

## Chief Minister N. Biren Singh along with 6 resigned MLAs and one Congress MLA left for New Delhi

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 16:

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh along with the 6 congress MLAs who had recently tendered resignations from the 11<sup>th</sup> Manipur Legislative Assembly and Congress MLA RK Imo have left Imphal today in a special charter flight for New Delhi to meet the Central BJP leaders.

All together 14 including the 7 MLAs, the Chief Minister

and 6 others personal secretary of the CM and RK with the OSD of the governor of Manipur left Imphal in a special Spice Jet charter flight at around 2.30 pm today. The six ex-MLAs who had left for New Delhi are O. Henery, MD Abdul Nashir, Oinam Lukhoh, Paonam Brojen, Ngamthang Haokip and Ginsuanhau. Details of the visit has not been let known to the public but, there has been talk around in the political circle that the Chief Minister may be urging the Central

leadership to reshuffle the his Ministry by allotting two among those resigned MLAs. However, a source with the Imphal Times said that the visit is in connection with the assurance of the BJP party tickets to those resigned MLAs in the by-election that is expected to hold along with the Andro Assembly constituency by-election.

A highly reliable source said that even though the Chief Minister may have some desire to reshuffle his

Ministry, he may not pursue the matter to the Central leadership as there are possibilities of crisis if a reshuffle take place. The source added that the Chief Minister is on a mission to prove the sincerity of the 6 ex-congress MLAs who have resigned for the sake of the BJP's leadership and may pursue the central leaders to make sure that all the six of them are recognized by the Central BJP leaders and to assure them BJP tickets in the upcoming by-election.

## Police detained Rights activist, and force to apologies for facebook post

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 16:

A team of Manipur police today picked up Human Rights activist Wahengbam Joykumar from his residence at Wangkhei, Imphal East District today morning at around 7.40 am and detained in the Imphal Police station till 9.40 am forcing him to apologies for posting a comment in his personal Facebook. He was however released without any charges. Taking the matter seriously as it tantamount to as arbitrary arrest and detention and erosion of democratic space in Manipur, Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights in Manipur and the United

Nations (CSCHR) has put up the matter to the Manipur Human Rights Commission. In a petition filed to the commission the Civil Society Coalition for Human Rights in Manipur and the United Nations (CSCHR) expressed deep concerned terming the detention of Wahengbam Joykumar, who is also the president of M-PRIM (Manipur People's Right to Information Movement), as arbitrary arrest.

"Even though he is released without pressing any charges, CSCHR is concerned that this is yet another instance of harassing the HRD and curbing the right to freedom of expression.

Over and above this specific case, CSCHR is also concerned at the recent spree of arbitrary arrest of citizens for posting comments critical to the government and issuing a memorandum dated 10 August 2020 by the Directorate of University and Higher Education blatantly curbing academic freedom", the CSCHR said. CSCHR urged the MHRC to advice the Government of Manipur that criticizing the government is the very essence of democratic Governance and erosion of democratic space in all spears of life will only arrest the moral growth of the society.

## 3 more including a BSF personal died rising the COVID-19 casualty to 15

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 16:

The number of COVID-19 casualty in the state has reached 15 today with two more dead at JNIMS CCC and another 1 at RIMS CCC. The COVID-19 patient died today at RIMS is a BSF personnel from Uttarakhand, a source said.

Considering the matter of the COVID-19 still not under control the Manipur government has extended the complete lockdown till August 31 to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the state. With 192 more people tested positive yesterday, the tally rose to 4,390. New cases of COVID-19 continue to be detected amongst

people who have no travel history outside the state. A total of 78 people have been discharged in the last 24 hours, taking the recovery rate in the state to 55.53 per cent. Manipur now has 1,939 active cases. There have been 13 COVID-19 deaths in the state so far. Medical Superintendent of RIMS, Dr. Ch. Arunkumar, has

written a letter to the Superintendent of Police Imphal West in connection with the death of the patient to make arrangement for performing its last rite. He was admitted to RIMS CCC on August 14 with serious Kidney problem and Uraemic Encephalopathy plus Anaemia besides being COVID-19 positive.

## One among the Police Gallantry Awardee is involved in drug haul case - AMSU

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 16:

The All Manipur Student Union (AMSU) today question the rationale behind the awarding of Chief Minister's Police Medal for Gallantry for 2020 to one Bheishamay Debson Singh, SI, CDO, Imphal East as the said police personnel has been arrested for trafficking drugs worth more than 3 crores in 2013.

A statement of the students' body said that on 28 April 2013 Sub-Inspector Beishamay Debson Singh of Singjamei Bheigyabati Leikai, Imphal East was

arrested along with an 11-member team of the Manipur Police commando at Pallel on the way to Moreh carrying Respited Tablets and pseudoephedrine tablets worth Rs. 3,64,02,000 in international market. An FIR number 62(4)2013 Kachching police station under section 21/29 of the ND&PS Act and 27 Arms Act.

The same person Bheishamay Debson Singh was listed in serial number 6 of the Chief Minister's Police Medal for Gallantry notified vide reference number 27/6/2020-H(CM-MEDAL) dated 12 August 2020.

AMSU questioned on how the Chief Minister who eloquently elaborated on the issue of "War Against Drugs" during his official address on the Independence Day ceremony could confer gallantry award to such a police personnel caught red handed for drug trafficking. AMSU demand a high level inquiry into the antecedents of all the police personnel who were conferred gallantry awards this year and to strip the award if any of them were found involved in heinous crimes like drug trafficking. AMSU hopes and pray that the much flouted "War Against Drugs" is not turned into "War for Drugs".

## Manipur Art Festival 2020 – Cancelled

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 16:

R & V Art House regrets to announce that the 2020 edition of Manipur Art Festival to be held in the second week of September has been cancelled due to the global situation of the pandemic and the lockdown measures in Manipur. The Art House stated that there are too many uncertainties to go ahead with the art festival this year, which would have been the 3rd edition organized by the art company in Manipur. The Art House intends to host the festival next year depending on the situation at the time. R & V Art House was founded in 2018 by Mr. Robin Wahengbam and Dr. Vajita Ningombam with the intent to promote artists from Manipur at national and international levels. They have showcased the works of our artists in Imphal, Mumbai, Kerala and USA, and have collaborated with the Hiroshima Peace Foundation, Japan and Kochi Biennale Foundation. They have also hosted numerous additional art workshops in Manipur.

## Colleges in Manipur in utter chaos: KSA says

IT News  
Imphal, Aug 16:

Kangleipak Students' Association released a press note on the state of the education system in Manipur. According to the release signed by Romen Soibamcha, HRD Secretary, KSA HQ, in order for the education being provided under the higher education system in the state to expand the horizon and present a better future prospect for the students, it has become necessary to set up a committee to oversee the implementation of the NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 in the state at the earliest.

It also added that it has become necessary to ascertain whether the colleges in Manipur are following the guidelines laid down by the UGC as to the teaching hours, Research and Academic contributions and Professional Development, Co-Curricular and Extension Activities etc. colleges functioning outside the RR and guidelines of the UGC need to be identified and categorized according to a state policy as a large number of colleges could not meet the parameters laid down by the NAAC such as lack of required number of teachers and inadequate teacher-student ratio thereby scoring low accreditation grades and losing out on funding by the UGC. The state government



should take up steps to appoint the required number of teachers as well as provide the infrastructures for the colleges without any delay. Appointment of principal in charge for a large number of colleges and instead of a regular principal till their retirement reeks of corruption and a big factor for lack of accountability in these colleges, as according to the UGC guideline, regular principals are appointed for five years, and if one wishes to continue beyond this term, then an interview is necessary for re-appointment as principal which is not the case in the state at present. The state government should stop this trend and appoint regular principals for the colleges on a rotation basis immediately. Teachers of government colleges and aided colleges who failed to meet the qualification prescribed by the UGC should be given an opportunity to meet the requirements under a

timeframe and those who still cannot meet the qualifications within the given timeframe should be dealt with under a policy, and also the state government should adopt the recommendations for the 7th pay commission for the teachers without any delay. The above mentioned reasons are the main cause for the failure of the colleges in the state to be included in the top 200 list of colleges and universities of India as determined by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India. The academic activities provided in the state is evidently lacking in depth and quality when compared with that of other states, and in order to make improvements, required parameters such as infrastructure, academic activities, research, faculties etc should be improved said the release.

## NCC proposal for major expansion approved

Agency  
New Delhi, Aug 16:

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is all set for a major expansion to cover 173 border and coastal districts. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps for a major expansion scheme to meet the aspirations of youth in all the border and coastal districts.

The proposals of the scheme were announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on 15th Aug. A total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted to the NCC. One-third of the Cadets would be girl Cadets. Our correspondent reports, more than 1000 schools and colleges have been identified in border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced.

## Ex Congress Corporator Deva Usare killed in Nagpur

IT Correspondent  
Nagpur, Aug 16:

Former Congress Corporator Deva Usare (54) of Gaddi Godam area of Nagpur, was killed by two youth by hacking him with an axe and a knife, near Bharat Talkies on Sunday morning. He is survived by wife, two children, two brothers and other family members.

The assailants, were staying in a rented room provided by Usare. There was a long standing dispute between them, since Usare wanted them to vacate the room. The incident occurred when Usare had gone to a tea stall near Bharat Talkies at about 7.30 AM. As usual, he reached the tea stall on his mobile. As he was parking his mobile, the assailants emerged from behind and began attacking him. Even before he could realize what was happening,

the assailants inflicted grievous injuries upon him. Soon after the incident, the local people informed the police control room. The police shifted Usare, who was lying in a pool of blood, to the Mayo Government hospital. However he was declared dead before admission. The sadar police have registered an offence of murder and have launched a hunt to nab the absconding assailants. Usare had won the election to the Nagpur Municipal Corporation twice. In the first term, he had defeated former Mayor Rajesh Tambe. He was known as a "pehalwan" in the area and was also stated to be having a criminal history. Soon after the incident Congress MLA Vikas Thakre and other Congress workers rushed to the hospital where a post mortem was being carried out.

# National Education Policy (NEP)-2020: A critical Review (Part 1)

By Surjit S. Thokchom\*

As I write this, I know that some of you have already praised NEP-2020 as a revolutionary document. And some of you have already rejected it as a regressive and anti-people document. And still some are reluctant to make a position. Some still opine that it cannot be entirely correct or entirely wrong and argue that there must be good elements and bad elements. But there is an emerging amnesia of saying against anything proposed by the present dispensation. Majority of people particularly the middle class prefer to remain within the comfort zone of being silent or a blind supporter. My analysis of NEP 2020 is based on my dispassionate reading of the latest version of NEP 2020(66 pages) which was uploaded in the MHRD's website on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020. I assumed that this was the document approved by the Cabinet. As I study it, in the back of my mind, I still doubt that there may be alteration in the Cabinet approved document as this document is not a signed document. The present document is the 6<sup>th</sup> version of NEP-2020 during 2015-2020. The sixty pages NEP-2020(draft) document which was the 5<sup>th</sup> version, uploaded in January 2020 was the most studied document and present NEP-2020-final under review by me is the latest version, uploaded on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 with some key changes both addition and deletion.

Let us first be acquainted with the NEP-2020 before we go into a detailed study of the document. The wide consultation as it is claimed by the MHRD was inter-departmental consultations prior to the formation of the committee to draft Evolution of NEP in 2015 during January 2015 to October 2015, and no details is available nor any public notice seeking people's input during the stated period of

consultation.

The first committee under the chairmanship of late Dr TSR Subramanian was formed by October end of 2015 and whatever the consultations claimed was done before the first committee was formed. Initially the committee was mandated to draft NEP as per notification on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020 but by 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the mandate was reduced to a "Committee for Evolution of New Education Policy (NEP)" by an official notification. After this change, the committee was no more mandated to draft NEP. The Committee submitted 230 pages Report titled, "National Policy on Education 2016- Report of the Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy, dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016". But for some reason best known to the Ministry, it was never uploaded for public viewing. Later, it was leaked through social media unofficially. MHRD claimed that there were inter-departmental and inter-ministerial wide consultations during 2016-2017 on NEP (with no official committee for NEP drafting!!!). During June to August 2016, the MHRD brought out a paper titled, "Some Inputs for Draft National Education Policy 2016" and the same was tabled in Rajya Sabha for a short discussion under rule 176. It was also claimed that there were dialogues on Education with Honorable MPs though no details of the discussion are available in public domain as of today.

There was a long gap and then another committee was formed under chairmanship of Dr. Kasturirangan. This newly formed Committee came out with 484 pages draft NEP 2019 by the end of 2018 and it was uploaded in MHRD's website in June 2019. This report clearly said that the draft submitted by the early committee and the input collected during 2015 was inadequate. And the consultations

amongst the new committee members compelled him to restructure and reformulate the draft policy. Post draft NEP 2019, suggestions to the same draft (484 pages) were invited upto mid-august 2019. This was later summarized and came out as 55-pages summary as final and titled, "NEP-Final 2019", uploaded in MHRD website in October 2019. The Ministry's website and the content in the NEP-Final 2019 did not reveal whether suggestions and inputs given by the people were incorporated or not. This was followed by another draft version of 60 pages, uploaded in Jan 2020. It was assumed by all of us that NEP 2020 version uploaded in January 2020 was approved by the Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020. But the government surprised us by uploading another latest version on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 with several key changes. Many of the comments and feedbacks on Cabinet Approval of NEP 2020 from 29<sup>th</sup> July evening till 30<sup>th</sup> July evening till the latest document was uploaded were partially disregarded. Overall observation is that the Govt's disclosure through Ministry's website reveals the non-transparency.

The present NEP 2020 as approved by the Cabinet is incomplete. It misses several necessary definitions without which one cannot give an informed opinion. It does not define the structure of the new institutions created by the new policy. It also removes the description of the structure and some names of the structure as it was mentioned in the previous draft version. One of them was the replacement of RSA (Rastriya Shiksha Aayog) as it was mentioned in earlier draft by "remodeled and rejuvenated CABE" in the latest 66-page NEP 2020. 2<sup>nd</sup> significant addition is the *Online Education* as the central agenda of NEP 2020 in

the latest version.

The present policy not only centralized the existing decentralized structures but it centralized the standalone central bodies also. It is an advanced form of centralization. The obvious and immediate consequence of this advanced centralization is defederalization of Indian polity and absence of meaningful autonomy and flexibility. Words like 'flexibility', 'autonomy', 'decentralization', 'accountability', 'rationalization', 'creativity' are bound to have very limited meaning and will defy both the common and academic understanding of these terms.

One of the main agenda is to promote Privatization as an enabling condition for commercialization. The agenda of the public institution now is no more to serve the interest of the masses but to make the government resources available to the private institutions with no compulsion of the latter to reciprocate the same. In a situation like this, the private institution is in a position of advantage over the government institution. In the meantime, an attempt has been made to create an impression that NEP 2020 is committed to regulate the private institutions against commercialization of education. Two key terms- '*not-for-profit*', '*public spirited private philanthropist*' are used as a means to fight against the commercialization. In other words, it is the Ministries of Finance, Corporate Affairs, Labour & Employment that will define what non-commercialization does mean. The enabling condition for commercialization is privatization which the Education Ministry (as it is now named) is committed to do it under NEP-2020. The emerging theme called *Social Entrepreneurship* is basically to generate profit and use the profit for a public cause. Both commercial activities and not-for-profit

activities as of today, are looked as same. The only difference is who pockets the profit. Within this perspective, commodification of knowledge for a not-for-profit activity become necessary. There is hardly any distinguishable difference between commercial and non-commercial (not-for-profit) activities as of today under the above-mentioned Ministries. In NEP 2020, quality is to be maintained through a system of quality control mechanism wherein education is treated as a product. Will quality be measured in terms of its potential for social transformation or in terms of returns as a remuneration to the worker and profit to the corporate? The present document is *a-historical*. If we refer to several previous policies along with several High Court and Supreme Court rulings including Allahabad High Court order of 2015 asking to ensure that public servants and bureaucrats to send their children and wards to state-run-schools, along with well documented people's movements till date, including several educational experiments in both pre and post independent period, the present NEP 2020 disconnects itself from all previous experiences. There is no continuity in the spirit of the policy though it mentions NPE 68 and NPE 86, RTE Act 2009, Disable Act 2016 etc.

The document does not mention Reservation at all. It does not mention ST/SC/OBC/minorities in context of the provision to be provided additionally. In place of ST/SC/OBC and minorities, socially economical disadvantageous groups (SEDG) is used in NEP 2020. Terms like merit-based scholarship, merit-based promotion, merit-based career progression, merit-based appointment etc. are frequently mentioned. The existing scholarship based on ethnicity or minorities do not have a place in NEP-2020. NEP-2020 talks about special education

zone but it doesn't refer to the existing criteria like SC/ST/OBC, minorities etc.

There are 3 areas of rationalization proposed in NEP 2020 in the name of school complex, multi-disciplinary universities and efficient governance. Rationalization (school complex) in the school level means closure of large number of schools. Rationalization (Multi-disciplinary University) in the higher education means closure of large number of small colleges. Rationalization for efficient governance means merger or abolitions of existing state and the central autonomous bodies and disabled the state Education department for any educational endeavor.

NEP 2020 creates a dichotomy between Constitution & Emerging Developmental Imperative as per SDG4 (Sustainable Development Goal 4) agenda. While it says to promote Ethical and Constitutional values, it also keeps a wedge between the Constitution and ethical values. Developmental imperative is no more inspired by the Constitution but it is guided by emerging Developmental (SDG4) agenda. The emerging developmental agenda in tune with SDG4 and of becoming a super power, knowledge society, knowledge economy and one out of the three largest economy in the world: Are these not agenda at the cost of the pending unfulfilled Constitutional agenda of equity, equality and social justice? Is development without fulfilling the Constitutional mandate a development at all? Are we setting our priorities in the right perspectives? Do we repeat the past? Do we fail to transcend the colonial paradigm of development? Anyway, whose India is what NEP 2020 are dreaming for?

(to be continued)

\*Surjit S Thokchom is based in Shillong at present. He is a Secretariat Member of All India Forum for Right to Education (AIFRTE) and Editorial Board Member of a monthly publication of AIFRTE titled, "Reconstructing Education". He has been associating with an education project in rural khasi hills titled, "Demonstrating an Alternative Vision of Education". He was a member of Institute Advisory Board of North East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE), Shillong, a Constituent of NCERT and he was a member of Position Paper of Work and Education, NCERT. He was also official translator of National Curricular Framework, 2005(NCF 2005) into Manipuri. He can be reached through sstthochom@gmail.com

## Poetry Section

### To my goddess of love

By: Shongminthang Haokip

May be meeting you was by chance  
But seeing you was heavenly planned  
Meek and shy like a messenger pigeon  
But fly as high as a wild eagles  
Beyond a thousand miles across  
Over the sky you come and go  
Like a mystic evening fancy clouds  
You disappeared too soon today  
But when another day comes  
You'll reappeared till then I just hope  
More memories awaits to be created  
Remember! Unexplored places seemingly  
Even more enchanting to explore one day.

No more tears of sorrows in your eyes  
It'll be seen and cherished in my heart  
If you can't hold back I'll wipe dry for you  
But only if you allowed me.

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## Remembering the forgotten Heroes: Happy Independence Day!



By - Janghaolun Haokip

Heroes made it possible. Heroes bought us freedom. They bought us the right to govern ourselves and the right to proudly call ourselves a sovereign nation free from all kinds of external powers. As India celebrates its 74<sup>th</sup> year of Independence today, it is extremely unfortunate that it has over the years slowly forgotten its heroes who had given their lives for this land and country. It is unfortunate that we have decided to slowly erase the valour of the great battles from our history books. In fact, we as a country have come to downplay the once glorious sacrifices of our founding fathers, the pioneers of this great nation. Rightly termed as the first war of Independence, the Indian Revolt of 1857 was the first major event that called and awakened the people of India towards the idea of freedom. Since then, for over almost a century until India was finally freed from the British Colonial power,

India had sailed through innumerable struggles in its quest for freedom.

From the days of Mangal Pandey to the days of Mahatma Gandhi, India has had many heroes who valiantly laid down their lives for the great cause of the country. The lands that we call our own today were once traded with the blood of thousands who sacrificed their lives. The freedom that we enjoy, and all that our country offers us today were all paid with the lives of our brave forefathers. We cannot forget that even in the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre alone 379 people were killed and over 1,200 other people were injured when British Indian Army fired their rifles into unarmed Indian Civilians. These great heroes have fought and laid down their lives with a dream. They struggle and fight so that we have freedom, and so that we do not suffer like them. They fought because they know that they do not want the same life that they lived for us. These great heroes fought for our future. They have dreamt of a free and prosperous India, a country that will be inclusive and will be liveable for all. It would be impossible to count how much Indians have given their lives for the cause of freedom. Shashi Tharoor, an acclaimed author and parliamentary member

from Kerala since 2009, claims that Britain is responsible for the death of 35 million Indians. In addition, the British aggressive policies must have made many of our countrymen victims of the most intolerable forms of violence and crimes.

It is clearly understandable from these brief recollections that our country had sailed through the impenetrable in its struggle for independence, and therefore it is extremely unfortunate today that we are to only celebrate their sacrifices, while we dampen their dreams and aspirations. We worship their images while we mock their principles and ethics. We pay tribute to their souls while we disrespect their visions. We glorify their sacrifices while we defile their morale. We are loyal to the country while we are traitors to its people. What an irony and what a lie to stand up for the country and work towards its downfall. Let us remember our Heroes today. Let us remember Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our Nation. Let us remember his principles of "ahimsa" and stop all forms of unnecessary violence against ourselves with a narrow divide. Let us also remember Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. B R Ambedkar, S.C.

Bose, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Dr. Rajendara Prasad, Bhagat Singh and all who had once fought that we could enjoy our freedom today. Let us once again take a pledge: that we, the people of India, have solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic, and to secure to all its citizens justice - social, economic and political; liberty of thought - expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation.

As we celebrate our 74<sup>th</sup> Independence day, let us all be reminded of our forgotten heroes. Let us all be reminded of their values, their ethics and principles clearly laid down in the constitution, because the constitution alone is our religion as a Nation. Let us worship and adore it so that we, as a nation, irrespective of what caste, creed, or race we belong to, can and will enjoy the true sense of freedom and we that we live everyday with the true essence of independence. Let everyone take pride in being an Indian, not just the Hindus and the majority, as we pay tribute to the Heroes of our great nation.



# Manipur Celebrates 74th Independence Day Every Human Lives is Precious : CM

IT News  
Imphal, August 16:

As in other parts of the country, the State also celebrated the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day yesterday. The State level celebration was held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground, Imphal with Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh as the Chief Guest.

Chief Minister hoisted the National flag amid playing of National Anthem. Addressing the gathering, N. Biren Singh said that the most precious thing is human life and every human is valuable to the government. The government is making all its efforts to contain the deadly disease, he added. He mentioned that the government acknowledges the selfless sacrifice made by the doctors, nurses and other medical staffs in the fight against COVID-19. He lauded the team of doctors of JNIMS led by Dr. Tharoijam Uthman for rendering their service selflessly towards treating the COVID-19 patients at JNIMS. He appealed the people of the State not to stigmatize the healthcare workers and other frontline warriors. The Chief Minister urged the people to support and cooperate in fighting the deadly COVID-19 disease.

Mentioning about the unwanted incidents that happened recently due to denial of admission of patients in hospitals, Chief Minister appealed to the hospitals and doctors not to refuse treatment to any patient. He also warned the hospitals and doctors against denial of treatment to patients. The government has already issued an order in this regard, he added.

Stating about the extension of lockdown, Chief Minister said in consultation with the Cabinet Ministers and members of the Consultative Committee on COVID-19, the government will decide on extension of the lockdown. SOPs and other guidelines will be issued in this regard



shortly, he added. Mentioning about the achievements of the present government in 'War against Drugs', Chief Minister said that with the establishment of Fast Track Court, around 110 persons have been convicted so far in connection with drug related cases. He said that various drug factories have been busted by the police in various parts of the State. He said that the government will continue the crackdown against drug smuggling. He mentioned that the present government brought smile to the faces of the people and scores of people including old aged persons have been benefited from various schemes such as GTV, GTH, CMHT, CMST etc. He opined that the present government does not give false promises to the people and is committed to fulfill every promise made to the people. Chief Minister stated that under the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, various developmental works are being taken up in the NorthEast and there is peace and development in NorthEast India. He mentioned that Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Rs. 3000 crore Manipur Water Supply Project recently. The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stones for various National Highway projects amounting to around Rs. 3000 crores in Manipur on 17/08/2020 through video conference. On the occasion, in recognition of absolute valour and gallant spirit of late Riflemen Ratan Salam of 4<sup>th</sup> Assam Rifles, Chief Minister handed over the cheque of Rs. 5 lakhs to the wife of late Riflemen Ratan Salam under the newly instituted scheme called Major Laishram Jyotin Singh Ex-gratia scheme.

The Chief Minister handed over the Chief Minister's Trophy for Community Service Awards to SP, Bishnupur Smt. Priyadarshini Laishram, Inspector Shri Oinam Ajit Singh, and Women Constable Smt. Okram Bijeta Devi. The Awards for Chief Minister's Trophy for Anti-Drug Campaign was also handed over to SP, Thoubal Dr. Sarangthem Ibomcha, ASI Shri Anoubam Krishna Sharma and Head Constable Shri Moiranthem Rinash Meitei. Paona Brajabashi Award for Best NCC Boy Cadet was given to Shri N. Bunty Angom and Rani Gaidinliu Award for Best NCC Girl Cadet to Mayanglambam Nenita Devi. Deputy Chief Minister Y. Joykumar, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Chief Secretary, DGP, top civil, police and military officers and others took part in the celebration.

# PM Modi highlights importance of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in 74th Independence Day speech

IT News  
New Delhi, Aug 16:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled the tricolour at the Red fort to mark India's 74th Independence Day. Addressing the Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort yesterday, the Prime Minister talked about various issues ranging from management of the Covid-19 pandemic, measures to boost domestic manufacturing as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, steps to revive the economy with a focus on middle class people. Prime Minister reiterated the importance of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and assured full support to fellow Indians during the need of the hour. Over 130 crore Indians have

decided to become 'Aatmanirbhar' amid the coronavirus pandemic. "Becoming 'Aatmanirbhar (self-reliant)' is mandatory. I am confident that India will realise this dream. I am confident of the abilities, confidence and potential of my fellow Indians. Once we decide to do something, we do not rest until we achieve that goal," he said. Speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister announced a major push to infrastructure sector while addressing the nation on 74th Independence Day. He said that the Government is prioritising on improving the overall infrastructure for faster development with the help of National

Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project and announced that over Rs 110 lakh crore would be invested in the NIP. For this, the Prime Minister said that more than 7,000 projects have been identified across various sectors. National Infrastructure Pipeline Project will play a crucial role in pulling the country out of impact of Covid 19. NIP is a project that will revolutionise India's infra creation efforts. Many new jobs will be created, our farmers, youngsters, entrepreneurs will benefit.

The Prime Minister emphasised that now along with Make in India, we have to move forward with mantra of Make for World also.

In his address, the Prime Minister said that the whole

World has been noticing the reforms being pursued in India. As a result, the FDI inflow has broken all records. India witnessed 18% jump in FDI even during the Covid pandemic.

The Prime Minister said that 7 crore poor families were given free gas cylinders, more than 80 crore people were provided free food with or without ration cards, about 90 thousand crores were directly transferred to bank accounts. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan has also been started to provide employment to poor in their villages.

The Prime Minister said that of the 40 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened in the country, about 22 crore accounts are of women only. At the time of Corona, in April-May-June, about thirty thousand crore of rupees have been directly transferred to the accounts of women in these three months. In Corona's time, we have seen what the role of Digital India campaign has been. Just last month, almost 3 lakh crore rupees have been transacted from BHIM UPI alone, he said.

## 74th Independence Day celebrated in RIMS 'Help desk for hill districts in RIMS Hospital'

IT News  
Imphal, August 16:

The Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, (RIMS) Imphal celebrated 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in RIMS, Imphal. Prof. A. Santa Singh, Director hoisted national flag in front of Administrative Block of RIMS, Imphal today. The celebration was followed by award function in front of A Block, RIMS, Imphal. Prof. A. Santa Singh awarded cash awards to Prof. Ch. Arunkumar Singh, Medical Superintendent of RIMS Hospital, Prof. Kh. Sulochana Devi, Professor in-charge of Virology Research & Diagnostic Laboratory, Prof. Kh. Ranjana Devi, Head of Department of Microbiology, RIMS, Prof. Th. Suraj Singh, Professor in-charge of Multi-Disciplinary Research Unit, Mrs. Sh. Lata Devi, Nursing Superintendent of RIMS Hospital, Shri Manihar Singh, Chief Security Officer of MSS and Shri L. Hemchandra Singh, Vice-President of



CRED. The cash awards were given in recognition of the sacrificed made by the front line health workers such as doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, civil security services and sanitary health workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Director also announced that a HELP DESK will be open in RIMS Hospital especially for patients coming from the far flung areas of hill districts of Manipur in particular and village area in general. This HELP DESK will help people coming from far flung areas of hill districts while coming for treatment in RIMS Hospital and to improve the patient

care services of RIMS Hospital. We need to work and fight the COVID-19 pandemic together.

At the outset of his speech, the Director remembered Major Laishram Jyotin Singh, an Army doctor who died fighting a suicide bomber in Kabul, who conferred the country's highest peacetime gallantry medal, Ashok Chakra, posthumously at the 62nd Republic Day parade. We feel proud that the RIMS could produce such courageous doctor for the nation. The Director announced the proposal to name RIMS Sports Medicine Complex under the name of Dr. Laishram Jyotin Singh as an honour to his supreme sacrifice.

The Independence Day celebration was attended by Medical Superintendent of RIMS Hospital, Principal of Dental College and College of Nursing, Heads of Departments, senior officials, faculty members, nursing officials, staff, civil security, and health workers of CRED.

## Boycotts and midnight gunshots



By: T.S. Haokip

The boycott and shutdown calls, for independence day 2020 by six militant groups based in Manipur, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya and ULFA-I and GPRN/NSCN in the entire North East India, revoked childhood memories- where it was customary for militants to boycott Independence day and fire gunshots at the stroke of midnight on the 14th of August every year. The sound of those gunshots, though similar to celebratory crackers as must have been witnessed elsewhere in India on Independence day had quite the opposite connotation in the North East. It was frightening as

security forces would be everywhere, looking for those rebels who had fired the non-celebratory gunshots. There was a reason why people were wary of the so-called operations by the security forces; boys and men would be paraded and a masked man would scan all the faces one by one. The fact that anyone whom the man with mask pointed would be nabbed irrespective of whether one was innocent or not (everyone was innocent- no militants stayed in a village after firing shots on 14th August midnight) frightened most people, which made them all the more suspicious in the eyes of the masked man. Independence day was a day not many people look forward to then. For a decade or so, the ordeal was the same. Post the ceasefire and SOO agreements between the Government and a few militant organisations, situations in trouble-torn states like Manipur and Nagaland have witnessed a

considerable change. Independence day, for a change, is celebrated now in the Hills and not boycotted. Measuring that development by its own standard is worth applauding. However, the real sense of freedom is yet to be experienced as would have been expected in a country that has experienced seventy-three years of Independence. As far as militancy issue is concerned, we have come a long way but there is still another long way to go; there are many organisations who are yet to come to the talks table. The people have long been held to ransom with the promise of a separate homeland, based on historical cause. While we pay much attention to history, our future, and the future of our children are drifting towards serious economic gloom. The militants should consider what is best feasible for the people if they truly represent the causes of the people, as often proclaimed by them. It

is time for all stakeholders concerned to prioritize 'negotiation' and 'solution'. The Government on its part should also accord due importance to resolving militancy issues in the North East to usher in peace and development. Efforts should be taken to bring all the rebels to the talks table. 'Disturbed area' tags have disturbed the economic growth of the region for far too long now. Except for the millennials, not many people will have a fascinating story of the Independence Day celebration, especially in the states like Manipur and Nagaland. Coupled with that experience, the history books of schools and colleges seem to dwell mainly on the narratives of the mainland Indians and their fights. Northeastern people are made to worship leaders projected to have played bigger roles just because they occupied bigger space in the history books of schools and colleges. It will be interesting

how many people from mainland India know the heroics of Maniram Dewan, U Tirot Singh, Bir Tikendrajit, Chengapao Kuki, Rani Gaidinliu, U Kiang Nangbah, Taji Midiran, kushal konwar, Shoorvir Pasaltha, Bhogeshwari Phuaikanii, Kanaklata Barua and Matmor Jamoh.

The day India got its independence i.e 15th of August 1947 merits a celebration with pomp and joy by all; it came with huge costs of life, money, and time. To ensure that, India need not conduct operations to nab those not celebrating the day. Nationalism can't and shouldn't be enforced- rather it should come from within. If we in any way contribute to the feeling of alienation, discrimination and subjugation felt by our own countrymen, it is us who should rethink. Primarily, we will have to make certain the prevalence of an India that is a c o m m o d a t i v e , understanding and sympathetic to the concerns

of people of all faiths, caste, and colour.

India is free from the Britishers. Are its people free from - being oppressed, being subjected to authoritarian rule, inequality, poverty, etc.? The slogan of freedom from poverty had long been a movement within the development world. 'Garibi Hatao' (Eradicating poverty) was modeled along this concept. Today it appears as if the movement has been misunderstood as Garibi Hatao (Eradicating the poor). It is our responsibility to ask ourselves- Is it justifiable that the freedom that our forefathers whether rich or poor, from north or south, Brahmins or Adivasis, Muslims, or Hindus gave their life for should only benefit a few selected people? What worth is Independence if people die hungry, untreated, and communalised? Is this the India that was envisioned? While we look at the different aspects of freedom, it is equally important to remember

that, there are certain responsibilities which we as a citizen owe to the country and the people who fought for its freedom. Eight decades ago, people were ready to sacrifice their life so that their future generations could decide their future with no white-men dictating terms on them. Let us not take for granted the freedom we enjoyed today. We have been given freedom from foreign rulers. It is time for us to continue our flights for other freedoms. All of us, as an individual, society, and state has a role to play. As the tricolour is unfurled today, may those ideals and dreams that our freedom fighters fought for, be revived and may their idea of freedom, which is - in the words of Rabindranath Tagore, "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high," be realized. Happy Independence Day to all!

(The writer is author of the book HILLY DREAMS)

# 'Tri-colour a symbol of martyrs' sacrifice and nation's pride'

IT correspondent  
Guwahati, Aug 16:

Sangbadik Sangha Purbanchal (SSP) paid rich tributes to the martyrs of India's freedom movement on the occasion of 74th Independence Day at the premises of Pragjyotish

newspaper in the city's Bamanimaidam locality, following Covid-19 protocols with senior journalist Rupam Barua unfurling the national Tri-colour.

Expressing gratitude to the martyrs who sacrificed immensely to make India a sovereign nation, Barua urged citizens to set aside 15 August and 26 January every year to pay them homage. Protests and demonstrations should be avoided on these two days so that all Indians can stand together as one, he asserted, pointing out that certain misguided quarters have no compunctions in airing their grievances even on such sacred occasions although they are very conscious about their constitutional rights.

"India could adopt a constitution only after being freed of foreign yoke, thanks to the martyrs. It is the moral responsibility of every generation to recall their sacrifices and express gratitude as proud Indians," he said.

Earlier, at least eight banned armed outfits issued media statements calling to boycott the I-Day celebrations this

year across the Northeast region. Calling it a 'colonial Indian I-Day', National Socialist Council of Nagalim and United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) asked the people not to take part in I-Day related programs. They called for a total shutdown on 15 August in theregion, terming it the Western part of South-East Asia (WESEA). In a separate statement, six other insurgent outfits namely People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri, Kamatapur Liberation Organization, Hynniewtre National Council, Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup, Kanglepak Communist Party and National Liberation Front of Twipra called upon the people of Northeastern States to 'take responsibility to make the I-Day ban a grand success'.

SSP convener Nava Thakuria and Pragjyotish editor Khagen Saikia welcomed participants to the flag-hoisting ceremony, which was graced by journalists Satyadhar Matak, Raman Bora, Rubie Das, Girindra Kr Karjee, Sankar Gohain, Iswar Mahanta, Chandra Kr Barua, Kaushik Kr Deka, Sewali Kalita along with Pramod Kalita, Utpal Dutta, Jagadindra Raychoudhury, Basanta Barthakur, Bharati Kalita, Kishor Sama, Ila Deka, Tina and Krishna among others.

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Aug. 16:

The services of 48 pilots of Air India, who had resigned earlier, but had withdrawn their resignations within the six months' notice period time as per rules, were suddenly terminated by Air India, India's national carrier on Thursday night, creating a flutter in aviation circles.

The pilots who were employed in flying the Airbus 320 fleet of the airline, had tendered their resignations in July 2019 but had withdrawn their resignation. However, their services were terminated by Air India, issuing them letters at 10 PM on Thursday.

In the termination letters, Air India cited financial constraints and the impact of Covid-19 on the commercial functioning of the company for the decision taken. "The current operations are a small fraction of pre-COVID level and are unlikely to increase in the near foreseeable future. The Company is incurring huge net losses and does not have the financial ability to pay, the letters stated. Ironically some of the sacked pilots flew on Friday not knowing their services were terminated on Thursday night itself, exposing a lack of coordination between different departments of Air India.

Captain Praveen Keerthi, General Secretary, Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) in a letter dated 14 August 2020 addressed to Chairman & Managing Director of Air

# Air India sacks 48 pilots overnight

India, Rajiv Bansal, sought his "urgent intervention against illegal terminations of pilots".

Withdrawal of resignations was accepted earlier

"Pilots who tendered their resignations as far back as July 2019 but later withdrew them well within the mandatory 6 months' notice period have nevertheless been relieved from service starting from 10 PM on Thursday. In fact in the termination letters dated 13 August 2020, the company acknowledged, the earlier acceptance of the withdrawal of resignation. This debars the law". How is this justified?" ICPA added

"As per Company Operations Manual (Page 1-110), once the resignation accepted by the office of the CMD, the crew would be informed accordingly and the 6 months' notice period will then commence. The crew were not informed of the acceptance of resignation and therefore by extension, the commencement of any notice period", the ICPA stated.

"We have only recently written to you bringing to light the 'bias and excesses' of the personnel department towards pilots. The ink is barely dry on that letter and the Personnel Department is once again running amok, breaking all rules and the Law of the land. Thursday night, around 50 pilots have received illegal termination letters from Personnel Department in blatant violation of Company's Operation Manual and service rules," the ICPA said.



"A pilot was made to operate the flight (AI 804/506) on 14 August 2020. In this case, we're the crew, passengers, and aircraft insurance valid? The pilots who operated these flights were not technically employees of Air India from the close of office on 13 August 2020. This is a violation of comical proportion, not to mention a grave flight safety hazard. What would have been the mental state of these pilots after knowing their services were terminated?" the ICPA asked in the letter.

The pilots had tendered their resignations when they had received offers from other airlines, but later withdrew

these resignations when they were asked to hold on, by their prospective employers. The withdrawal of these resignations was duly accepted by the Air India. Recently, after a recent Board of Directors' decision at Air India authorized CMD Rajiv Bansal to send employees on compulsory leave without pay, there was much hue and cry, with the airline subsequently assuring they would not be laying off any employees. For now, some of the pilots who have received their marching orders have already started knocking on the doors of the courts, seeking justice.

Reacting to the story the Air India later clarified that 57 of its pilots, "seeking greener pastures", had resigned from the airline "citing financial constraints". The pilots include permanent and contractual employees. "Some of the pilots later on had withdrawn their resignations. Air India no longer requires the services of these pilots and has now accepted their resignations. Moreover, some of these pilots [14] have filed writ petitions ... seeking a direction to Air India to accept the withdrawal of their resignations. This matter is sub judice," the statement said.

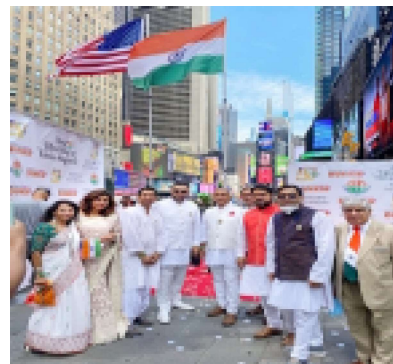
## International News

# Tricolour hoisted for first time at New York's Times Square to celebrate India's 74th Independence Day

Agency  
New York, Aug 16:

The tricolour was hoisted for the first time at the iconic Times Square in New York yesterday to celebrate India's 74th Independence Day. India's Consul General in New York, Randhir Jaiswal hoisted the Indian flag during a special commemoration of Independence Day at Times Square. It was organised by the Federation of Indian Associations.

Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha, FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, FIA veteran and prominent Indian-American physician Sudhir Parikh and others including people from the Indian diaspora joined the commemoration. Addressing the gathering, Mr Jaiswal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has outlined India's way forward and the aspirations to build a new India, and they are committed to taking the country forward on the basis of those aspirations. He said that the celebration of India's Independence Day is as much a celebration of friendship with this beautiful country. A large number of people,



dressed in traditional Indian clothes and wearing masks, joined the celebration. On the other hand, Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee Senator Kamala Harris, during her maiden address to the Indian-American community, reflected on her proud Indian heritage and recalled how her mother always wanted to instill in her a "love for good idli". Harris, 55, who is the first colored person to be selected as a vice-presidential candidate of a major party, took a trip down

the memory lane, mentioning her "long walks" in Madras now Chennai with her grandfather who would tell her about the "heroes" responsible for the birth of the world's largest democracy. Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, 77, ed history by selecting Harris, an Indian-American and an African-American, as his running mate in the presidential election on November 3. Born to a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, California senator Harris, if elected,


would be second in line of succession after Biden.

"Today on August 15, 2020. I stand before you as the first candidate for vice president of the United States of South Asian descent," Harris said in her address organised by Indians for Biden National Council.

Joined by Biden, he greeted Indian Americans on the occasion of India's Independence Day.

Harris was born on October 20 in 1964, at Oakland in California. Her mother Shyamala Gopalan migrated to the US from Tamil Nadu in India, while her father, Donald J Harris, moved to the US from Jamaica.

Harris said it was during the civil rights movement of Dr Martin Luther King Jr that her mother met her father. Growing up, my mother would take my sister Maya and me back to what was then called Madras because she wanted us to understand where she had come from and where we had ancestry. And of course, she always wanted to instill in us, a love of good idli, Harris said. Our community is bound together by so much more than our shared history and culture, she said..



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**Due to COVID19 Pandemic, last of date of online submission and Spot Admission cum Counseling has been extended upto 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**  
**ADMISSION NOTICE - 2020-21 (Course fee Free for SC & ST Students)**

Sl. No.	Name of Course	Intake	Eligibility
1.	2-year Master of Science in Information Technology (M.Sc.IT)	40	A candidate who has qualified any one of the following degree (i,ii) with at least 50% marks (45% for SC/ST) from a recognized University or any recognized university as equivalent thereto shall be admitted to the first year of M.Sc (IT) course : (i) Bachelor Degree in any discipline from a recognized University with Mathematical/ Computer Science/ Statistics as one of the subjects at 10+2 level or (ii) BCA or B.Sc in IT/Computer/Science/Physics/ Mathematics/Electronics Physics/ or any relevant computer related recognized subject as one of the subject
2.	3-year Master in Computer Application (MCA)	30	Passed B.A./B.Sc/B.Com/B.E/B.Tech with minimum 50% Marks in aggregate. Such a candidate should have offered and passed Mathematics in the 10+2 Exam. Or, 50% marks in the aggregate in BCA. No cut-off marks for SC/ST students.
3.	1-year Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application (PGDCA)	51	Passed three-year degree course in any discipline
4.	1-year Post Graduate Diploma in Information & Cyber Security (PGDICS)	40	Passed three-year degree course in any discipline
5.	3-year Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA)	170	Passed 10+2 (Science with Math or Computer Sc.) Exam recognized by Manipur University offering the relevant subject (s).
6.	3-year Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering (DCSE) - (AICTE Approved)	60	Passed (in single sitting without any grace mark) in the HSLC Examination (class-X) conducted by BOSEM or any other examination recognized by the Manipur University as equivalent and 15-22 years of age as on 1st of July.
7.	3-year Diploma in Electronics and Communication (DECE) Engineering (AICTE Approved)	60	2010. Upper age limit is relaxable by 3 years for SC/ST/PH candidates.
8.	1-year NIELIT Multimedia & Animation technology (MAT) -O Level	30	Passed 10+2 in any discipline.
9.	1-year NIELIT (IT) -O Level (1-one year)	60	Passed 10+2 or ITI certificate (one year) after matric.
10.	NIELIT (IT) -O Level (6 months)	60	Passed Graduation
11.	1-year NIELIT Computer Hardware Maintenance (CHM) -O Level	30	Passed 10+2 (any stream) or ITI (One year after 10 passed) in Electrical/Electronics/ Computers.



Last date of form submission : **31st August 2020**  
Date of commencement of the course : **Likely to be started from 2nd week of September 2020.**

**HOW TO APPLY:** Application can be submitted online through <https://nielit.gov.in/imphal/content/admission-new> or, <http://14.139.207.251:8080> on payment of ₹200/- through e-transfer (NEFT or UPI) to A/C No: **10678276043** of State Bank of India, Manipur University Branch (IFSC- **SBIN0005320**) or, using the UPI QR Code (UPI ID: [sbl.05320@sbi](mailto:sbl.05320@sbi)) given in the right side.

Application submission facility is also available at MCC NIELIT Imphal/Selected CSC of Manipur/Diana Computer Centre, Sagolband Tera, N.C. Road/NIELIT Extension centres at Senapati & Churachandpur on payment of ₹ 200/-.

The eligible candidates will have to appear in an admission test through online/offline. Date, time and venue of Entrance test will be notified in the admit card. Admit Card can be downloaded from <http://nielit.gov.in/imphal/content/admission-new> or, <http://14.139.207.251:8080> later on.

Contact for Enquiry : **60097323/7005854028** during office hour from 9:00 a.m to 5:30 p.m on all working days (Mon-Sat).

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