

## Mockery of Paddy land and Wetland Act Portion of Samurou Cultivable land procured for factory construction

IT News  
Imphal, July 2,

At what could be term as a mockery to the Manipur Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, a construction is being taken place at cultivation site located at Samurou under Imphal West district locally called 'Samurou Awang Leikai Loukol' amidst protest by the people for protection of Paddy land. Owner of the set up, who is converting the paddy field into a factory in violation of the Manipur Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland



Act could not be confirmed as Sub Divisional Officer of Wangoi Block, Y. Nelson was not available when Imphal Times reporter tried to contact him three times. However, while talking to local club and meira paibi of Samurou Awang

Leikai, Imphal Times reporter had been informed that the construction going on by destroying the paddy land is being taken up by a relative of a high profile cabinet Minister. "Earlier after we heard about procuring the paddy land for

establishing some kind factory we the people of Samurou have been opposing it", Bijoy, a local club president told Imphal Times. He added that the objection for protection of the paddy land have not been listen by the SDO Wangoi as the owner is a close relative of a cabinet Minister.

The paddy land site where the alleged relative of a high profile Minister is converting into an industrial site is at the back site of the MI road close to the Machu Cinema Hall, Samurou.

## ACOAM Lup observes 19<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Not only 100 CSOs we need thousands of them to check the policy of Indian Govt- Athouba

IT News  
Imphal, July 2,

Highlighting the need for many Civil Society Organisations to check and fight the policies of India where many of it tries against the will of the people General Secretary of UCM Athouba Khurajam said that not only hundred CSO there is a need to have thousands of CSO.

This was said in 19th foundation day of ACOAM Lup held today at Laishram Khulem Leikai Community Hall, Naoremthong Laishram Leikai D.C. road.

Athouba stressed that the policy, programs of India always hamper and destruct the society of the land. Various wars were waged in terms of drug, military, cultural, religious of the land.

To fight against war CSO were there, Athouba added.

He also said that government machineries were more of functionless and their duty were also done and being checked by the CSO. In a dry state like Manipur there is abundance of alcohol where it was checked by the CSO.

He also said that the role of civil society will still be there until the relationship between India and Manipur is clear.

Secretary General of ACOAM Lup Telheiba Mangang in his key note speech highlight the activities done by the organisation. He said that ACOAM Lup has been working for the welfare of the people and to have a strong relationship between the hills and the valley and also to build the integrity of the land.

He said that the organisation has observed 27 July as Integrity protection day remembering the fight of the people against the Bangkok Cease Fire Agreement signed by Government of India and NSCN IM where it shackles the integrity of the state.

He appealed the people to support the activities done by ACOAM Lup for the welfare of the public.

President of Houmi Federation S. Jadumani reminded the history of ACOAM Lup and how it was formed. He reminded that the organisation was formed to save the integrity of the land where Government of India and NSCNIM tries to destroy it by the Bangkok cease fire agreement.

Highlighting the reason behind the trust issues which the people have towards government, Jadumani said that the way how CSO declared their programs and were not put into actions.

He added that there are two types of CSO one being help with financial aid by the government and other being help by the people.

President of UCM Sunil Karam said that the only was to save the small indigenous groups of people in this globalisation era was to fight unitedly.

President in charge of ACOAM Lup Sanjit Soraisam shows



gratitude to the people who help in the activities done by the organisation. He further said after Manipur was merged with India the land has faced many problems and the land was degraded to a great extent because of the unequal treatment by the Indian government.

Previously the land was self sufficient but now it became dependent one, he added.

Sanjit stressed that the

organisation will focus to uplift the society and will take vital role in making a self sufficient one.

The function was attended by International and national awarded H. Ibotombi Khuman, Founder President of ACOAM Lup RK Chandrakumar, Former President of ACOAM Lup Indrakumar Ningombam and Vice President of UCM Ksh Somorendro as presidium members.

## School van carrying 20 students met accident; 10 injured, 2 serious

IT News  
Imphal, July 2,

A school van carrying 20 Students of Pari Imom Sindam Shang, Imphal West, met an accident after colliding with a Bolero vehicle of the railway service at Salam Thongkhong at around 12:30 pm today.

At least 10 students were injured in the accident among condition of two

students are stated to be critical. Report said that school van was carrying 20 students at the time of the accident. Those injured in the accident have been identified as Loshina, M.Sapana, M.Monish, W.Merenika, Banita, Luxmi, Molina, Roshni and the 2 students whose condition are stated critical have been identified as Nongthombam Yohenba Singh, C/o.

N.Sunita and Mayengbam Sapana D/o. M.Romeo Meitei. All the injured are undergoing treatment at RIMS while the two students whose condition are stated are stated critical have been referred to Shija Hospital.

The ill fated School van bears registration number SO1AA 8791 and the Bolero no. MN05A 3072. Police had taken up a case by Patsoi police station.

## 'Agent loots NFSA rice'

IT News  
Imphal July 2,

Rice agent of polling station 36/16 of Khangabok Part 1 has looted the rice which was to be distributed to the beneficiaries under the scheme of National Food Security Act.

Speaking to media persons in a press meet held today at Manipur Press Club Social Worker of Khangabok Part 1 Awang Leikai

Moirangthem Kunjeshwar said that the agent Khudrakum Bordin has looted the rice by not giving the required quantity which was needed to give to the beneficiaries. He added that from January 2018 till May 2019 Bordin has looted the rice for 4 months and this was known by the reply of RTI which was filed by

Kunjeshwar on 25 June this year.

He said that various complaints to the Thoubal DC and MLA were done but it was all neglected.

Highlighting the reply of the RTI Kunjeshwar said that 52.35 quintal of rice was supplied to the agent every month out of the two-third of the rice was looted by the agent.

Kunjeshwar further accused that the Pradhan without organising any Gram Sabha selected 21 AAY card beneficiaries out of which 5 can be considered as AAY beneficiaries.

He further said that only three days were given by the agents to the beneficiaries to collect the rice given by the NFSA.

Kunjeshwar said that the actual quantity to be given

to AAY card holders was 35kg but the agent has given only 20 and for priority household only 4kg was given where it should be 5kg to every beneficiary.

Upon enquiring the issue by the people Kunjeshwar said that the agent told them that underground outfit has taken the share and so they didn't get the appropriate quantity.

A memorandum was submitted to the DC and MLA on 29 June 2019 to remove the agent and give appropriate punishment to the agent but unfortunately the same agent Bordin was again selected to be the agent.

He demanded the authority to take appropriate action against Bordin and also to give back the same quantity of rice he have looted from the people.

## Slow Loris Rescued

IT News  
Thoubal, July 2,

A slow Loris, zoological name, Nycticebus bengalensis which wandered into the Uyal Makha Leikai in Thoubal District on Sunday night has been rescued.

The slow loris rescued by Brothers of Heisnam Manichandra Pradhan Wanghal GP and his family of

Uyal Makha Leikai has been handed over to members of Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Committee (WBCC) Manipur yesterday. The animal will be released on a safe place today.

WBCC Secretary N.Romes said Slow loris, a small but lovely primate, is now endangered in all its natural habitats including Manipur. Using the animal as

traditional medicine is one of the greatest cause for decrease in the population of the animal.

He further appealed to the general public not to kill the animal but to save it and hand it over to the Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Committee (WBCC) Manipur otherwise, Slow loris may become extinct from the Earth.

## Are our Journalists Safe & Secured?



By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh  
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The safety and security of Journalist has never been a matter of serious concern for both Indian Academy and media industries. Despite several journalists associations, serving Journalists deployed in the areas of conflict and crisis across borders (North-East or Kashmir or North-West across the borders of Pakistan and Afghanistan) repeatedly demanding for the removal of

impunity to the military, armed police and special armed constabulary, the government's apathy continued unabated. Recently International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) in its report on "End Impunity in India" has written that the journalists association in India including IFJ affiliates, the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) and national Union of Journalists (India) have been expressing deep concern at the slow progress of investigation on killings of Journalists. They have been demanding a separate law for the protection of Journalists and speedy prosecution in case of murder. In 2015, the press Council of India (PCI) recommended that the Central Bureau of Investigation, an independent body, conduct investigation into the killings of Journalists in 2016. The report also added that Journalists in rural areas and small towns, especially

those working for regional language medias apparent to be more vulnerable to intimidation and attack and even being killed for their works. *Many take grave risks to expose crime and nexus between the law enforcing agencies and politicians.* Geographical locations, class, caste and social network are as significant as job security and backing by the employer. Freelancers' stringers and those on precarious contract were more at risk and their killers more likely to get away with murder. Ironically, it is these intrepid freelance Journalists' and stringers who uncover major scams and corruption where corporate-backed media house fear to tread.

The recent spate of killings of reputed Indian journalist, Gaurilankesh of Bengaluru, K.J Singh (Punjab), Bhaumik Santanu and Sudip Datta Bhaumik (Tripura) and Rajesh Mishra (Uttar

Pradesh) has once again brought to the fore the stark realities of threats hanging over the lives of intrepid Journalists who have evinced a lot of courage to espouse the causes of truth. While these Journalists did not die in cross firing across border of India, they fell to the bullets of mafia that operated in tandem with the local feudalists or capitalists or factionist groups catering to the political clouts in their respective areas of reporting. The unfortunate assassination of K.J Singh further heightened the magnitude of the crisis as his 92 year old mother was also eliminated during attempt to assassinate him. Despite all these happening, there is a tepid or lukewarm response both from government and media-house, besides Indian Academy. There is the horrendous fact that every year India is losing not less than 10 to 15 precious lives of Journalists, on average, mostly

drawn from the conflict areas such as the North-East or Kashmir or the border areas in North-West, or from the Naxal-infested forest areas of Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. But for playing the requiem in the last-post blare, the Journalists who laid down their lives for the honor of the nation or for a greater cause have not received any honors-either from the Government of India or from the agencies they work for. While the role of the Government of India in neglecting the "Safety & security of Journalists", covering risk zone has been wide large for over decades since independence, the apathy of the news agencies in the private sector to provide safety and security to working Journalists in risk zone is deplorably apparent. Another interesting dimensions to this grossly neglected area is that no media Organization carries out any protest campaign or movement,

even if its own Journalists are killed. It is true that the killing of Journalists in India is very high compared with other countries in South-Asia and elsewhere. As rightly observed in the report of International Federation of Journalists in 2016, the Uttar Pradesh is the most dangerous one followed by a number of other states in North-East (Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh), in the North (Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab) and in North-West (Rajasthan). Among south Indian states, Karnataka registered a high incidence of the killing of working Journalists followed by Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. More than urban-centric Journalists, the rural Journalists stringers and freelancers face more risk to their life when they endeavor to report corruption in higher political circles.

(Contd. on page