



Release CPI Secretary Sotinkumar, Rescind the Sedition Law – Left Parties

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24

The Four Left Parties- CPI, CPI(M), RSP and AIFB has expressed strong condemnation the decision to slap sedition cases against the leaders and activists of the Left Parties who were arrested in connection with the successful General Strike of December 19, 2019 against the CAA as a part of the nationwide protest. "In connection with the General Strike Comrade L Sotin, Secretary Manipur State Council of CPI, was arrested on 20th December from the gate of his party's state office at Imphal and

slapped Sedition Law against him. The CIM Imphal West released Sotin on bail on 21st December but he was re-arrested from the court gate. Next day, he was produced in Bishnupur Court and remanded 15 days judicial custody and sent to jail for further interrogation", a statement released by the four left party said. It added that the Left Parties has always opposed the continuation of the Sedition provision after independence. This provision was brought in to protect the British crown and sovereignty and had been used widely to detain and silence prominent Indian freedom fighters including Gandhiji.

On this occasion when the country is observing the 150th anniversary of Gandhiji, it will be most appropriate to remove this provision from the statute books. "Calling a General Strike against the unconstitutional, communal and undemocratic CAA is not a crime, it was a form of popular protest. Expressing opinions on important matters through protest cannot be constituted as a crime and be termed as anti-national. This is tantamount to punishing all those who have a dissenting opinion on the policies of the present government. This is a complete negation of

democratic rights and reflects the growing authoritarianism in the country", the statement said. It expressed surprised on the order of the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Bishnupur to register this case, when the Supreme Court had ruled as early as 1962 that the sedition clause cannot be invoked unless there is a direct call or instigation of violence against the State. The meeting of the Left Parties demands the release of Comrade L Sotin without any condition immediately and rescind the Sedition Law, the statement said.

NFSA card holder from Wangoi files petition to MHRC over not getting food grains

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24

A ration card holder under the National Food Security Act, 2013, from Wangoi Wahengbam Leikai in Imphal West, identified as Sharungbam Netaji Singh had filed a petition to the Manipur Human Rights commission over not getting his share of food grains demanding Food Security Allowance under the National Food Security Act. In his petition to the MHRC, the NFSA beneficiary said that he had never get his share of ration/food grains from the month of

March 2016 to till date terming it as gross violation of the provisions of the Act. He urged the Commission to direct the concern DC of Imphal West, District Supply Officer, Imphal West District and Fair Price Shop of Polling Station No. 22/28-A to provide his due foods for the years from 2016 till date and also urged the commission to avail his monthly foods according to the provisions of law. He also urged the Commission to direct the state government for setting up of State Food Commission, District Grievance Officers under the National Food Security Act,

2013. The petitioner has stated that he had already filed a complaint to the DC Imphal West district and the fair price shop of the Polling Station No. 22/28-A namely Chongtham Kona of Wangoi Manipur against failure to provide ration rice and other food grains for the stated month and urged the DC for providing Food Security Allowance. On November 22, 2019, the petitioner said that as per response from the DC Imphal West he attended a meeting at the DC Office Chamber but as the FPS was absent his grievance was not listen.

Mary Kom-Zareen 'bout' ends; trials on

Agency
New Delhi, Dec. 24

The strained battle between Mary Kom and Nikhat Zareen came to an end after Zareen was called for national trials that would determine the participants for the Olympic qualifiers next year. It was earlier speculated that Mary Kom would be India's representative in the women's 51 kg category in the qualifiers without playing in the trials. Zareen for a long time was demanding a fair run being given to all the boxers so that they all stood a chance of playing at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has finally agreed to her requests by announcing the final squad for the trials that will be held in New Delhi on December 27 and 28. Zareen was handed the fourth spot in the 51 kg category which already has the six-time World Champion M C Mary Kom among other contenders. While Mary Kom has been ranked one, Nikhat was given a second ranking. In 60 kg, L Sarita Devi (AIP) has been pitted against Shashi Chopra (Haryana) and Simranjit Kaur (Punjab) is set to fight Pavitra (RSPB). In 69 kg, Lovlina Borgohain (Assam) will face Anjali (Delhi), while Lalita (Rajasthan) takes on Meena Rani (RSPB)

Imphal West Police team recovered stolen vehicle, handed over to owner

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24

A team of Imphal West police Station led by Assistant Sub Inspector Th. Saratchandra Singh acting under the supervision of Officer-in-charge N. Ingocha recovered a stolen 2 wheeler vehicle and handed over the vehicle after informing the owner of the vehicle. The 2 wheeler vehicle, Honda Activa bearing registration

number MN01N5533 was lifted while parking near IMPACT-TV at Nambul River Road on December 14, 2019 at around 6 pm. According to ASI Sharatchandra, the two wheeler vehicle was found lying at the road side of Tiddim road near Hodam Leirak for around two days. Suspecting foul play he along with his team check the vehicle and enquire about the owner to the nearby shops. Later after

informing the matter to the officer in charge of Imphal West Police station N. Ingocha, he searched for the owner base on the name registration certificate and came to know that the vehicle was assumed lost by the owner. Talking to Imphal Times the owner of the vehicle said that he had never expected that he will find his vehicle. He thank the Imphal West Police team for such a good service.

Student killed in road accident; SDSA and MKS threatens NH-2 bandh if fails to arrest the culprit

IT News
Senapati, Dec 24

B Kamba, 17 years old, died in a road accident that took place between Senapati Bazar and Council at 9.10 pm of December 22. Report said that one Karong-bound Tata Sumo hit him and fled from the spot without caring the victim and surrendering himself to the police.

The deceased who hails from Willong Khullen Village was studying at St. Vincent School Pumdumlong and will be appearing matric next year. In view of the seriousness of the case and callousness of the concerned authority, Senapati District Students Association (SDSA) and MKS (Maram Students' Union) strongly condemned the heinous crime committed upon an

innocent student, said in a press statement. The bodies also stated if the concerned authority and state government fail to book the culprit at the earliest, bandh will be imposed along National Highway-2. The students bodies further appealed the culprit to immediately surrender himself to the police or approach the deceased family on humanitarian ground.

Transgender activist reportedly harassed by Police for criticizing CM

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24

Report appeared at some of the web portal as well as newspaper said that a transgender activist of Manipur, Santa Khurai, was harassed by a police team for posting comments criticizing the Chief Minister of Manipur. When Imphal Times reporters enquired Santa Khurai stands with the news report. The trans-female, Santa Khurai said that around 6 policemen came to her house at 8pm on the evening of 20th December, and forced her to delete a post where she had shared a news link about the state government recommending AFSPA extension and described the

CM N Biren Singh as a "son of a slave". She was forced to post an apology as well, which was later deleted after police took screenshots of the same. Santa said that no policewoman accompanied the men, and she felt extremely threatened by the presence of the so many uniformed men in her house. She also added that the police men did not show her any orders or documents to delete the post, and were constantly on the phone with another person. When Khurai refused to comply initially, she was told that her family members too will be framed, after which she posted the apology. "I apologized because I don't want my family to suffer because of me," she said.

After the apology was posted, the men in uniform took screenshots of the apology as well as the original post and asked her to delete both posts. Due to bad internet connectivity, she asked them if she could do it the next day instead, but they did not budge. "They waited for almost an hour till I had better signal reception. Only after I deleted the post did they leave." Santa Khurai further said the absence of any police woman with the men made her feel really uncomfortable and was an affront to her gender identity. She said she would have been able to explain her stand had there been a woman with the group of policemen.

ACOAM- LUP urges private Hospitals to reduce fee

IT News
Imphal, Dec 24

For the past years All Club Organisation, Association and Meira Paibi Lup (ACOAM-LUP) had been eyeing that most of the private hospitals and clinics charging Rs 500-600 per person for availing medical services. "The private hospitals and clinics are charging excessive high treatment fee from common people", said a statement by ACOAM-LUP, Assistant IPR Secretary, Th. Baleswar. It added that most of the government doctors are also practicing in private hospitals or clinics and

it is questionable whether the treatment charges fixed by these clinics and private hospitals are permitted by Medical Council of India (MCI), Indian Medical Association (IMA) or Manipur Medical Association (MMA). Without giving due importance to the government hospitals where they are serving, many government doctors are continuing to practice in private hospitals, the statement added. Moreover, most of the doctors who are operating clinics in their residences or private places have made it a point to sell pharmaceutical items by attaching medicine

sale outlets, the Assistant Secy. mentioned and questioned whether these pharmacies are authorized or not. The organization will conduct checks to authenticate operation of clinics and medical stores if the concern authority fails to look into the matter and will make to the public aware about pharmacies which might be selling substandard medicines or drugs. The Asst. Secretary also appealed to the private hospitals and clinics as well as private laboratories to reduce their charges so that common and under privileged persons could enjoy their services.

India breaks China's record of non-stop karaoke singing

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Dec. 24



Virag Madhani and her troupe with Banarasi Lal Chawla, Rishi Nath and others

Banarasi Lal Chawla, father of Indian American astronaut late Kalpana Chawla on Sunday night dwelt upon simple living and high thinking and urged people to rise above religious politics for the progress of the nation. Speaking as a chief guest at a function organised in Navi Mumbai, to mark the breaking of China's record of 792 hours and two minutes non-stop karaoke singing, he said that he was honoured to participate in this function with India entering the Guinness World Records book with a new timing of 895 hours, 4 minutes in non-stop karaoke singing marathon. "This is a new feather in India's cap and will certainly enthruse Indians to achieve dizzy heights not only in singing but also in other fields. I have not been keeping well for the last three years. But still I came for this function since this is a proud moment for every Indian" he added. Kalpana who was born in Karnal in Punjab, emigrated to the US with an aeronautical engineering degree from

Punjab Engineering College. She died in 2003 on her second mission when the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated while returning to Earth. On the occasion, Rishi Nath, Adjudicator, Guinness World Records said that I am delighted that India has broken China's record and I congratulate Virag Madhumalati and his troupe for achieving this feat. Premparakash Atraja, Virag Madhumalati Wankhede and others spoke on the occasion. Over 800 singers from Delhi, Kerala, Chennai, Andhra

Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and other states sang nearly 9000 songs, delighting music lovers. The program was organised at the Little World Mall, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai from 15 November onwards to promote social projects including "National Integration", "Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao", "Stop Global warming", "Campus With Helmet", "Save Water, Save Trees" and "Organ Donation". Virag Madhumalati has four world records to his credit, which he has dedicated to national integration and eye donation awareness.