

Voice of proletarians fill the air as 100s join May Day march in Tiddim road Imphal

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Three leftist organizations – Manipur Proletariat Peoples Democratic Union (MPPDU), Socialist Students' Union of Manipur (SSUM) and Proletarian Feminist Movement, Manipur (PoFMM) organized May Day March as a part of the May Day observance here in Imphal.

Hundreds of students, meira paibis and peoples from various sections of the society joined the May Day March which begins from Tiddim Ground and ended at Keishampat Lairembi Community Hall yesterday. Anti-fascist slogans and cried for equality and respect for the proletarians fill the air of Imphal Tiddim road as the participants scouted slogans. Later, a public meeting was also held at the community Hall.

Left wing students representatives from Kolkata and Nepal were also attended the May Day observance at Keishampat laimajam Leikai. President of the MPPDU Nameirakpam Meghachandra, while delivering speech recalled the origin of observing May Day. He said it was against the exploitation of the labour community by capitalist regime that prompted the uprising of the labour community in Western countries in 1886. He further added that the demand for limited working hours were the demand. But as time changes the kind of exploitations faced by the labourers are different. May Day is the day that the problem being faced by the labourer is being discussed and highlighted.

Chairpersons of the Manipur Buildings and other Constructions Workers' Welfare Board, Preshejit, who also attended as presidium members of the May Day observance organized by the three left wing organization said that the government of India has been taking up various welfare programme for the people of the country. In Manipur too the Labour department of the state government has been taking up various welfare programme for the labourers in the state. Representatives of the United Students' Democratic Front (USDF) Devopriya Shome, while speaking on the occasion highlighted the issues of the working class people across the country due to aggression by the fascist regime.

Another representatives of the students' group Nabotamapal highlighted on how the people have been suppress by capitalist class from time to time through various draconian laws. She said that in case of Manipur and Jammu and Kashmir it is the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) that have been suppressing the people of the state, while in case of the states like West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and other parts of India the technic of suppressing the lower class people is different. People are rape, killed and torture for the cause of multi national company owners and such



event are concealed by the state authority using every means.

"The uprising of the Manipuri mothers in the backdrop of the rape and murder of Thangjam Monorama gives every down trodden community across the globe an inspiration and we too will follow what the mothers of Manipur had done against the colonial security force of the country run by the fascist regime", she said.

Ram Nepali, General Secretary of the All Nepal National Independent Students Union (Revolution), who also

attended as presidium members while talking on the occasion highlighted the scenario of Nepal.

"The kind of exploitation to lower class by capitalist group is same in all the country across the globe. Its time that all the proletarians unites and struggle together so that all people live with dignity and respect", the student leader from Nepal added.

Imphal Times editor Rinku Khumukcham, who also spoke on the occasion appealed the people on how the new capitalist groups in the state

have been using the lower class people.

"First they looted what you deserve, then they make you hungry and later they feed you so that you become their slaves. The truth is that they are making you slave with things of yours", he said.

He also questioned on why the government is only interested in constructing big dams and wanted to explore natural gas when they themselves have every knowledge of the deadly consequences.

Fruit shops attached to the walls of Bhairordan School vandalised

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Persons suspected to be volunteers of Joint Committee on Inner Line Permit System (JCILPS) today vandalised fruit shops attached to the wall of Bhairordan High School in the busy streets of Thangal Keithel.

A total of 25 fruit vendors have been given permit for selling at the busy place on the footpath. The JCILPS women's wing and the



students' wing have warned the government to take the fruit vendors from the site as it is a footpath.

On the other hand the school

authority of the Bhairordan High School and students had also staged a sit in protest demanding eviction of the fruit vendors.

Launching of go to village mission on international labours' day a privilege: Th. Radheshyam

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Education, Labour & Employment Minister Thokchom Radheshyam said that he is privileged to launch the "Khungang Chatse: Go to Village" Mission on the occasion of International Labours' Day. The 1st of May known as the May Day, he said, is observed to commemorate the contributions of the working force (labourer) of the land whose highest population resides in the villages.

The Minister was speaking as Chief Guest at the launching programme of the Khungang Chatse: Go to Village held at Phangjakhong Thumkhong Lairembi Community Hall Leirongthel Ningel Gram Panchayat of 33-Heirok AC, Thoubal District, organised by the District Administration, Thoubal. He said the mission is aimed to spread in every nook and corner of the state.

The Khungang Chatse: Go to Village mission, he said, is to take the welfare aid under the flagship programme and State's scheme of the Government at the doorstep of the beneficiaries which were confined to the four walls of the offices. The mission initiated by the present Government of the State aims to bring an inclusive growth in the state by helping and uplifting the needy and poor



people. Highlighting the benefits, one can get from the schemes being handed to the beneficiaries, he said—"Saubhagya" and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is to provide free electric and LPG connection to the beneficiaries belonging to the BPL family. Sensitising the people on the scheme, he said, the beneficiaries need not pay anything as it has been provided by the government at free of cost.

Th. Radheshyam stressed that the officials, when approached by the villagers, should welcome them properly and guide them. He further urged the concern officials and implementing agencies to enquire the whereabouts of the schemes after it has been provided to the beneficiaries to make the schemes more fruitful. He said

the motto Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas is a commitment to the people to bring an overall development for all sections of the society.

As part of the 'Go to Village' mission, PMAY certificate for housing, old age pension (Social Welfare Department), ration cards under NFSA (CAF & PD), Smart cards for Chief Minister's Hakshelgi Tengbong, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (CAF & PD), UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme etc. were distributed to the beneficiaries today. Stalls of different departments were set up. A health camp was also organised.

The programme was attended by Principal Secretary Textiles, Commerce & Industries & IPR Paulunthang Vaiphei, Deputy Commissioner, Thoubal, Haobam Rosita, concern officials and dignitaries.

DC Chandel Flag off NERCORMP Chandel Exposure tour to Horticulture Department, Govt. of Mizoram

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NERCORMP Chandel exposure tour to Horticulture department, Govt. of Mizoram was flagged off by Shri. Krishna Kumar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman of NERCORMP Chandel in the presence of District Project Director, Smt. Lily Rose Jajo and NERCORMP staff along with staff of partner NGOs on 1st May 2018 at Deputy

Commissioner's Bungalow at 6:00 am.

The objective of the tour was to learn various inputs and technical aspects of Dragon Fruit Plantation as the Govt. of Mizoram has successfully taken up the plantation of Dragon Fruit in large scale and NERCORMP Chandel seeks to learn and replicate the technology in the project.

Shri. Krishna Kumar wished the exposure team to learn the best practices of the farmers

from Mizoram and transfer the learnings in the district. Smt. Lily Rose Jajo, the District Project Director thanked the Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman of NERCORMP Chandel for his constant support and guidance for successfully implementing the project in the district.

The participants of the tour comprises of three NERCORMP DST staff and representatives from each Partner NGOs.

YFPHR urges govt. to stop oil exploration in Manipur; submits memorandum to Com. & Industries Minister

IT News
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Youth's Forum for Protection of Human Rights (YFPHR) has urged the government of Manipur to stop the oil exploration work in Manipur in the best interest of the public. The forum also urged not to continue in the best interest of the profit making Companies.

A memorandum was submitted to the Commerce and Industries Minister, Govt. of Manipur elaborating on the disastrous impact which might falls out as consequences of the oil exploration presently undergoing at some parts of the state.

The memorandum stated that since the Asian Oilfield Service Ltd (AOSL) started its survey in Khaidem Loukol in May 2017, various civil societies we have been requesting the government to

stop all form of oil exploration work in Manipur. Instead of listening to the plea of the CSOs exploration work has been started in Uchathol, Jiribam.

The memorandum further stated that the company carrying out the 2D seismic survey and had failed to seek a mandatory Free Prior and Informed Consent of the people inhabited in and around the area like how it had happened in Khaidem Loukol. No Social Impact Assessment, Human Rights Impact Assessment, Environment Impact Assessment, Cumulative Impact Assessment had also been conducted as per Guidelines of Asian Development Bank and Guidelines of World Bank which is mandatory for all the Government including Government of Manipur and India before the survey license was provided to any

oil companies or other companies implementing any developmental projects.

"Failure in complying with the Global standard of procedures, the Mandate of United Nations Working Groups on Business and Human Rights, mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Rights of the Indigenous People and UN Declaration on Rights of the Indigenous People may lead to violation of International obligations and the liability will fall upon the government of Manipur and India for the violation of the same", the memorandum stated.

It also mention about the false promises made to provide employment in the early 80's since the developmental projects like Loktak Hydro Power Project, Mapithel Dam, Khuga Dam, Railway Line etc. "Till date not a single youth of the state of that time and

affected people of the area are provided a single job, instead the people are displaced and are involved in many anti social activities which the government cannot control", it added.

On the promises to provide jobs to unemployed youth of the state, the YFPHR asked - what kind of job? How many oil experts have been produced from Manipur? Has the government trained the youths of the state in the field of Oil Exploration 15 years earlier before the oil extraction or exploration started? Why not the oil engineers from our state? What had happened to the promises made to the youth of Khuga Dam, Mapithel Dam, Loktak Project, Railway Line, etc? Why again without the long term plan? Why militarization? Why without the people consent? The memorandum also stated

that the Government of Manipur is satisfied with the 10% royalty from the oil exploration or extraction of crude oil by perceiving that it will improve the economy of the state, by receiving Rs. 100/- per 1000 Kg and Rs. 1000/- per 1,00,000 kg as prescribed under the THE OILFIELDS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) ACT, 1948 which is equal to Rs 0.1/- per 1 KG. It said if it is the case then why not preserve the agricultural land and produce huge amount of Rice which cost Rs. 35/- per 1 Kg which is costlier than the crude oil which the state of Manipur is encouraging to extract in the name of better economy of the state.

It also reminded about the existing negative impact of extraction of crude oil in Madhab, West Tripura and Garbhadhi, Shipaijalla, Tripura which resulted in

polluting the Gomati River due to oil spill from the oil pipe line and the impact of gas flaring and extraction of natural gas which resulted in Lung Cancer and other respiratory diseases, also in Wakha District Nagaland polluting the water body and the land which resulted in skin infection and other health issues, also the pollution of Lukha River and respiratory diseases due to illegal and legal coal mining and limestone mining in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya and also the negative impact on the agricultural land, crops and other flora and fauna in the Upper Assam due to extraction of crude oil. We believe that your good office will definitely keep in mind of the unwanted outcome learning from the neighboring states which will definitely arise in Manipur if the extraction of crude oil takes place.