

Northern Indian cities among the most polluted cities in the world

-WHO

Agency Imphal, May 4,

At what could be term as an insult to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream project Swachh Bharat Mission, World Health Organisation report says that Northern Indian cities listed among the top most polluted cities in the world. Following the report, the National Green Tribunal has asked Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Bihar to respond to a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) report on 20 most-polluted cities in the world.

According to the WHO global air pollution database, 14 out of the 15 most-polluted cities in the world in terms of Particulate Matter or (PM) 2.5 concentrations are in India. Kanpur, being the worst, is with a PM2.5 concentration of 173 micrograms per cubic metre, followed by Faridabad, Varanasi and Gaya.

A bench headed by acting NGT Chairperson Jawad Rahim yesterday sought responses from the governments of these states including Delhi. They have been asked to clarify their standby 21st May, the next date of hearing.

AR conducts security meet

IT News Imphal, May 4,

A Security Meet was conducted at the Chandrakhong Company Operating Base of 26 Assam Rifles of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) on May 2. The focus of the security meet was to discuss issues related to security in the area and likely move of contraband and illegal timber. The Company Commander also briefed the gathering regarding the IED threats and efforts of the Assam Rifles to maintain peace and harmony. The forum was attended by Village Chiefs and members from the Youth Clubs from nearby villages. The attendees appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles in ensuring peace and assured their commitment and assistance in maintaining the same.

Lady police which mishandled Head Mistress caught in camera while collecting tips from lady street vendor

IT News Imphal, May 4,

A lady police personnel, who had mishandled National Awardee Head Mistress Khwairakpam Sunita, was caught in camera while she was collecting tips from street vendors lady near Over Bridge at Khwairamband Keithel today afternoon.

Imphal Times reporters, after receiving information about police collecting tips from the street vendors have been conducting investigation on the issue. While talking to vendor ladies, the street vendors said that they give from Rs. 10 to 50 for allowing them to sell their vegetable on the footpath as they do not have any stalls at the market complex. However, none of them agreed to reveal their identity as it would let them into trouble. Menakshi (name change), a street vendor who sell vegetables (total value may be not more than Rs. 500) said that if she did not pay them the money they will drive her out from the place she was sitting. A non-local selling pan said that the police collect Rs. 50 every day for proving the space at footpath. However, those cannot be published as none of them agreed to talk at camera.

Incidentally when our report was waiting to capture view of Khwairamband keithel, a lady police was seen collecting tips from a vendor lady selling vegetable sitting on the foot path. The episode was capture in the camera and Imphal Times have the visual.

What is more interesting is that the lady police happened to the same police personnel who had pointed finger and mishandled National Awardee Head Mistress of Bhairordan Maxwell Hindi Primary and High School, Khwairakpam Sunita yesterday while picking her up from the school premises.

- The above photo is a shot from the video footage of yesterday's incident at which a lady police pointed finger and mishandle the National Awardee teacher; - Below is the same lady police caught in camera while collecting tips from a street vendor. →



Teachers' body condemn police excess to National Awardee Head Mistress; demand apology

IT News Imphal, May 4,

All Manipur Primary Teachers' Association (AMPTA) – a Joint body of Hindi Primary Teachers and Primary Teachers in Manipur vehemently condemn the police excess and misbehaviour to Head Mistress of Bhairordan Maxwell Hindi High School, Khwairakpam Sunita, who is also a National Awardee. The teachers' body while demanding apology from the police personnel who ill treated the National awardee teacher, threaten to sent report regarding the mishandling of a National Awardee teacher along with the video footage of the incident to the President

of India, Prime Minister and to the Union Minister of Home Affairs.

A press statement issued by the joint primary teachers' body said that driving out of the fruit stalls which were constructed attaching the school wall has been a long standing demand of the Bhairordan Maxwell Hindi High School. Several memorandums demanding shifting of the fruit stalls has been submitted to the concern government authority time and again besides staging sit-in-protest by the teachers, staffs and students of the school.

It further added that waste contaminated rotten fruits threw out by the fruit stalls which is constructed attaching

the wall of the school and also above the drain and footpath caused apprehension to the safety of the students and teachers health.

The vandalising of the stalls by the volunteers of the JCILPS students' wing on May 2, perhaps appeared as a relief for the school authority however, reconstruction of the stalls upset the Head Mistress. As she saw a rope being tied inside the school premises without taking permission of the school authority she cut it as it was her duty to take care of her school, the statement added.

It further said that without asking the reason for cutting of the rope, the police personnel misbehave and ill-

treated her without any courtesy even after knowing that she (Khwairakpam Sunita) is a National Awardee. President of India had presented the award in recognition to her service as teacher and the way the police personnel treated to her yesterday was an insult not only to the teaching community but also to the President of India.

The All Manipur Primary Teachers' Association demand immediate apology and shifting of the fruit stalls and stated that details of incident along with video footage will be sent to the President of India, Prime Minister and the Union Minister of Home Affairs.

Stop Oil Exploration in Manipur

– Environment Body

IT News Imphal, May 4,

While appreciating the Government of Manipur on its initiative for development of the state, the Environment Conservation Network has urged the Commerce and Industries Minister Th. Bishwajit to intervene the Oil Exploration works being underway in the state.

In a memorandum submitted to the Minister Th. Bishwajit, the organisation stated that the Oil Exploration works being underway in the state of Manipur need to be immediately stopped as it may cause severe environment degradation and may lead to serious Human Rights violation as it indeed failed to comply the mandatory norms prior to the implementation of the project by the Oil India Limited like the free prior and informed consent under the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Indigenous People. "All the development projects initiated in Manipur often violate the united nations on

Rights of the indigenous People and Mandate of the UN working group on Business and Human Rights", the environmental body said while adding that the government of Manipur must learn the negative impact of oil exploration in Nigeria where the Niger Delta is highly affected due to the ongoing Oil Exploration since 1950s. The people inhabited in Niger Delta are suffering from different diseases, water pollution, land pollution.

The memorandum further questioned the Minister if the people of Manipur have to be sacrificed their lives for the growth of Oil Companies. It further said that if the government of Manipur, India and the Oil Company fails to respect the rights of the indigenous people inhabited in Manipur then the liability for violating the rights of the indigenous people will fall upon the government of Manipur, India and the oil companies by complying the international law obligation.

Union Cabinet approves to set up 20 AIIMS across the country

IT News Imphal, May 4,

Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a plan to set up 20 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country and upgrade 73 medical colleges. The decisions are part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, which has been extended by two years till 2020 with a financial outlay of 14,832 crore rupees. Briefing the media about cabinet decisions, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the decision to extend the PMSSY is aimed at meeting the shortfall in healthcare professionals and facilities across the country.

Bandh in Assam's affects traffic in National Highways

IT News Imphal, May 4,

Traffic along National Highways in Assam came to a halt at some places due to the 5-days National Highway blockade by several Bodo groups.

Protesters carrying banners and placards in support of separate Bodoland state blocked the highways at Karigaon in Kokrajhar district. Movement of vehicles has been affected at National Highways 31C except the emergency services. The protesting groups including All Bodo Students Union are demanding tripartite talks for a permanent solution to Bodoland issue and granting of ST status to Bodos in Karbi Anglong district among others.

Seized Foreign Liquors burnt

IT News Kakching, May 4,

Around Rs. 13, 000 worth Foreign Liquors and Beer bottles seized from various shops of Pallel area by a team of Pallel Police led by OC MS Heishnam were burnt and destroyed today morning in front of Pallel Police station. The seized liquors includes High Class Whisky, Old Monk Rum, Mc Dowell's No 1, King Fisher, Diablo and Dali Beer.

GST Council meet ; Taxpayers may get simpler return filing forms

Agency New Delhi, May 4,

The 27th GST Council meeting will take place today through video conferencing and is likely to come up with comprehensive changes to the return filing process in order to make it simpler. Other key issues in the agenda include a proposal to bring GST Network completely in

Government control by buying the stakes of the private entities. Currently, five private financial institutions - HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Ltd, NSE Strategic Investment Co and LIC Housing Finance Ltd, together hold 51 per cent stake in GSTN.

There is also a proposal to introduce a Sugar cess of 5%, which if approved by the Council will in all

probability come through a new Act of Parliament in the next session since the GST Act has no provision for cess. However, all eyes will be on the Council to come up with simplified return filing process. The Group of state finance ministers under Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi and Nandan Nilekani have been going through different iterations of the return filing process and have zeroed in on three

different models of the process. The Council is widely expected to agree to one of them, which is likely to closely mirror the return filing process under the erstwhile VAT system. This would mean filing only one return every month compared to three every month under the current GST process.

GST collections for April crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for the first time, amidst indication that the indirect

tax regime was stabilizing. However, the government and experts caution that collections are usually higher towards the last month of the financial year as taxpayers clear their arrears.

Anti-evasion measures like e-way bill that was introduced on April 1 is expected to stem any evasion taking place, but the government may want to do more.