

Tension erupts at Mantripukhri area after Forest Dept. authority evicted encroachers from Langol Reserved Forest land

IT News
Imphal, April 24

Tension erupted at Macheng village in Mantripukhri area under Heingang Assembly Constituency of Imphal East district after large number of people protested eviction of 3 houses by Forest Department authority from Langol Reserved Forest area amidst lockdown in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Police team who were assisting the Forest department authority in the eviction drive as per an order by the Imphal East district magistrate fired several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the protestors. However, the scene turned ugly after the protestors strike back with sling shots and by pelting stone. A police personnel was reported injured after he was hit by a slingshot. Report said that large number of people of the Macheng



Village block road at Lamlongi Macheng area at Mantripukhri while a team led by RK Amarjit, DFO, Central Forest Division and Executive Magistrate of Imphal East along with a police team led by Additional SP of Imphal East went to evict the houses at around 8.30 am today. The government authority convinced the villagers however as they protested the eviction of the houses the

Executive Magistrate order to disperse the protestors. Following the order the police fired several rounds of tear gas shells and Rubber bullet and disperse the protestors and evicted the encroachers. The three houses constructed inside the Reserved Forest Area belong to one Khonthungampou Panmei H/o Gaingamliu Malangmei. Two of the houses

have been rented by him. Talking to reporters, RK Amarjit, DFO, Central Forest Division said that a total of 1346 houses have been constructed inside the reserved Forest land and a case is pending with the court for eviction of the houses. Above this there is an office memorandum which stated that no new houses can be constructed inside the forest reserved land.

Education Minister inspects checking of examination papers for class X and XII

IT News
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Education Minister Th. Radheshyam today inspected the checking of final examination papers for class X and XII at various centers here in Imphal. Checking of the examination papers for the two examinations began yesterday at TG Higher Secondary School, CC Higher Secondary,

DM College, office of the Council of Higher Secondary School and Board of Secondary Education Manipur.

Talking to reporters, the Education Minister said that in view of the career of the students who had appeared the class X and XII examination the government in consultation with the COSHEM and BOSEM, felt it

necessary to declare the exam on time and does started checking of answer sheets. The education Minister appreciated the teachers who came for checking the papers for their dedication and concerns for the students and for maintaining the social distancing norms while checking the papers. He said that the government will look into the matters on the

problem being face by the teachers who are assigned for checking of the answer sheets. He appealed the police to coordinate to the teachers who came for checking the papers and to allow them passage even though curfew has been imposed. The Education Minister also assured to open a separate petrol pump for the teachers to fill fuel to their vehicles.

Seized Betel leaves disposed at Lamdeng

IT News
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Betel leaves which has been transported during curfew and lockdown in the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic at Imphal Airport through Cargo flight on April 4 have been disposed at the Solid Waste Management complex located at Lamdeng as per an order by the Court. SP of Imphal West Police and official of the Pollution Control Board were also present while disposing the betel leaves.



Relief items distributes

IT News
Jiribam, April 24

MLA of Jiribam Assembly constituency Md. Asabuddin handed over 2 bags of rice to the working journalists of Jiribam districts as a mark of respect to their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The Rice bags were handed over by the brother of the MLA Md. Bahar Uddin. On the other hand Member of the Patsoi Part -1 GP, Wahengbam Lily Devi distributed edible items including Potatoes, fermented fish etc to around 300 houses as relief items for COVID-19 lockdown.

26th Raising Day of KYKL : Chairman N. Oken greets people with critical review of Manipur's society today - (1)

IT News
Imphal, April 24

Armed rebel group Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) is observing its 26th Raising Day on April 25. In connection with the Raising Day, Chairman of the proscribed group N. Oken greets the people of all sections of WESEA region particularly to the revolutionary groups of the region, CSO, Public intellectuals and media. The Chairman also appreciated to health workers who had been fighting the invasion of COVID-19 by risking their life. In his message in connection with the raising day the Chairman of the KYKL critically examine two burning

issues that Kangleipak is presently facing. The issue about Manipur King's decision to contest the election of Rajya Sabha and that of the invasion by COVID-19 in Manipur has been deliberated. "We need to study the attitudes of our leaders as well as the people's opinions on both historical occasions, which are heavily inconsistent with Kanglei national values. At the same time, it also calls for a philosophical and objective interpretation of the same. This will tell us know how much we are disintegrated. It is, therefore, time for us, the people, to think about what to do to protect ourselves and to reaffirm our

historic or epochal task. While some dub him as a paper tiger, he is a figure respected by more people than the MLAs and the MPs. Even the chief minister of Manipur kneels down before giving him respect. But what is most astounding and outlandish is that even he wants to become an MP. It is more than obvious that even our leaders are not concerned about our traditional values. Some close to the King were of the opinion that our King could become an MP, but that he should not address the Chairman/Vice-Chairman as 'Chairman Sir.' Nothing could be more self-contradictory or illogical than this. In other words, we all, from the most

important persons to the plain folks, have become an opportunist. It can be seen as a warning bell that alarms us that we are on the brink of extinction," N. Oken said. He further added that with the COVID-19 approach, all of our ugly aspects have been disclosed. Sir James Johnstone once said, "... certainly, the Manipuris have stable and industrious qualities...". What he meant by his words was that our forefathers were calm and not trepidations in trying times and that they weren't too happy when success came. During the period of the COVID-19, all these national characters seem to have vanished. Irrational fear,

senselessness and complete madness are being manifested. After hearing the news that a man has been infected, a stable community will not close village lanes without taking into account what may have an impact on society tomorrow. He also gave an account of an event that he had encountered in 1880. At that time, an epidemic called cholera that did not have a vaccine attacked Manipur; many were killed. The Darbar was closed down, too. When he investigated why the Darbar was closed down, he came to know that the nobles were busy cremating the dead bodies of his relatives and friends. He also wrote about how our people

behaved during that time of the epidemic, "...there were no cases of sick being deserted and everyone appeared calm and collected." Where did all those behavioral traits gone? COVID-19 is a disease that cannot be spread from person to person when we stand 6 feet apart. Without thinking about this small fact, some protested not to open a quarantine center near their village, so absurd. This isn't anywhere near our traditional values. Rather, it is a great sign that shows that the idea of social responsibility, once embodied in every Kangleicha, has been lost. (Contd. on Page 2)

Shiv Sena attacks Centre for buying faulty COVID-19 test kits from China

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, April 24,

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's party Shiv Sena has attacked the Centre for buying expensive, low quality and faulty COVID-19 sample testing kits from China.

In an editorial published in its mouthpiece "Saamana", the Shiv Sena has questioned the Centre's decision to buy the Rapid Testing Kits from China, which is being blamed for the COVID-19 outbreak. The "Saamana" editorial said that the Centre has made it clear that the states will buy medical kits, relief materials from it, but the first consignment of 20 lakh rapid testing kits from China proved faulty and it is of no use.

The editorial stated that US President Donald Trump calls the coronavirus as 'Chinese Virus' but India still chose to trust China over testing kits. "As per the Centre's policy, the states should rely on the Centre for materials needed in the war against the COVID 19... but how will this war be won, since the Chinese materials are of low quality and faulty? The first batch of rapid testing kits ordered by

the Modi government from China turned out to be useless. When the Chinese goods finally went to the wreckage, the Centre had to inform the states to use the kits made by the National Institute of Virology, Pune (Maharashtra) instead of the current "bogus" kits!"

It continued by saying, "It's no coincidence that Trump is calling it the 'China virus', since because of China, the world has plunged into a crisis. Nobel laureate scientists claim that the Coronavirus, which spread from China to the rest of the world, is man-made. There is no certainty as to what China will do next. Despite this, nations like India are taking large quantities of rapid test kits of the COVID-19 from China. In a way, we are working to strengthen China's economy. That is why it is time for us to dispose of millions of rapid test kits purchased from China."

Lashing out at China, the "Saamana" editorial said that Maharashtra has received 75,000 Chinese rapid test kits from the Centre. Rapid tests started in corona hot spots like Dharavi in Central Mumbai, but the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)

administration stopped the tests, since Chinese goods were scrapped. Not only in Maharashtra there are complaints about the defective Chinese kits all over the country.

"All this confusion is raising concerns about Corona. It is a confusion that shows how serious we are in this battle and how there is no unanimity in the decision. It is shocking that China, which cannot be trusted, and which has plunged the world into an epidemic, has joined hands to fight the same virus," it said. In similar way the Shiv Sena had attacked Modi, in an article in 'Saamna' for his China visit in April 2018 saying Modi skipped discussing important issues with Chinese president Xi Jinping and Modi was following Nehru's 'no war policy' on China.

In related development the United Kingdom has already dumped the Two million home test kits worth \$20 million, bought from two Chinese firms, namely, "AllTest Biotech" and "Wondfo Biotech", since they proved to be faulty and insufficiently accurate by a laboratory at the Oxford University.

25 attendees of Tablighi Jamaat gathering arrested in Mumbra

IT News
Mumbai, April 24

Twenty-five attendees of Tablighi Jamaat, including 13 Bangladesh nationals, 8 Malaysians and four Indians were arrested from Kausa-Mumbra area and remanded to judicial custody by the Thane Crime Branch (Maharashtra) after end of their quarantine period on Thursday. The accused were booked on first April on charges of attending the Tablighi Jamaat's gathering in Delhi earlier this year. They were initially quarantined and were arrested on Thursday, on charges of over staying in India, even after expiry of tourist visa.

The event, which was held at

Alami Markaz Banglawaali Mosque in South Delhi, in March, soon found itself in the centre of controversy after scores of the attendees started testing positive for the novel coronavirus. The police in several states have registered cases against participants.

According to the police, 25 of the attendees were traced to Mumbra and booked on April 1. "The accused included 13 Bangladeshi nationals, eight Malaysians and four local residents. As they had all exposed themselves to the infection, they were quarantined in a government facility at Shil

Daighar," (Navi Mumbai) a Crime Branch officer said. The officer said the quarantine period ended on Thursday, after which the Crime Branch Unit 1 arrested them. "The accused have been charged with disobeying an order promulgated by a public servant and negligent act with respect to an infectious disease under the Indian Penal Code, along with sections of the Disaster Management Act 2005. Additionally, the foreign nationals have been charged under the Foreigners' Act 1946 for violating the terms of their tourist visas," the officer said.

★ Editorial

Needs more preparation to fight COVID-19 pandemic

All the 2 reported COVID-19 positive cases in Manipur have been cured and discharged from hospital. The government is somehow relieved as there are no findings of any new COVID-19 cases and community transmission happening in the state. With these certain development, fear psychosis among the people has been somewhat minimized. This containment to the spread of the deadly virus should not only be credited to the Chief Minister or his entire team but also to the frontline workers who have been working day and night to curb the spread of the deadly disease in Manipur. While saying so are we people of the state secure from the pandemic COVID-19? Does the government of Manipur needs more stringent measures to make sure that Manipur remains safe and uninfected from the invisible enemy of human kinds?

To be precise we the people in particular and the government in general have a lot of tasks ahead. The government needs to take more stringent measures when the lockdown is lifted. For now, the state is somehow safe from COVID-19 invasion owing to the lockdown imposed. Health advisory issued earlier during initial stage of the COVID-19 pandemic needs to be reviewed.

Manipur sharing its border with Myanmar need to be vigilant taking in view of the porous border it shares with the latter country, as many cases have been reported in Kaley and Tedim, Chin state which is close to Chandel and Churachandpur district.

Until and unless a vaccine is discovered for COVID-19, people will need to take the same preventive measures which are being taken up now. COVID-19 is like a silent bomb as some cases in India are known to be symptomatic as well as asymptomatic.

Cut to the present- the world is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis and people over the world are bracing for the worst which is yet to come. While the frantic rush to find a cure is on, these silent angels or the frontline workers are at the frontline of a war whose enemy is unseen and hitherto unknown. Many of these frontline workers have already lost their lives while many more are fighting for their lives. Amidst the chaos and already overstretched capacity for equipments, provisions and manpower, these brave souls are standing as a bulwark against the onslaught of COVID 19 with nothing much more than their unshakable moral strength and professional courage.

Condt. from page 1

26th Raising Day of KYKL

Both issues show that our culture is becoming less influential and that our identity is being diluted. As we know, our culture and our identity are historical products meaning that the loss of our culture and identity is nothing but a product of Indian colonialism forcing us to accept Indian culture. What can we see here is that what we are doing today will determine our future course of history. If we cannot correct what is going on now, our history will be in the dark. We're like standing in our own tomb. The act of finding the main reason why our culture and identity are diluted is the first way to stop the same thing. One of the many causes of cultural dilution is our complete economic dependence on Delhi as a product of our ever crumbling economic base. Culture, identity and history of a human group develop anchoring on the economy they are living with.

Amikar Cabral wrote, "Like history, or because it is history, culture has as its material base the level of the productive forces and the mode of production." As world history has shown, we can say that a society that is totally dependent on others can not follow the right course of history. Abject poverty and complete economic dependence on India is clearly seen in what is happening now. We no longer care about COVID-19, social or physical distancing and curfews. What is more vital to us is to make sure that we get the rice (Kg 5-10) free of charge from the government. We have no shame in fighting each other to get a free ration. Even the

MLAs and ministers are fighting for this. We don't care about self-respect in trying to get something free. We can see such social phenomena only when people are living in extreme poverty. This is the product of the incorrect policies we've had in the last seven decades. Before 90 years, we're a rice exporter. But today we feed ourselves on imported rice. There are some of us who said that no one comes to help the king when he faces financial difficulties. It's more like saying that Iningthou (our King) can contest MP election if it's to eliminate his poverty. Instead of thinking about saving national values, culture and identity, he was using his position to gain some monetary advantage. This is the way of thinking of a people living in critically dependent societies. In short, the root cause of our leaders' desire to be assimilated into the culture of Mayang can be traced in our shattered economic base and critical dependence on the economy of Mayang. So our epochal or historical task is to build a self-sustaining Kanglei economy. If we have a strong economic base, we can protect our culture and identity — the dialectical relationship between the base and the superstructure. We will also be respected at that time. We can only make our people rich if we can make native national capitalism happen. In addition, it can bring back to us our lost national characters. I would ask the people of Manipur to analyze and criticize the ideas I have put forward here in order to make it more complete.

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PM KISAN – Farmers best friend at the time of COVID19

By- PIB

On the 25th of April 2020 we will complete one month of total lockdown. This lockdown was enforced to contain the spread of COVID19 pandemic - a measure that can't be replaced by any other means for now. Every citizen is facing hardships, especially the people of the weaker sections of society.

Amidst this lockdown, the important kharif season for the farmers has arrived. Seeing the need of the farmers and the nation as a whole, the lockdown has been partially relaxed for some sectors including the farming sectors. Along with this, the government has already announced welfare and support schemes for small farmers. Government front-loaded in the accounts of farmers Rs 2,000 in first week of April under the existing PM Kisan Yojana, helping 8.7 crore farmers.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM KISAN) is a revolutionary scheme which aims to transform the lives of small and

marginal farmers in India, by providing them assured monetary support in three instalments every year. The scheme implemented through DBT, transfers the amount directly to the bank account of the beneficiary, thereby eliminating middlemen and corruption. As against the onetime loan waivers, PM KISAN is truly an empowering project designed for ensuring dignified life for small scale farmers. In the long run, the scheme is expected to address farmer migration and improve crop intensity. Under the Scheme, Rs 6,000 will be given per year to small and marginal farmer families having combined land holding/ownership of upto 2 hectares. The amount is given in three instalments of Rs.2000 each. Now preparation for planting kharif crop is already in full swing. During this time of hardship, the support the government has given is quite successful, as evident from the testimonials of farmers from across Manipur. Ng. Shyamkishore from Matai, Imphal East district, Manipur got Rs. 2000 for PM Kisan Scheme. In this crucial lockdown period, the

financial assistance is very helpful to him. From the amount he has already started purchasing tools for ploughing his farm.

Another beneficiary O. Mangileima from Sunusiphai, Bishnupur district said that Rs. 2000 was credited to his bank account for KISAN Scheme under PMKGY. He further said the amount will be used to buy fertilizers and hoped that it will bail him out of the hardship he is facing now.

Ng. Roton from Luwangshangbam Matai, Imphal East district is also purchasing fertilizers for his farm from the Rs. 2000 he got from KISAN scheme under PMKGY. He had already started to prepare his paddy field by ploughing, weeding etc as he will start sowing as soon as the rain comes.

Similarly Kh. Bijen from Khumbong, Imphal West district, have also received Rs. 2000 for Kisan Scheme which is helping him in buying items used in agricultural purposes during this hardship period.

Pathingla Shimrah is a marginal farmer from Ukhrul district. He had received an amount of Rs. 2000

through Direct Benefit Transfer under PMKISAN. The amount was indeed a great help for farmers like him and he hoped to get the next instalment very soon.

Manu Kaping is also a small marginal farmer from Ukhrul. She was living in the fear that the sowing season would pass soon and she wouldn't be able to make a living. However, she received financial assistance of Rs. 2000 in her account under PM Kisan and the relaxation for the farming sector has also come at just the right time for her. During this lockdown period, her family could purchase daily essential items and could also start their agricultural activities.

The economy of our country is largely dependent on our farmers. Timely intervention to them has brought their economic activity back on track. The government clearly understands how to balance the measure of containing the disease with not compromising with livelihood and life of the citizens. Truly PMKGY Yojana package is a wholesome welfare package to fight the invisible enemy.

Break the silence on the arrest of activists and innocents under the cover of corona lockdown: Popular Front

IT News
Imphal, April 24

Popular Front of India Chairman O M A Salam in a statement condemned the ongoing arrests of human rights activists and innocent Muslim youths in Delhi under draconian charges.

The Delhi Police Special Cell investigating the riots happened in North East Delhi has arrested Jamia Millia Islamia students Meeran Haider and Saffora Zargar and charged the draconian provisions of UAPA on them. It is learned that former JNU student Omar Khalid is also named in the FIR. This witch-hunt of student activists who took part in anti-CAA protests by using draconian laws is nothing but

communal and political vendetta. By such acts, the Delhi Police controlled by the Central Government is trying to pointedly suppress any voice of dissent against the ruling class.

North East Delhi riot was clearly an anti-Muslim pogrom planned and executed by Sangh Parivar. While BJP leaders like Kapil Mishra who instigated mobs to attack Muslims still roam free, Delhi Police as per dictates of their political masters is engaged in fixing the responsibility of riots on leaders and laymen belonging to Muslim community.

It is reported that AAP leader Tahir Hussain who was arrested earlier is also now charged under UAPA. Later Popular Front activists in Delhi including District President Pervaz

Ahmed and District Secretary Mohammed Ilyas were arrested under false charges alleging involvement in riots. Serious sections are added in their FIR also. Many innocent Muslims of the locality still languish in jail. Unfortunately, the Delhi civil society could not rise to the occasion adequately so far.

O M A Salam stated that while the entire nation is indoors to prevent the catastrophe of Covid-19, the BJP government has never

quarantined its treachery and wickedness. Rather, it is misusing the helplessness of the people to suppress dissent and undermine democratic values. In such a serious situation, Popular Front Chairman called upon political parties, community organisations and civil society groups to break their silence, raise their voice and act together against the injustice being committed against targeted Muslim groups, activists and local victims in riot affected Delhi.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurates DRDO Developed Mobile Laboratory to test Covid-19 Samples

PIB (DW)
New Delhi, April 24

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh yesterday unveiled via video conference a Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL) developed by DRDO in association with ESIC Hospital, Hyderabad and Private industry.

Speaking on this occasion, Raksha Mantri said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken several timely decisions because of which the spread of COVID-19 in the country is far less compared to many other countries.

Rajnath Singh appreciated the setting up of this Bio-Safety Level 2 and Level 3 lab in a record time of 15 days which usually takes about six months time. He said this testing facility which can process more than 1,000 samples in a day will enhance country's capabilities in fighting COVID19.

He said our Armed Forces are contributing in many ways - such as setting up of quarantine centres, providing healthcare facilities, evacuating Indian Nationals from other countries etc - to fight COVID19 and these efforts will continue.

The function was also attended by Shri G Kishan Reddy Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment, Shri KT Rama Rao Hon'ble Minister for IT Industries, Municipal

Administration & Urban Development, Govt of Telangana, Shri Ch Malla Reddy Hon'ble Minister of Labour, Govt of Telangana and Dr G Satheesh Reddy Secretary DDR&D & Chairman DRDO.

The first of such Mobile Viral Research Lab (MVRL) that will speed up COVID-19 screening and related R&D activities was developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), the Hyderabad based laboratory of DRDO in consultation with ESIC Hospital, Hyderabad. The Mobile Viral Research Lab is the combination of a BSL 3 lab and a BSL 2 lab essential to carry out the activities. The labs are built as per WHO and ICMR Bio-safety standards to meet international guidelines. The system has built in electrical controls, LAN, Telephone cabling, and CCTV.

The Mobile Lab will be helpful to carry out diagnosis of COVID-19 and also virus culturing for drug screening. Convalescent plasma derived therapy, comprehensive immune profiling of COVID-19 patients towards vaccine development early clinical trials specific to Indian population. The lab screens 1000-2000 samples per day. This lab can be positioned anywhere in the country, as per requirement.

DRDO acknowledged the contributions of M/s iCOMM for provision of containers, M/s iClean for design and build of the BSL2 and BSL3 labs in a time bound manner, and M/s Hi Tech Hydraulics for providing the base frame.