

Gaikhangam slams MLAs who left the congress party

IT News

Imphal, Aug 13:

Leader of the Manipur Pradesh Congress, who is also the member of the Congress Working Committee Gaikhangam today said that the allegations leveled against the congress party by the Congress MLAs who have resigned from the party are baseless and unfounded. Senior Congress MLAs, K. Meghachandra, included Gaikhangam, K. Ranjit, K. Govindas, K. Meghachandra and Th. Lokeshwar were present in the press conference held at the official residence of Congress MLA K Ranjit today. Gaikhangam further said that those MLAs leaving the party betraying the people is unfortunate. He said that since the beginning of the government there has been lot of conducts which violates the constitution of India. "These people with no political ethics are creating chaos in the state", Gaikhangam said and added that the government has created chaos as they have no respect for the law of the land.

Manipur observes Patriots' Day Indo-Naga peace talks won't affect the integrity of Manipur: CM

IT News

Imphal, Aug 13:

Manipur today observed Patriots' Day in memory of those heroes who sacrificed their lives in the Anglo-Manipur War, 1891. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh led others in paying floral tributes at Hicham Yaichampat, Moirangkhum, where Bir Tikendrajit was cremated, Thangal General Temple Complex, Palace Compound, Kangla Utra and Bir Tikendrajit Park. A contingent of Manipur Rifles sounded the last post and offered gun salutes to the martyrs. Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar Singh, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, DGP, top civil and police officials and others attended the function. Speaking to the media persons, Chief Minister said that this day reminds us of the supreme sacrifice made by our forefathers for freedom and sovereignty of our motherland and this sense of patriotism should not be forgotten by the present generation.

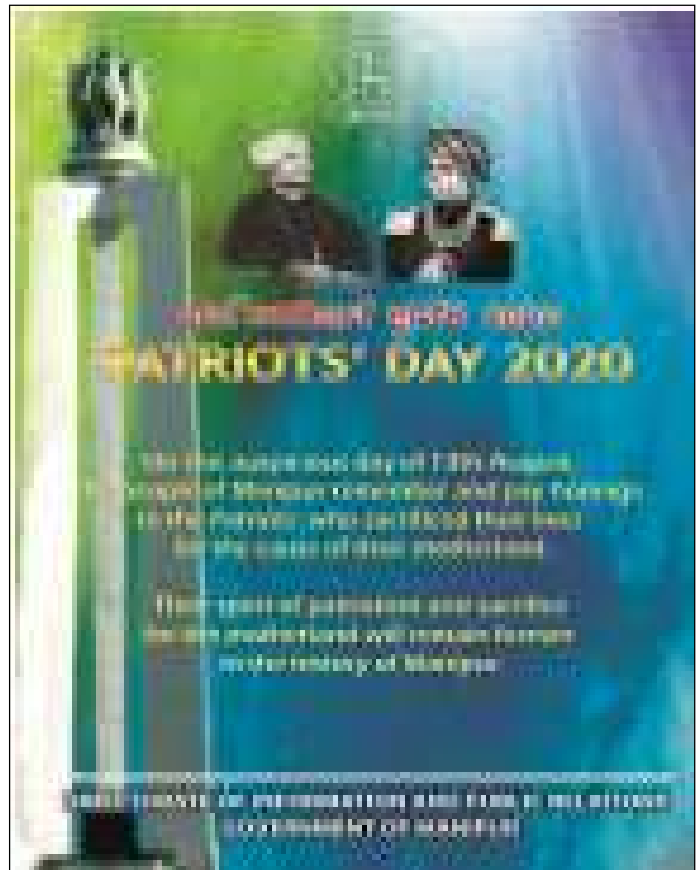
Stating about the Naga peace talks, Chief Minister reminded that the Centre had assured that the opinions of the people of Manipur will be heard before inking the final agreement between Government of India and NSCN (IM). He opined that the Naga peace talks won't affect the integrity of the State.

The observance began with 'Prabhat Phery' commencing from DIPR Office, Keishampat at 4:00 am. Patriotic songs were played imbuing the sense of patriotism and martyrdom at various locations of Imphal East and Imphal West districts.

On the occasion of Patriots' Day 2020, the Government of Manipur announced a list of police personnel and officers who will be given awards by the Chief Minister's Police Medal for Gallantry and Manipur Chief Minister for outstanding Devotion to Duty. The Chief Minister's Police Medal for Gallantry will be awarded to Chongtham Dippe, SI of Imphal West, M.

Priyabrata Khuman, Jemadar of CID, Chingtham Dhaneshwor Singh, Jemadar of 8th MR, Thokchom Sunil Singh, HC of 8th MR, Md. Zakariya, Jemadar of 4th IRB, Bheishamayum Debson Singh, SI of CDO, Imphal East, Kh. Bonney, ASI of CDO, Imphal West, A. Sashikanta Singh, Havildar of 2nd IRB, Lamabam Rajesh Khuman, ASI of Imphal West, Syed Ershad Ali, SI of Tenggoupal, Moiranthem Kajao Meetei, ASI of Imphal East, Th. Gyanizail Singh, Havildar of 1st MR and L. Thangminlen Khongsai, Jemadar of 3rd IRB.

The Chief Minister's Police Medal for Outstanding Devotion to Duty will be awarded to Kh. Pathou Meetei, Inspector of Imphal East, Yendrebam Jayentakumar Singh, SI of Imphal West, W. Ibomcha Singh, SI of Bishnupur, Kh. Bobocha Singh, SI of Imphal East, Ch. Samson, Havildar of 6th IRB, Ningthoujam Kiranjit Singh, Havildar of 1st MR and Md. Tarique Ali, SI of Imphal West.



**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
STATE HEALTH AGENCY**



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★ Editorial

Gagging the academia freedom of expression- a dangerous precedent

On August 10, 2020, the Directorate of University and Higher Education, Government of Manipur issued a Memorandum which, citing Section 9 of the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964, made it mandatory for all Government College Teachers and other staff working under the Higher Education Department, Manipur to obtain approval from competent authority before publishing or making statement regarding any Government policy or Programme in the media failing which appropriate disciplinary action may be taken. And as expected, a large number of academicians and intellectuals expressed outrage and indignation over the state directive which is widely viewed as regressive and runs counter to the idea of developing critical thinking. While it could be a pragmatic and even essential step in an organization or private business house to apply such restrictions, it would be erroneous to superimpose the values considered good and justified in such organisations onto the government as the ambit of the government is so overarching and all-encompassing that disallowing criticism of the government effectively means that one has to forego the right to freedom of expression almost completely. There is hardly any area of activity in the country which is beyond the purview of government policy. In fact no citizen, whether government servant or otherwise, can be deprived from holding and expressing views on issues that affect him on a personal level as it is directly linked to a citizen's right to life and liberty. The vague idea of reasonable restrictions on freedom of expression on certain class/category can't be so wide as to muzzle the freedom itself. The pertinent question arising now is what kind of reasonable restrictions need to be put on the category of citizens called 'government servants'?

It is not justifiable to deny right to freedom of expression from the government servants. Mention may be made of two judgements of the Constitution bench of Supreme Court delivered in 1962 in which the court ruled that 'merely because a person has entered government service, it does not mean they have surrendered those fundamental rights which are available to all citizens, and thus continues to enjoy the right to freedom of expression subject only to the categories of reasonable restrictions specified in the Constitution'.

On a more pragmatic level, it may be detrimental to consider all criticism as harmful for the functioning and image of the government for the simple fact that criticism of many of the existing provisions of law have been instrumental in taking the society and country forward towards improved governance and enhanced welfare of the people. One can consider the debate around the Official Secrets Act leading to RTI Act, right to privacy and the ongoing case about Art 377 to appreciate that the criticism of the existing laws provides impetus for change for the better. In fact, a balanced, fact based and well-intended criticism is the life blood of every democracy and the governmental system also benefits from it. Forcing a muzzle on those who have a close understanding of the functioning of government and implementation of the policies including its lacunae, inherent biases and loopholes would deprive the system of an important input for improving the system of governance. Before stirring this sensitive and contentious issue out of control, perhaps the state government should also consider the doctrine of unconstitutional conditions which prohibits the State from denying citizens a benefit by making access to that benefit conditional upon citizens' abstaining from exercising any or all of their fundamental rights.

In such times when the government at the centre as well as the state are trying to bring in more transparency and public-centric approach towards governance, imposing of such restricting directives would mean contradicting itself and going back on its own words of increased public participation to governance and would ultimately project itself as a government which is more on the defensive and thereby connotes a compromising image.

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The Anglo-Manipur War of 1891 – a Reflection

By -Dr. Kakchingtabam Rukhinkumar Sharma

How does one assess an event that took place at the closing decades of the nineteenth century? Today marks exactly 129 years since the momentous event of the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891. A small Asiatic kingdom went down fighting the mighty British imperialists in an unmatched fight but she still came out holding her head high. This story is about Manipur, an erstwhile ancient kingdom in South-east Asia, now the easternmost state of India Union and its engagement with the British Indian empire, whose echoes reverberated in both the Houses of British parliament during the months of May and June 1891, where the high and mighty members sitting in the treasury benches were forced to swallow criticism after criticism for the ill-advised actions of sending a punitive expedition which ended disastrously. Even in the school textbooks of Britain, they admitted the full committed by the *dramatis personae* and questioned 'the wisdom of the attempt to change the Government, and the conduct of Mr. Quinton in planning the secret apprehension of the Minister (Tekendrajit), were severely criticised ...'.

Since the events of the Anglo-Manipur war has been told many a time, it is not the intention of the writer to dwell on the issue but what concerns us is the perception of the event. Both apologists and critics of British imperial rule dwelt at length regarding the cause, course of events, nature and character and aftermath of the war or uprising. To the imperialists, Manipur was a subordinate ally of the Queen Empress of India who rebelled against the Empire by mercilessly killing high ranking British officials at a single instance which, according to the British called for immediate justice and revenge, hence the reason for invading the kingdom of

Manipur as a befitting reply. To the Manipuris, it was the repeated interference on the part of the British authorities in the internal affairs of the kingdom which not only needed to be checked but also to teach a befitting lesson to those who betrayed the trust reposed on them by invading the Manipur palace, desecrating places of worship, and also for killing innocent persons including women and children. This narrative founds ready acceptance among a large segment of people since it was popularised through art forms like theatre, courtyard plays and a new genre of folk ballad popularly known as *Khongjom Parva* touching upon valour, sacrifices and subsequent defeat of the native people in an unmatched fight with the mighty British Empire. Generation after generation of Manipuri nationalists have drawn their inspiration from the 1891 saga. From the 70s of the 20th century Manipur and Manipuri diaspora has been observing the events' of 1891 with religiosity at the institutional and civil society level. Since our younger days it has been made to understand that two important events that shaped the course of Manipur history viz, Chahi Taret Khuntakpa (Seven Year Devastation, 1819-1826) and Anglo-Manipur War, 1891 were the results of lust of power within the royal family resulting in disunity ultimately leading to the defeat of Manipuris in the hands of Burma and British respectively. These simplistic explanations have in the long run undermined the narrative of the entire history of this mountain kingdom which has a glorious legacy of being a historically evolved entity unlike some of her neighbours and other native states of India. Here, it may not be out of context to state that the first half of eighteenth century witnessed the zenith of power and glory of Manipur kingdom and further consolidation of the polity while the latter half of the century was marked

by the beginning of the structural decline as a result of the internal dynamics of the power structure which continued in the nineteenth century till the British conquest of Manipur in 1891 A.D. External factors like the growing imperialist and expansionist interests of the Burmese rulers on one hand and strategic and commercial interests of the British India government on the other also played crucial roles in her eventual decline.

The emerging geo-politics of Southeast Asia coupled with the Burmese nationalism under the successive Konbaung kings which was xenophobic in character was able to fish in the troubled waters of Manipur by giving shelter to a fugitive Meitei prince having high political ambitions and subsequently placing him in the throne of the land thereby converting the kingdom into a tributary state of Burma. However the short-lived close relationship established between the two turned sour as the latter was not prepared to accept Burmese suzerainty while Burma had larger political ambition of establishing control over the entire north eastern frontier of India. Thus from 1891 onwards Burma embarked on a grand plan of conquering the entire region in which Manipur was the first country to face the onslaught of Burmese imperialism. Because of the Burmese depredations Manipur was not only devastated but also depopulated that resulted in large scale depopulation.

Despite these setbacks in her history the kingdom was able to restore her freedom due to the efforts of Gambhir Singh and Nar Singh by obtaining material support from British East India Company aided by Herachandra's sustained campaign through guerrilla warfare. By the Treaty of Yandaboo, 1826 signed between Burma and British East India Company the international personality of Manipur as a sovereign kingdom was restored. Yet, therein lay the crux of the

problem of shaping Manipur-British relations. To the British, Manipur was a dependent state which enjoyed its entity on their protection while the Manipuris felt her indebtedness to the British for the assistance rendered in her war of liberation. Such a feeling of gratitude goaded Manipur to come to the rescue of the British whenever they encountered troubles in its dealing with the frontier tribes like Khasis, Lusais and Nagas in the Khasi Hills. The official business between Manipur and British India was formally conducted through the British Political Agent based at Imphal and Manipuri agents posted at Calcutta and Lakhimpur. The status of Manipur just before the outbreak of 1891 war is best summed up by Surendra Nath Mitra in his 'The Manipur War' (published from Calcutta, September, 1891). He wrote; "This beautiful little state was virtually independent of the Government of India. It has never paid a single cowrie as tribute to the Paramount Power. But being very close to, and in fact, surrounded by British India, it has always sought to win the good-will, and cultivate the friendship of the British. Its political status was far better than that of any other Native State in India. Hyderabad with its vast resources does not enjoy one-tenth of the independence which this country enjoyed until the entry of British soldiers in Imphal on the 27th April 1891. It was as independent as the State of Nepal or of Afghanistan." The British authorities were taking up a unilateral role of big brother to intervene in the affairs of a country which had been in friendly terms for which they had to face ignominy from the public even in their father country. The colonial and imperial policy of 'one size fits all' fails to work in the case of Manipur in 1891.

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By -Rabin Prasad Kalita

Do birds and other living beings have the same sentiments as humans, questioned by my school-going daughter? To uncover her answer, I started telling a parable about a lovely pair of a dove. Very frequently, I had been noticing a pair of dove met up with the worst quarrels, whipping physically by their wings on each other. Sometimes they got wrangled harshly at one another, hitting and injuring by their short narrow bills seemed more ferocious. Every so often, the bicker lasted uncompromised for a long time. After the fight, resenting each other, both of them were kept on sitting on the electrical extension wire quietly, keeping sufficient distance in-between. Their assorted emotions made them disengaged from mingling together. Smirking in my mind, I enjoyed their silence and tried to look into my personal life along. We human beings too, do the same by showing our hatred. Sufferings of mental discontentment, just after the tussle, seem normal. Mismatch of moods was reciprocated and negotiated gradually by closing themselves inch by inch. Erstwhile, I saw them

“An absolute sacrifice”

submitted at each other. Found them loving and rubbing their beaks once again. As if nothing had happened before. What a lovely scene it was to observe as a bystander! I reckon they have the same sentiments as humans to deal with concern, compassion, or compromise.

A couple of days later, I saw them flying with twigs and hays to a gooseberry tree. It was hardly two yards away to my terrace. Fixing them in a protected cross branch and coming back for carrying another one was their day-long work. Seeing them doing such hard work, I felt pity for them. Hence I threw a fistful of lentils at a distance so that they feel safe to pick them up. At the end of the day, a beautiful nest was ready.

The habit of throwing lentils or grains went on further. It becomes one of my most enjoyable moments every day, to observe them pecking one by one. To bring them more closure, I started reducing the distance of throwing grains to them. A few days were gone. One of them was not in my sight. Must have planned to lay eggs very soon, I presumed! The other one went out to collect food grains fed its counterpart through beaks and went in search again. What an eye-catching vista to watch, that filled my heart with ecstasy!

Sitting on the porch, sipping tea, looking at the headlines of morning newspapers was my habit. In-between, out of my curiosity, I observed their activities attentively. One fine morning, nearly a fortnight later, suddenly I could notice a pair of unmarked white eggs in the nest!

The female dove was hatching, sitting gently over her eggs.

Though, I was happy but worried a little about the fate of their eggs due to their late planning. The rainy season was on its doorstep and the weather was not very amiable to keep their young ones out of risk. My prophecy proved right but hurt me hard. On the same night, there was a heavy downpour along with moderate wind for a considerable time. It was like never-ending threads of rain that touched the ground and sparked all over. I couldn't enjoy its pleasant smell of first rain as was greatly concerned for their eggs.

My entire night was poised from sleeping, thinking about their safety. Got up time and again, went near to the windowpane, unveiled the curtain and peeped outside. Worryingly after some time, I used to come back to my bed with a stone in my heart. What else I could do, except to watch as a helpless watcher and to feel their pain? The nest was pretty bright and apparent from the light that scattered from the main gate. Both of them kept on spreading their wings like a canopy over their eggs and the nest, to save them from getting soaked. It was necessary to maintain proper warmth for incubation. They got to withstand lashing rain whole the night to save their young ones that destined inside the egg crust. Then I realized the fortitudes of my parents who had to sacrifice lots of their dreams while raising me up.

By the time in the morning, the rain stopped and the mighty sun brightly flashed all over. That was

the end of a bizarre night, suffered by the unfortunate pair of the dove and pitifully witnessed by me.

A couple of minutes later, one of the consorts flew down and unfolded her moist wings to get them dry under sunshine. Started swelling-up and flapping her wings on the morning sunlight. After a few processes of manipulations her feathers with its beak, somehow she could dry her wings. She flew back again to the nest and straight away sent down the other one for parching her wings too. I was lucky to witness such an act of thoughtfulness. It filled my heart with divine pleasure. Thank God, their eggs were safe. He is always safe, who is protected by the grace of God, fits perfectly on them.

Before one's eyes, a few days later, chicks were out of the eggs safely. Hereinafter, parents played a massive role in upbringing their unfledged chicks to fledged ones. During the entire period, one out of them was at the nest at all times to keep a vigil on predatory birds. Parents were doing so until their young ones could fly high and save themselves from any untoward peril. They shouldered an immense pain right from raising them up from a dilapid cell to adulthood. Now, they all fly down to my quad to taste lentils that I keep dispensing in a corner. Happy to watch them, pecking joyfully today! They taught me, happiness is the sweet yield of all pains.

*****The writer is an An-Ex Air Warrior (India). He can be contacted at Rabin1966@gmail.com

Any challenges to the integrity of the Manipur should be fight together -M Okendro

IT News
Imphal, Aug 13

Recalling the sacrificial spirit of our ancestors who had spare no pains and dare mighty British army while fighting for the protection of our erstwhile nation, President of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC), Moirangthem Okendro today said that any threats or challenges to the integrity of the region can only be protected when we fight together as one while fighting on occasion of 129th Patriots' Day observed at Congress Bhavan.

Earlier, fitting floral

tributes were paid to the martyrs Yubaraj Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General and Paona Brajabashi along with unknown Manipuri war heroes who had sacrifice for that cause of the freedom of the erstwhile Manipuri Nation.

"We the future generation should not forget the sacrifices made by our forefather who had sacrifices without any fear fighting the mighty British empire", Okendro said.

Yubaraj Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General and Paona Brajabashi were hang to death on this day of August 13.

"Their courage and spirit

for safeguarding the nation even at the cost of their life should not be forgotten by each and every one of us", the MPCC president said. Okendro also stated that the present framework agreement, issues of border pillar with the neighbouring country and states and the process of delimitation may ignite tension among various ethnic communities of the state who have living together peacefully from time immemorial. He called upon the people of the state to speak against the ruling government for taking advantage by framing short term political policy.

The MPCC president also blame the ruling regime for

taking up measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic on their will and without consulting the people of the state. He said that from green zone, Manipur now has 12 death due to the pandemic, besides many people tested positive with COVID-19 pandemic still are denied of nutritious food.

"When pregnant lady dies as there were no hospital facilities and government still use lockdown and curfew as the only means", Okendro said.

CLP leader Okram Ibobi, CWC member Gaikhangam along with other congress leaders and MLAs were also present while paying tribute to the martyrs.

Oken Jeet Sandham's "THE DESTINY" released

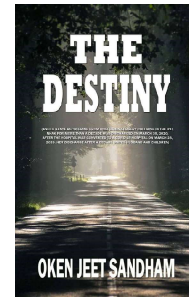
IT News
Kohima, Aug 13:

The book titled -"The Destiny"- written by noted writer Oken Jeet Sandham was formally released by president of the Nagaland Press Association (NPA), H Chishi in Kohima on Wednesday.

The "Book Launch" program was held with minimum attendance by observing all the COVID-19 protocols and social distancing and using face masks. The book is available in Amazon at Rs. 250 and the paperback is at Rs. 300.

It may be mentioned that Sandham have already written books on the Indo-Naga political issue after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister. The books are: 1. Narendra Modi And Naga peace Accord (2015), and 2. Modi Walking On Elusive Naga Peace (2017). Appreciating the author for writing on his wife, Chishi described as most befitting the writing of a book on her who had been in the ICU for more than a decade. Recalling his association with the author for more than two decades in the field of journalism, he said his patience and perseverance while his wife was in the ICU

"Her discharge from the ICU, brings the destiny to unite me and children"



with more books in the future. Narrating how he came up with the idea of writing the book - "The Destiny," Sandham said it was on his wife "Anelle Kenye" who was discharged from the ICU, Naga Hospital Authority Kohima (NHAK) on March 30, 2020, after staying there for more than 10 years.

He said he never imagined that she would be staying in the hospital for such a long period, and then when he was thinking as to how long they would still live in the hospital and go to which way, the outbreak of the novel coronavirus changed the course of their life. Her discharge from the ICU, NHAK on March 30, 2020 "brings her the destiny to unite me and children," he said. This turn of event hugely influenced me to write a book on her and finally, it came to "THE DESTINY," he added.

Chishi expressed hope that the book written on extraordinary journeys by Sandham would surely be the inspiration to the people. He wished Sandham to come up

NEP 2020: Universities not to be permitted to affiliate more than 300 colleges

IT Correspondent
New Delhi, Aug. 12:

Universities will be restricted to provide affiliations to 300 colleges under the new National Education Policy (NEP-2020), Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" stated on Wednesday. Addressing a virtual session titled 'Education post COVID-19', he said that there are many universities with which hundreds of colleges are affiliated. This has to be stopped to impart quality education.

"I recently visited a university and asked the vice-chancellor how many colleges were affiliated to that university, he said 800-degree colleges. Initially I thought I heard him wrong and as such asked him again and he repeated that 800-degree colleges were affiliated to his university. It was a convocation ceremony. I was surprised. Can any VC remember the names of the principals of the 800 degree colleges?" he asked. "Can he or she keep a tab on the quality and functions of such a huge number of colleges? That is why under the NEP we will work in a phased manner to reduce the number of colleges. One university will not affiliate more than 300 colleges and for that, if we need to increase the number of universities we will do that, Nishank added. The NEP proposes granting more autonomy to colleges

and phasing out affiliation system. The system of affiliation will be carried out in phases over 15 years and a mechanism following stages for granting graded autonomy to colleges, through a transparent system of graded accreditation will be established.

The aim is that over time all colleges will develop into either an autonomous degree-granting college, or a constituent college of a university. "We have 45,000-degree colleges of which only 8,000 are autonomous. Based on their quality in a phased manner we will improve their grading and as they progress we will grant them a graded autonomy," he said.

There are nearly 993 universities and 39,931 colleges in India. These include 411 universities listed by the University Grant Commission. There are three types of universities: Conventional Universities, Deemed Universities and Institutions of National Importance. There are 10275 stand alone institutions, 298 private universities, 548 General, 142 Technical, 63 Agriculture & Allied, 58 Medical, 23 Law, 13 Sanskrit and 9 language universities. 60.53% Colleges are located in rural area. 11.04% Colleges are exclusively for women. 77.8% Colleges are privately managed. 64.3% Private-unaided and 13.5% Private-aided.

Martyrs of 1891 war heroes remembered; fitting tribute paid

IT News
Imphal, Aug 13:

AMKIL, NIMPAL and EEVAM jointly organised 129th Patriots' Day celebration at the office of the AMKIL. Members of the three Organisation paying tributes

to heroes of Manipur Bir Tikendrajit and Thangal General, who fought against the British during Anglo-Manipuri War. Bir Tikendrajit and General Thangal were hanged at Pheidapung in Imphal in broad daylight by the British before thousands

of Manipuris for revolting against them. AMKIL express that the day reminds us of the heroic acts of Manipuris in different war fronts of the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891 that showed to the world that Manipuris had the sacrificing and

unflinching courage to challenge the then mighty British Empire for the sake of their motherland it added. This year due to covid -19 Pandemic "Manipur today is passing through a very difficult phase and appalled to followed the SOP".

Centre to monitor distribution of COVID-19 vaccine to states

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai/Delhi, Aug 13:

The National Expert Group on vaccine administration for Covid-19 on Wednesday discussed broad parameters guiding the selection of Covid-19 vaccine candidates for the country and decided to advise the state not to procure the vaccine from different channels.

The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 which met for the first time, deliberated on the conceptualization and implementation mechanisms

for creation of a digital infrastructure for inventory management and delivery mechanism of the vaccine, the Union health ministry said in a statement.

The expert group also discussed tracking of the vaccination process with particular focus on last mile delivery. The meeting was chaired by Dr VK Paul, Member Nit Ayog along with Secretary (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) as co-Chair.

The group discussed broad parameters guiding the selection of Covid-19 vaccine candidates for the country and

sought inputs from the Standing Technical Sub-Committee of National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI), the statement said.

"The group delved on the procurement mechanisms for Covid-19 vaccine, including both indigenous and international manufacturing along with guiding principles for prioritization of population groups for vaccination. The group discussed on the financial resources required for procurement of COVID-19 vaccine and various options of financing the same.

Available options in terms of delivery platforms, cold chain and associated infrastructure for roll out of Covid-19 vaccination were also taken up. The members also deliberated on strategy and follow-up action on all possible scenarios to ensure equitable and transparent delivery of the vaccine. Issues related to vaccine safety and surveillance were taken up and strategy for community involvement through transparent information and awareness creation were discussed," the statement said.

The meeting also took into account India's support to its key neighbours and development partner countries for Covid-19 vaccines. In the meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday said his country had registered the first vaccine for Covid-19. The vaccine, developed by "Gamaleya Institute", has received approval after less than two months of human testing. Putin said his daughter had been inoculated, and hoped the country would soon start mass producing the vaccine.

Many patients in need benefited from the 24x7 hospitalization helpline number open by health dept.

IT News
Imphal, Aug. 12:

A statement from the the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Manipur, said that after the opening of the 24x7 Hospitalization Helpline No 1800-103-2015 o cater to emergency patients who are refused admission in any hospital in Manipur, around 5 hospital-related calls have been received. It is just three days that the helpline number started receiving calls from hospital attendee by the State Health Agency (SHA), Manipur.

The statement by Haulianlal Guite, IAS, CEO, State Health Agency & Addl. Secretary Government of Manipur, said that the helpline has become a life saver for many needy patients.

"In the past 3 days, around 85 hospital-related calls have been received, and all of them have been satisfactorily

attended to by the SHA Team", the statement said and added that 10 are notable cases.

According to the statement, On August, 7 10 pm, someone from Thanga had difficulty breathing, and called up the helpline number to see if Shija will admit him. SHA Team quickly got in touch with Shija, and he was admitted to emergency ward, then shifted to ICU. As he is a PMJAY beneficiary too, he will get free treatment.

On 8th August, c. 4 am, a husband from Lilong called to say his pregnant wife was bleeding profusely, and requested speedy admission. SHA Team got in touch with JNIMS, and they were admitted without any problem.

Also on the same day at around 7:40 am, a patient from Nambol who had stroke a few days earlier, called to report that JNIMS is denying subsequent treatment. SHA

Team then connected with JNIMS, and he was successfully admitted without any problem.

Again on Aug 8 morning around 8:10 am, a person from Kakching called that his baby was having high fever, and wanted admission in Mothercare hospital. SHA Team then contacted the hospital, and the baby was admitted without any problem.

On the evening, of the same day at around 6:35 pm, a patient from Thoubal was brought to RIMS in unconscious state with suspected BP stroke. The patient was advised for CT scan but because RIMS CT scan is closed (as operator suffered from COVID-19 and is under isolation), the patient called our call centre number for the problem. After several attempts, the SHA Team could finally get the CT Scan facilitated for the patient at

Shija Hospital. Around 8:40 pm, of the same day the husband of a pregnant lady from Thoubal called to say they were denied treatment, and that they were on the way to RIMS. SHA Team then got in touch with RIMS authorities, and after some initial issue, the treatment started without any problem.

The statement added that another patient from Thoubal called on at around 8 pm, August 5 saying doctors were not available in technical ward of JNIMS hospital and that she was left unattended. SHA team then reached out to JNIMS, where the pregnant patient was advised to be immediately admitted to the gynae ward as doctors were available there. Later, patient was found to be COVID-19 positive, and was shifted to the isolation ward for further treatment.

On August 9 at around 2:00

pm, a regular dialysis patient at RIMS could not get his routine treatment done, so he reached out to our number for getting admission. The SHA Team then acted swiftly and got an appointment for him at JNIMS.

Again on the same day at around 5 pm, a patient from Kakching who consumed poison, could not be reached by his family. After much frantic search, the SHA Team could finally locate him, and he was given proper treatment at RIMS.

At around 10:40 am of the same day a patient from Charuchandpur missed her earlier chemotherapy session scheduled at RIMS, which could not be continued due to rising number of Covid-19 positive cases among RIMS workers, so that the patient was denied. SHA Team was therefore duly contacted, which then successfully booked a chemo session for 14th August.

Patriots' Day observed at various places

Manipur University

The Manipur University Teachers' Association (MUTA) and the Manipur University Staff Association jointly organized the Patriots' Day Celebration today at 7.30 A.M. in the Conference Hall of MUTA, MU. Prof. M. Ranjit Singh, President, MUTA, Prof. S. Imoba Singh, Vice-President, MUTA and S. Brojendro Singh, General Secretary, MUSA attended as Presidium Members. All the speakers recalled the sacrificing spirits of our Heroes for our motherland. Prof. Ch. Yashwanta Singh, Prof. Sh. Dorendrajit Singh,



and Shri L. Jilla Singh spoke on the services rendered by the *Athoubas* of Manipur towards strengthening the patriotic spirits of the people of the land. Prof. S. Imoba Singh narrated the relevant historical notes on observing the day as the Patriots' Day.

Sh. Brojendro Singh expressed the desire for celebrating the spirit of Patriots' Day regularly. Prof. M. Ranjit Singh appealed the august gathering to work with sacrificing spirit for the people of Manipur. Dr. L. Santosh Singh proposed the Vote of thanks.

By Raju Vernekar

In the back drop of COVID-19, celebration of 74 Independence Day is expected to be a low key affair, given the adherence to social distancing norms, which prohibit large gatherings, across the country.

The function at historic Red Fort in New Delhi, will be limited to the Prime Minister's speech, a 21 gun salute, unfurling of the national flag, the national anthem and release of tricolour balloons. The PM is expected to dwell upon efforts to become self-reliant India since theme this year is "Atmanirbhar Bharat", based on economy, infrastructure, system, demography and demand.

PM is expected to speak on Chinese border aggression, the economy and Ram Temple. In his I-Day speech last year, the PM had highlighted the passage of legislation criminalising instant triple talaq and abrogation of Article 370 stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status. He had also underlined the need for population control, outlined his vision for water on tap in every household and had projected the dream of a 5 trillion dollar economy.

While Independence Day is a grandiose celebration, this year the activities have been limited thanks to the corona virus pandemic. Around 300 National Cadet Corps (NCC) have been invited. But school children, who used to present drills every year, have not been invited at the Red Fort. Instead, schools and colleges have been advised to organise Inter-school, inter-college debates, quizzes, competitions online.

The number of invitees for the Red Fort function remains restricted to 250, who would include high ranking government officials and members of consular corps, as against over 900 people invited every year. To maintain social distancing, chairs will be placed in designated areas and the staff present will have to be in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits. A limitation has been placed also on the number of attendees for 'At Home' reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Large congregations will be avoided and digital technology will be used to ensure maximum participation.

Performance of Military bands

There will not be a march past of divisions of the Indian Armed and paramilitary forces and pageants, showcasing scenes from the freedom struggle and India's cultural diversity. Instead, the recent recorded performance of Military bands across the country, as a gesture of gratitude towards COVID-19 warriors, will be displayed through large screens and digital media.

BSF to walk at border posts

The Border Security Force (BSF) will be organising an "Independence Day Walk" at its posts along the Pakistan and Bangladesh border on 15 August. Besides, formation commanders will ensure that a senior officer spends two nights at each border post, with other offices and training centres of the paramilitary on the eve of I Day. Although the I Day functions will be more or less a subdued affair, it is expected to enthuse people with patriotic songs, played on the occasion across the country, reminding them about sacrifices by freedom fighters and armed forces.

On the occasion of Independence day, an assessment of present status of various factors is an imperative.

"Atmanirbhar" Package

As a reprieve to the economy, reeling under the pandemic, the Government has already announced Rs. 21 lakh crore package. But according to economists, although the package is big, the actual fiscal hit will only be around Rs 2.5 lakh crore, which is around 1 to 1.2 per cent of GDP.

GDP Even though the PM had aimed at a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024, the task seems to be difficult. The India's economy was expected to grow at 5%, however the GDP came down to 4.5 per cent in quarter II of 2019-2020. Even before the pandemic hit

the country, it grew only at 4.2% in March and finally 3.1% in the quarter that ended with the lockdown, due to a lack of investment. Now GDP is expected to shrink up to 5.1 2% in the fiscal year 2020-21, as against earlier estimate of 6.2 GDP by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

FDI

With relaxation of norms in single-brand retail trading, coal mining and digital media, the government was working on a plan to bring in \$100 billion FDI. According to official data, FDI inflows to India, rose up to \$49.97 billion in 2019-2020. But as per the UNCTAD, the FDI into India may decline sharply this year due to the impact of the pandemic and supply chain disruptions.

Indian Rupee

Indian rupee which has gone through bouts of volatility, has been hovering around 75 against US dollar. A surge in global oil prices has been pushing the Indian rupee lower. As of now there does not seem to be a drastic change in this situation.

RBI's way forward

According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, despite the impact of pandemic in our daily lives, the financial system of the country, including all the payment systems and financial markets, are functioning without any hindrance and the Indian economy has started showing signs of resumption to normalcy. But it is uncertain when supply chains will be restored fully. As such the reallocation of factors of productions within the economy is the need of the hour, for rebalancing and emergence of new growth drivers.

Loss of jobs

Due to the prolonged lockdown, over 12 crore people lost the jobs with an estimated wage loss of Rs 33,800 crore, as per the survey by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). India's overall unemployment rate in July 2020 stood at 7.43 per cent. There is a cause for concern in some states which are facing higher unemployment. The unemployment rates are: Bihar (12.19 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (8.35 per cent), Rajasthan (15.23 per cent), Telangana (9.05 per cent) and Delhi (20.3 per cent). They are markedly higher than the national average. Nearly 125 million households applied for work under the government MGNREGA scheme, between April and July, compared to 90 million

households during the same period last year, signifying a rise of nearly 40 per cent. While further investment into the scheme is warranted, the fact is the employment opportunities are not equally distributed and fewer opportunities exist in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, two of India's most populous states.

Poverty

As per the paper presented earlier to the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), by three authors, the number of poor came down to 8.4 crore, (from 27 crore in 2011), due to high growth rate, MGNREGA, Direct Benefit Transfers, PM Kisan Yojana, LPG subsidy and other measures. But now the lockdown may exacerbate India's poverty figures. A United Nations University study estimates that over 10 crore Indians could fall below the World Bank-determined poverty line of \$ 3.2 (Rs 239 a day).

Food grains

As per the figures released by the Union agriculture ministry, the target of total food grains production for 2020-21 is around 298.3 MT, comprising 149.92 MT in kharif season and 148.4 MT during rabi. In 2019-20, production was 291.95 MT, against the target of 291.1 MT.

Population

The country's population is estimated at 138 crore, equivalent to 17.7% of the total world population. 35.0% of the population is urban, while 65 per cent population is located in rural area. The total land area is 2,973,190 Km² (1,147,955 sq. miles) and the population density is 464 per Km² (1,202 people per mi²).

Literacy

The overall literacy rate is 64.8 % in the country, comprising the male literacy rate at 75.3% , and the female literacy rate at 53.7%, showing a gap of 21.6 percentage points between the sexes at the national level. The gap is more in the rural areas, while higher literacy rate has been recorded both for men and women in the urban areas. Kerala, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Goa and Chandigarh occupy the top five positions in literacy, while Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar are at bottom.

Amid Covid-19 pandemic, the economy is slowly limping back to normalcy. India is expected to become one of the most powerful countries in the time to come. Let us hope that we become super power at least by 2030.

RIMS pays tributes to martyrs



The Regional Institute of Medical Sciences , (RIMS) Imphal also observed Patriots' Day today at New Examination Hall, RIMS , Imphal. The Director of RIMS, Prof. A Santa Singh led in paying floral tributes to the heroes of Manipur who fought against the British during the Anglo-Manipur War. A patriotic song was

presented by Dr. Ak. Ibohal Singh and Ms. Janeshwori Devi followed by a poem recited by Dr. Ak. Ibohal Singh. Prof. A Santa Singh, Director of RIMS stated that the present generation should try to emulate the sacrifice made by the freedom Fighters. We must show patriotic Courage and spirit of sacrifice to make

a better Manipur.

Prof. Ch. Arunkumar Singh, Medical Superintendent of RIMS Hospital also spoke during the observance . Heads of Departments , faculty members from the Medical, Dental and College of Nursing Superintendent of RIMS Hospital, Nursing officials, staff and attended the Patriots' Day observance.

Another side of COVID-19

By -Megharaj

It is not too much to say that majority of the general population of the society including government machinery, front line warriors like medical staff, Police department, civil society and various stakeholders are still in uncertain and insecurity situation due to prevalent new pandemic caused by covid-19 and its unexpected attacking to the general population of the human society. The world is not able to produce an approved vaccine so far for the coping of this disease and mortality data related with infection also created lots of panic attack to all of us. The population of the whole world is now so irritating the covid19 and have been implemented many precautionary measure on their own as well as from the guidelines of WHO. As of now the people of the entire world is so confusing and desirously looking forward, when did will it end? Obviously, it is a monster that sends by the god to eradicate the human society as send Krishna to erase the 'papi' and saving the spiritual people? The entire question that arising

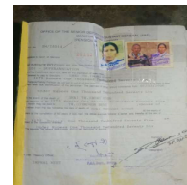
from different angle on covid-19 may be accepted because a realistic and concrete rule that can measure the comments either it right or wrong is not established yet. In Manipur, so far ,765 people have been infected by covid-19 out of this 71 with no history of travelling outside (till from 8th August 2020) and it has also been created negative mindset of the people with panic attack, stress, anxiety, depression, fear psychosis, uncertainty and insecurity. Despite of having mental attacking caused by dreaded virus, the people of today's also facing about the guilty of expecting for losing employment, suspicious on inability to support maintenance of the family , uncertainty and insecurity on their children's future educational carrier, all this factor are sinking them to the dell of depression, stress, anxiety. We know and determined that the virus is attack in manifold, psychological thread on fairness of ill. Spending time without fruitful and its consequences that can affect on farms, agriculture, horticulture, developmental programme and educational propose, and affect on state, national, international, game and sport. The virus can paralyzed the world in one time by lock down with the

aim of the government to stopping and control the monster virus to spread further at the entire venue where the human community are exist. The quantum of valuable time that goes without doing anything by the lockdown and the gape of the people participation for the development to be involved during that lost dead time will created a big lost to the public and no one can bridge the gap. After the post lockdown a big problem of scarcity in different aspect shall witness by us and more problem of this scarcity will face by under privileged group like daily wages people, people who are belong in BPL, paid labour, the number of people who impacted by the artificial scarcity made by covid-19 lockdown is mostly goes to the below poverty line families and the rice people will escape easily from the crunch and they will get more way to earn double triple times than they earned before lockdown. Obviously the negative impact of the lockdown is mostly related with poor people and whenever we observing the impact of the lockdown the status and condition of the poor people are in worst and pathetic. In order to protect the worst consequences of

the weaker section of the society as well as let them to participate in the system of society with peacefully various program is still required to uphold them with sustainable income. As of now we can't see anything special scheme for them. It is very serious for the society because a good society is not meaningless without development of all. In order to developed by all and make a good society good governance is must. If not the future society is uncertain and unpredictable. On the issue of survival for fitness, many rigorous crimes may be occurred. If the condition of the society go like this, who can solve the problem and the entire situation is unfortunate for all. Not only has the sincere work today taken up by government they also needed to convergent the other side of the chapter that gutted of the tomorrows society if observing in timely. Government should take up more holistic planning in the right time to prevent untoward incident after the covid-19 period. Otherwise, the incident of child labour, child trafficking, human trafficking and other social problem will be increasing.

Self declaration

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that I am a pensioner and I am still in good health. I request the authority to take my photo.



Sd/-

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