to the democratic protest.

The New culture of arrest or detention of any activists who voice against the government policy or programme is becoming a natural phenomenon after the coming of fascist regime. Similar problem is also a major issue is also faced by the students of Manipur.

Bushan said, "We know the devastation carried out by the Loktak Hydro Electrical Project, the ruined of the environment due the construction of the Ithai Barrage and now the displacement of many villagers due to the construction of the Mega Dam - Thoubal Multi Purpose Dam". Here in the state too instead of listening to the voice of the students and other human rights activists, almost all activist now received threat intimidation - either directly or indirectly, Bushan added.

# Assam Rifles Conducts Security Meet

IT News  
Imphal, June 23,

A "Security Meet" was conducted by Phundrei Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) at Chandrakong Company Operating Base, Thoubal District on 21 June 2018. The forum was attended by village authority representatives including village chief secretary, Pastor and members of village youth club. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the security aspects and necessary measures to be undertaken by the locals. During the meet, the Company Commander urged the villagers to remain alert and vigilant of any IED threat and inform any suspicious move to the Assam Rifles. The Assam Rifles Battalion provided this platform to the locals to discuss the security perspective in the area and to allow them to come up with suggestions to improve synergy between Security Forces and the local populace. In the end the attendees appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles in ensuring peace and assure their commitment and assistance in maintaining the same.

## Festival of Manipur

### Heigrü Hidongba (Boat Race)

By: N. Mangi Devi

This festival of Heigrü Hidongba (boat race) is observed by the Meiteis society on the eleventh day of fortnight of Langbal month (September) of Meitei calendar. It is a very important joyous festival for all the people. It has been observed at the Thangapat (moat) of Shri Bijoy Govindajee, Sagolband, Imphal and not at any other place. This festival had been observed from the very early age say round about 984 and 1074 A.D. during the reign of MEDINGU IRENGBA. It is the festival of the race of two boats on that particular day with pomp and grandeur. However, the essence of this festival is the prayer to God for the welfare of the people and the country performed by the king and the nobles at earlier days. This festival has been synchronised with Shri Krishna Bhavana when the Meitei society accepted the Sanatana Dharma. There are certain rules for the ritual of this festival and the boat race itself.

One day ahead of the festival the Maiba (priest) cleans and purifies the boat with Mantras and throws Konyai (gold and silver coins) to Pakhangba for the prosperity of the land (country) temporary camps of two Tenna-Leppa are put up on the south and north of the Thangapat (moat) that runs from the east to the west. There are Hirois (rowers) and Khongbal Chenbas (assistant of boat race running on boat sides of Thangapat) of both parties are also there. Sitting arrangement for the king and the queen is made on the south bank and north bank of the moat respectively and sitting arrangement for the nobles was made on the eastern side of Thangapat and the public are crowded on both south and north sides of Thangapat. Before the race start both Tennaileppa will offer Athelpot



installed and offer puja and garlanding a garland of Heigrü (Amla) made of 108 Heigrus with an alternate bud of Hup (a kind of grass) and also a garland of Cheng Machang (fine whole rice) made of 108 pieces. The offered garlands of Shri Bijoy Govinda will be worn by the Tennaileppa of the two boats. The Maiba (Pandit) decide whether good or bad year from the result of the boat race who is the winner either of the wearer of garland of Heigrü or that of Chengmachang. The king also offers Konyai (gold and silver coins) to Pakhangba for the prosperity of the land (country) temporary camps of two Tenna-Leppa are put up on the south and north of the Thangapat (moat) that runs from the east to the west. There are Hirois (rowers) and Khongbal Chenbas (assistant of boat race running on boat sides of Thangapat) of both parties are also there. Sitting arrangement for the king and the queen is made on the south bank and north bank of the moat respectively and sitting arrangement for the nobles was made on the eastern side of Thangapat and the public are crowded on both south and north sides of Thangapat. Before the race start both Tennaileppa will offer Athelpot

(decoratively arranged raw rice, vegetables and fruits) to Shri Bijoy Govinda facing the west then the race start with the musical sound of Moibung (Sankh) which is the signal of starting the boat race not of gun firing. This boat race is known as Hiyang Tannaba in Manipuri society. All the visitors are attracted to the race. All the Hirois and Khongbal-Chenbas are well dressed up with coloured turbans on their heads and dhotis. They are extremely alert and vigilant in their duty and try at their level best to win the boat race. A strong string is put up on both sides of Thangapat from east to west that is 500 feet long so as to prevent the danger of crossing either by Khogbal-Chenba and the audience. The first winner Tennaileppa will put up high his Nou (oar) to indicate that he has won he will prostrate before Shri Shri Bijoy Govinda and Rashwori. Then both parties will take rest and eat something at their respective Hingasang (temporary camp) for some time. Then the boat race will resume for the second time. The same procedure will be followed as is done at the first race. This time also the winner will follow the earlier process. The pandit will decide the good or bad of the year to come. There is a fixed number of Hirois (boat-rowers) depending on the size of the boat. Yet it is compulsory to have at least

seven persons for each boat who wear decorative special wearings i.e. Ningkham-Sanjin Chinba, Khadanchet Lakpa given different names to each of them for the purpose festival of Hiyang-Tannaba (boat-race) as specified:-  
(i) Nou-Khongreng  
(ii) Nouba (iii) Teng-Maileppa (iv) Chang (v) Chang Mathong (vi) Langjei (vii) Tou. These boat men should be skillful and brave enough to control the boat and help Tennaileppa all the time since Teng-Mai-Leppa does not hold the Nou (oar). The rest of the Hiroi wear coloured khudei (towel) and turbans. Thus this festival with faith and devotion has been observed every year at the afternoon of the day mentioned above. Pray to both Pakhangba traditional deity and Shri Bhagwan Krishna for the welfare of the state (country). It is conventional that until the day of this festival has observed no one is allowed to eat Heigrü (Amla) in the Meitei society of Manipur. The unique feature of this festival is the pompous and graceful rowing of the two boats together into the shinning water of Bijoy Govinda Thangapat and the biggest gathering all round people of Imphal Valley. It is a wonderful sight to witness the most grandeur festival being held once in a year.

## Drinking Water Distributed at Poiroukhongjil Sponsored by Minister Shyamkumar

IT News  
Thoubal, June 23:

All Yairipok Water tankers team today distributed drinking water to villagers of the Poiroukhongjil village in Imphal East district under the initiative of MAHUD Minister Th SHYamkumar. PhED Imphal East, Village

Water and Sanitation Committee. Yairipok Top Chingtha also extended assistant to the distribution of water. As per report 17 water tanker trucks were used and over 700 liters of water were distributed to every household of the area which were affected in the recent flash flood.

## Legal Awareness camp held

IT News  
Moreh, June 23,

One Day legal Awareness Programme was held at Moreh in two places (First at the office of Nupi Khunai Chaokhat lamjing lup and Second program was held at the office of Kha-Nongpok Apunba Nupi Lup ). The Awareness Program was organized by District legal Services Authority Chandel in associated with All Moreh Shinmee Lup and Apunba Ima Lup, Moreh under the sponsorship of Manipur State Legal Services Authority. Advocate Dhane as a spoke person deliver speech on Human Rights and Relationships between Police and Public. During his speech he stated

that the Awareness Program is organised at Moreh as to keep peace and co-operation between all the Community of Moreh. As Moreh is also known as Mini India were lots of different communities reside and live together in this small border town. This Awareness Program is not only for educated people, Awareness Program is organised and conducted as to give awareness to all the Public including Educated and Uneducated public also including the handicap public about their rights and law. Such awareness programme is very important and should be conducted frequently to make all the public aware about the rights and Law and to make a peaceful town, State or Country.

Officer in Charge Moreh Police Station Letkchhao Vaiphei stated that before some years due to lake of Awareness Program lots of mob justice and lots of Police Officer doesn't do their duty well but now a days due to such frequent Awareness Program people are very much aware about Law and their rights. Now there are lots of provision and Act if any Police Officer doesn't do their duty the officer can be punishable in front of Law even day can be kept in Jail. Due to a close relationship between Police and Public at Moreh, Moreh since last 1-2 years became one of the peaceful town and lets make a more co-operation between Police and Public at Moreh. Various womens organisation took part in the program.

