

Academicians and scholars have great role in shaping society : CM

**DIPR
Imphal, Oct. 18**

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the academicians and scholars have a great role in improving a society and shaping a society better. This was stated by him at the launching function of the book "Northeast India: A Reader" held at Durbar Hall, Chief Minister's Secretariat today.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister stated that in the post independence era (1960s-70s), the intellectuals, academicians and scholars didn't influence the politicians. If Forums/Platforms like Manipur Research Forum were present at that time then the present burning issues such as ethnic conflict and unrest could have been avoided. Chief Minister elaborately spoke on integrity and communal harmony in the State.

Mentioning that professionals such as academicians, scholars, doctors etc. are merely confined to their rooms, Chief Minister urged the professionals to involve in politics and give suggestions and advice to the politicians and government. He believed that such book would enlighten the people and future generation.

Replying to the media persons about the controversy over construction of Ras Lila Mandap at Kangla, Chief Minister clarified that the work programme was proposed by the previous government to the Centre in the year 2015. He said that he has been interested to protect the sanctity of the sacred place like Kangla in the State. The government will seek suggestions and advice from the people, experts and scholars of the State in this regard, he added. He mentioned that he would convene a meeting with

Kangla Fort Board soon. After the installation of the present government, the government decided to shift the Joint Interrogation Cell from the Kangla. Programmes such as 'Nongpok Thong Hangba' have been started by the present government, he added.

Senior Citizen Dr. Arambam Lokendro said that such works needs to be translated into local language so that the local people can engage into the academic discourse and issues of the region.

The 450 pages book "Northeast India: A Reader" is a comprehensive Reader with collection of articles being edited by Bhagat Oinam and



SSUM stand firm to protect Kangla

**IT News
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Socialist Students' Union of Manipur (SSUM) in a press statement said that even as the present government have used all force to suppress the movement for protection of Kangla by even hunting the leaders of the student organization beside arresting one of its member, they will keep continue rejecting the state government initiative to construct Ras Leela hall inside the Kangla Premises.

A statement said that SSUM will take its role for safeguarding of the Kangla and there will be no turning back to the stand. The students body also reaffirmed its stand to face any consequences and stated that they fear not the threat of the police and they are ready to go to jail for cause of the Kangla.

SSUM also stated that their volunteers are ready to give their lives if the government

machineries are planning staged fake encounter. The student body warned that there will be no turning back to the stand.

Terming the present regime as a fascist regime SSUM said that their trust to the police and government have now lost as one of its member was arrested by police after calling him for talk at Imphal East Police station. The way the police are treating the SSUM leader showed that the police are trying to abolish the democracy.

This is Hindutva Fascism and SSUM will continue its democratic protest. SSUM statement further stated that the students' body now left only two options. One a talk with the government authority another to intensify the agitation by calling bandh or blockade or organizing mass rally. The SSUM said they have no problem sending a third party to talk over the matter.

Dhiren A. Sadokpam and published by Routledge (London and New Delhi). The book is the first of its kind on NorthEast India and presents the widest possible range of

topics on a single platform highlighting the inter-linkages of issues. Various renowned academicians and scholars attended the launching function.

Erendro Leichombam to go fast unto death protest if Popilal is not released unconditionally

**IT News
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Convener of the Peoples' Resurrection and Justice Alliance (PRJA), Erendro Leichombam in his official facebook comment had stated that he will launch a fast unto death protest if his colleague Popilal who was arrested for supporting the Manipur University agitation is not released unconditionally. The young activist who had also contested last state general election also requested student bodies and Manipur University Community to urge the state government for



unconditional release of Popilal. Erendro set deadline for the unconditional release in October 20. He further said that if Popilal is not released he will launch a fast-unto death protest from October 21.

Chandel NPF not happy with BJP

**IT News
Imphal, Oct. 18,**

The Chandel Divisional Unit of the Nags People's Front (NPF), Manipur State Unit in a statement stated that the BJP Manipur State, an align partner both in the State government as well as in the District Councils has not taken the NPF into confidence during the recent appointment of Advisors and Executive Members being long to BJP only.

It must be noted that the NPF ADC members extended support to Mr. D. Ringo, a BJP member in the recently concluded election of Chairman, ADC Chandel held on 29th September 2018. Mention may be made that NPF and BJP became align partners through an MoU signed by 10(Ten) NPF and

4(Four) BJP members of ADC Chandel along with representatives from both the parties in 2015. But BJP betrayed its align partner with the defection of its four members to Congress just before the election of Chairman. When the BJP formed the Council in the early part of 2017 with the en masse merger of all the Congress ADC members led by Mr. Lukhusei Zou, the then Chairman, no positions were given to the NPF ADC members. Moreover, the NPF members are also discriminated at the time of distribution of developmental funds.

The Chandel Divisional Unit of NPF,MSU will not tolerate such treatment if its align partner, the BJP fails to run the council with true spirit of a coalition.

Nagaland Industry chamber issues GST ultimatum to govt

**Agency
Dimapur, Oct. 18,**

The Dimapur Chamber of Industries and Commerce (DCCI) has issued a ten-day ultimatum to the Nagaland Government to either opt out of the GST regime or stop all "item tax" levied by the Dimapur Municipal Council (DMC).

In a press statement issued by DCCI cautioned that failure on the part of the State Government and the Municipal Affairs Department to take either action would compel the business community to shut down its shutters and cease all business activity indefinitely

"till such time the government meets our demand."

The DCCI stated that Dimapur has become a "haven for taxation" and consequently the business community in Nagaland is undergoing hardship to support their families. It said that businesses are being "forced to shell out the chunk of its income to take up the role of the bread earner for all tax imposing agencies and elements."

"The taxation on business community has reached its limit of tolerance. Business cannot thrive or survive if it becomes a charitable institution donating ever increasing taxation," it said.

Manipur Maoist warns construction of any new structures which might derail the sanctity of secret Kangla

**IT News
Imphal, Oct. 18,**

Armed Rebel Group Maoist Communist Party has slammed the ruling government saying except putting blamed to the earlier government they fail to give proper clarification to what the people of the state has been expecting from them. Thrashing strong objection to any kind of new construction which might affect the sanctity of the secret Kangla, the Maoist stated that the BJP led government cannot simply blamed the Congress on the ground that the construction has been initiated during their time.

The rebel group questioned whether the present day BJP Ministers are not in the Congress government as they keep saying that the even the Border issue started during the time of congress regime. The Maoist also questioned

whether the rape case which involved a BJP MLA will be ignore as the case happened during congress period.

The suppression of peoples' movement in the name of maintaining law and order condition without thinking the genuineness of the demand is nothing but a regime of Fascist. All sort of activities against the uprising by the Manipur University community were an act of fascism and the true colour of the BJP government is easily notice on the way it detained a youth leader of political party PRJA Popilal who was arrested in connection with the protest supporting the causes of the Manipur University.

Arresting of a protestor for throwing egg to the photo of those responsible for the impasse is nothing but insulting of the democracy, says the Maoist statement signed by one Kyonghan

mangan, Coordinator , Standing Committee , Maoist Communist Party Manipur.

Regarding the construction of a Ras leela hall inside the sacred Kangla, the BJP is trying to remain clean putting the blame to the congress party. If the proposal for the construction of the Ras Leela hall was approved by the Ministry of Tourism in June 29 of 2015 than both the Congress and the BJP are guilty for acting against the desire of the people of the state. If the BJP led government at the center had not given approval for the construction of the Ras Leela hall inside the kangla then the Congress government even though wanted to construct the Ras Leela Hall could not have constructed the Hall. The then Congress government had not revealed anything about the construction of the

Hall and no citizen of the people particularly the common people have no knowledge of the construction until the BJP government started implementing the construction work recently. "what resolution had been taken up during the congress rule in 2015 has not been let known to the public and it was only after knowing that people started openly criticizing the government move." The Maoist said and added that the BJP regime had not made public about such construction inside the secret Kangla.

Secret initiative to construct the Ras Leela Hall has prompted the people to openly protest as it is the duty of all Manipur to protect the sanctity of Kangla. The Maoist has not problem to the restoration and repairing of the crumbling portion of the already existed historical

structure. But if in case certain structure are totally devastated then measures to protect it should be taken up and it is called Rebury. The Maoist further added that the newly constructed structure is nothing but to humiliate the sanctity of the Kangla. The Maoist also expressed apprehension if the Nungjreng Pukhre be converted into Swimming Pool. Will this be accepted by the people? The Manipur Maoist asked.

The statement of the rebel group further stated that if the present BJP led regime continue to do the work started by the congress then what is the difference of having a new government. The Maoist stand tight to oppose any sort of new construction which might derail the sanctity of the oldest secret religious place - Kangla, the statement said.

Polling underway for third general elections in Bhutan

**Agency
Thimpu, Oct. 18,**

polling for third general elections is underway. Voting for 47 seats of National Assembly, the lower house of the parliament is taking place in all 20 districts of Bhutan. Our correspondent reports that more than 45 percent polling has been recorded till 12.30 PM.

The people of Bhutan enthusiastically participating in the election. In many places a large number of male and female voters turning out in a large number to exercise their franchise.

Bhutan has over four lakh thirty-eight thousand registered voters. The number of female voters is a little higher than their male counterparts. There are total 94 candidates, 47 each from Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) and Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) trying their luck in the final round of the general elections.

Bhutan had adopted democracy in 2008 and since then it has made significant progress. The third parliamentary election is expected to further strengthen democracy in this beautiful and peace-loving country.

Wanted

Imphal Times is looking for a reporter and sub-editor. Interested candidate having experience in the field and fresh candidate with minimum qualification of Graduate can apply for the post. Pay is negotiable

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